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ITY page 8



University of Mary Washington archeology students Mollie Murphy(left) of King George and Julia Burzynski of Millburn, NJ are part of the group unearthing historic artifacts at Belle Grove Plantation.. Richard Leggitt

Students dig for history at Belle Grove

RICHARD LEGGITT

The University of Mary Washington's Dr. Doug Sanford is a man with a passion for the past.

For several years he led teams of students that helped uncover artifacts on the grounds of Westmoreland's Stratford Hall, birthplace of Robert E. Lee.

Now Sanford, who has more than 20 years experience as an archaeology professional, is leading a group of students digging for relics at Belle Grove Plantation in King George.

Belle Grove, an 18th century plantation on the Rappahannock River, has been painstakingly and beautifully restored by Brett and Michelle Darnell and turned into a luxury bed and breakfast and venue for special events.

President James Madison was born on the plantation on March 16, 1751.

"This area had never been surveyed until we started work last spring," said Sanford, the director of archaeological programs for UMW's Center for Historical Preservation.

Working from an 1856 map of the Rappahannock River location, Sanford and crews of UMW students are carefully examining the Belle Grove grounds for historical treasures. "We have found a whole range of artifacts last spring and are finding more this year," he said.

John Strangfeld, a UMW freshman from Herndon, finds pleasure in the on-site work.

"I really enjoy seeing what kind of things are here," he said. "I really

See **HISTORY** page 8

Meta

PHY

The King Supervisors 38.62-acres for industrial use.

The rezoning Commercial to invest \$12 million to expand its manufacturing with construction of foot rebar fabrication for the complex and office space to be incorporated into owned industrial facility within two years. Commercial Manufacturing 43 positions from including from and create an new jobs within

The deal has for the last year Economic Development assisting with application for grant funds. finance construction additional railroad

the existing CSX a portion of the industrial Commercial Manufacturing of HGAC, LLC, metals recycling, fabricating, and transportation Linwood Thorough economic development

King C gets b credit

RICHARD

A 23-year-old King convicted of eight card theft was back and got a break from Circuit Judge Herb

The judge deferred of Tony Bae and attend a diversion program

Bae, a former Bo's Restaurant, was in October after he broke George Sheriff's de recording credit card restaurant, located on Testimony in court

ge residents join in Earth Day celebration

History: Students dig at Belle Grove

From page 1

didn't think it would be this much fun."

Sanford's crew is mapping the Belle Grove grounds with yellow flags to mark spots with archaeological potential. They then use shovels to dig one-foot-deep holes to reach undisturbed earth.

Screens are then used to carefully sift through the dirt. The budding archeologists then tag and bag any artifacts uncovered.

Their finds so far include buttons, oyster shells, ceramics, bricks, nails, clay pottery, coal, bottles, window glass, porcelain and some Native American artifacts.

"The ceramics are helpful, because they are easier to date," Sanford said.

The historic treasures will then undergo further analysis.

"All of the artifacts will go to our labs to be processed, but we have an agreement with Belle Grove that they will be returned here," Sanford said.

Michelle Darnell said she hopes to display the more interesting artifacts in Belle Grove's summer kitchen when it is restored.

Sanford's student archeologists are studying historical preservation and take their tasks very seriously.

"I enjoy finding history," said Randy Kehrer, a freshman from



Richard Leggitt

UMW students spent a sunny afternoon digging for artifacts at Belle Grove with Dr. Doug Sanford(right).

Fredericksburg.

"I like getting out and getting the historical experience," said Mary Fesak, a junior from Centerville.

Although the grass-covered grounds appear unassuming today, Belle Grove has seen plenty of history over almost three centuries,

including the birth of the nation's fourth president, troop movements in both the American Revolution and the Civil War, and the presences of a substantial slave community in the 18th and early-to-mid-19th centuries.

Authority: Rising rates likely in future

have," Grzeika said.

The board is expected to agree on a proposal for rates and fees by the end of April and to authorize those for advertisement for a public hearing sometime in June.

\$4.26 per 1,000 gallons for a two-month cycle. Customers who use up to 5,000-gallons during each two-month billing cycle, the minimum charge for water is \$21.30. Added to that, the flat

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