

Community

TOOLS • RELIGION • GOVERNMENT OF CHARLES COUNTY



photo by Cindy Myers

packaged on owner Al Camp's premises and sold there.

His Goat

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Two other CCCC student contestants vying for weekend stays in Ocean City, Baltimore and Wisk are Allen Martin Stinnett, a paramedic at Physicians' Memorial Hospital in La Plata and D

Fyi

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

■ **TESTING CENTER:** Charles County Community College students and community members now can take the Certified Professional Secretary (CPS), Graduate Record Examination and the American College Testing exams at the La Plata campus. Many companies require the CPS exam which includes a six-part, two-day examination administered biannually, May 3-4 and in November. Students applying for graduate school who need to take the GRE general test and/or special area tests can do so April 13. CCCC now also administers the ACT, equivalent to the SAT, which are often required of students applying to colleges and universities. The next ACT test is April 13. Call the Testing Center Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-noon, 1-3 p.m. or 5-8 p.m., or Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-12 or 1-3 p.m., at 934-2251, 870-3008, 884-8131, Ext. 613.

■ **SPRING SLIPPED** into our clime last week easy as could be on a sunny day that started cool but soon enough was warming insides as well as outsides. There was plenty of lead-in this year, with a mild winter and such signs as the cheery window-wiper at Murphy's Country Store on Route 6 by Chapel Point Road in Port Tobacco, telling a passerby that he'd only been at the job a few days. Come the afternoon of March 20, a secretary answering the phone in a county government office hit a glitch but recovered with a little laugh and said, "I'm not so good after lunch. Must be spring fever." As we're reminded by all that blooming and leafing out, out there.

■ **FINE—FREE APRIL FOR OVERDUE BOOKS:** No fines will be charged on overdue books and other library materials returned in April, after which fines will be doubled, from a nickel to a dime a day for each overdue book.

Budget problems have prompted the move by the Library Board of Trustees, a spokeswoman reported. "Such small overdue charges never cover the cost of replacing lost books," she said, noting that the estimated \$17,000 expected to be taken in overdue charges in FY 91 falls far short of such a task. But the library is concerned when a spot check shows more than 10,000 books overdue.

The last time a fine-free month was designated, the summer of 1988, more than 8,000 books were overdue—one of them for 12 years. But even if that citizen had returned the book after fine-free time, the maximum fine was \$2.50. After April 15 it will be \$5. This time, a contest for the longest overdue book will reward the winner/culprit with a library book bag. "We'll fill it with surprises," promised the spokeswoman.

■ **CITIZEN COMMENTS** are sought at a public hearing April 1, at 6 p.m. in the Charles County Government Building in La Plata, on the county's annual application for up to \$500,000 in a federally-sponsored Small Cities Community Development Block Grant. The program is aimed at neighborhood and housing revitalization, economic development and improved community facilities and services. The county has won grants in 13 years since the program began in