

REGIONAL BRIEFS

CAROLINE

Ground broken for new Boatworks site

Deputies probe church break-in attempt

FEDERALSBURG — Caroline County Sheriff's deputies are investigating the attempted burglary of a Federalsburg church. According to a news release, someone caused \$200 worth of damage to the front door of the New Liberty Wesleyan Church on Bridgeville Road on March 23 while unsuccessfully trying to break into the building.

Teen faces drug charge

DENTON — Denton police detained a 13-year-old Lockerman Middle School student March 20 for alleged drug possession. According to a news release, the boy was charged with possession of marijuana after a bag containing the drug was found by school staff, who were interviewing him about an unrelated matter that day. Denton police were called and detained the teen. He was referred to the Department of Juvenile Services and later released to his legal guardian.

Man charged with assaulting wife

DENTON — A Denton man has been arrested by police for allegedly assaulting his wife. According to a news release from the Denton Police Department, John Jacob Parr, 46, of Edenton Lane, is charged with second-degree assault. Police said Parr is accused of physically assaulting his wife, Melanie Parr, during a verbal argument in their home March 22. John Parr was arrested and taken to a Caroline County District Court commissioner, who ordered him released on his own recognizance.

Man faces weapons, theft, drug charges

PRESTON — Maryland State Police have charged Brian Maurice Daniels, 36, aka Travon Towson, of 616 Spaniard Road, Centreville, with 10 weapons, drug and theft charges resulting from a traffic stop on March 31 at 3:10 a.m. Police stopped Daniels' vehicle for operating a sound amplification system over 50 feet at Main Street and Back Landing Road in Preston. A search found the presence of cocaine, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia, as well as a loaded handgun. A check on the handgun revealed it was stolen. Daniels was charged with illegal possession of a firearm, firearm possession with a felony conviction, concealing a deadly weapon and other gun charges, theft under \$500, possession of cocaine, marijuana, and paraphernalia. Daniels was committed to the Caroline County Detention Center and released after posting \$50,000 bond.

CAMBRIDGE — Saturday's ground-breaking for a new Ruark Boatworks building also was celebrated as a milestone in the development of the Richardson Maritime Heritage Center here at Maryland Avenue and Hayward Street.

Cambridge Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley said the new facility will help define the city as a tourist destination, a sentiment shared by many who spoke at Saturday morning's event. Ground was broken for a 35,000-square-foot boat shed that can be used for large boat construction, material storage, a research facility and museum exhibits. The facility will make use of a post-and-beam structure donated to the James B. Richardson Foundation in 2007.

Ruark Boatworks Operations Manager Dan Cada said footers soon will be dug for the foundation of the new Boatworks facility, with plans to have a roof on the new building by this fall and a move to the new building from the existing structure sometime next year.

The existing brick warehouse where Boatworks began then will be renovated to serve as the Brannock Education and Research Center. In 2007, Earl Brannock agreed to bring his collection of books, charts and other historic documents and artifacts to what will be the Richardson Maritime Heritage Center. The collection can currently be found on the second floor of the brick warehouse. The James B. Richardson Foundation will continue to raise funds and accept donations towards the construction and renovation project.

Last spring, the Richardson Foundation received \$75,000 in Community Legacy funds through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) Division of Neighborhood Revitalization to be used for this project.

The foundation initially was slated to receive \$150,000 from the state until half of that money was diverted to go instead into the \$200,000 in Community Legacy funds provided to the city of Cambridge for redevelopment of the Race Street building that burned last winter.

During Saturday morning's ceremony, state Sen. Richard Colburn spoke of the importance of preserving Dorchester's maritime heritage and the legacy of the late Capt. James Richardson, the master boatbuilder who constructed a replica of Maryland's *Dove* (one of two boats to bring colonists here in 1634) and other boats of note.

He recalled his childhood in Oxford, where his father worked at various times in most of the town's then seven boatyards and said he hopes the Boatworks will allow today's youngsters and future generations to learn about the craft of wooden boat building.

Boatworks is where volunteers work to build new boats and, more impor-



PHOTO BY GAIL DEAN

This model by architect Jay Corvan shows the new Ruark Boatworks, for which ground was broken Saturday, at left, with the existing Boatworks facility to be renovated to serve as the Brannock Education and Research Center.

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tantly, authentically restore historic vessels. During special tours young people have been taught the basics of carving, scraping and sanding a wooden boat and once the new facility is completed there are plans to expand the Richardson Foundation's educational programs by working with various youth groups and Dorchester County Public Schools. Del. Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio's father is still building boats. She said growing up around the shop where her father built boats, first in Neavitt and now in Easton, she learned that there is something special about a



PHOTO BY DAVID LINTHICUM

Breaking ground Saturday for a new Ruark Boatworks that will see the start of the Richardson Maritime Heritage Center were, from the left, Cambridge Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley, Linda Prochaska of Sen. Mikulski's office, Del. Addie Eckardt, Paul Woolford, Fred Hebdon and Harold Ruark (Boatworks namesake), Boatworks Operations Manager Dan Cada, David Bodey, Del. Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Jim Leech, Sen. Richard Colburn, Cambridge Councilman Robert Hanson and Victor MacSorley, chairman of the Richardson Foundation Board.

boat crafted by hand. Haddaway-Riccio suggested a Richardson Maritime Heritage Center in Cambridge will complement the existing Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels and encourage more people to visit the region and more visitors to extend their stay here to see all the sites. Del. Addie Eckardt also mentioned the importance of Boatworks towards preserving aspects of Cambridge's working waterfront. She imagined there will be many with an interest in learning more about

wooden boatbuilding not just through exhibit but actually watching volunteers working on boats. Eckardt's father also built a couple of small boats for personal use at their family's vacation home near Lewes, Del. "As a child," she said, "my father always seemed to be building a boat in the basement." Her brother, Bud Campbell, must have enjoyed working with his father on these projects. Eckardt said he moved to Green Point near Secretary several years ago, following retirement, and is now among the Boatworks volunteers.

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