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ANIMALS FEELING ECONOMY D1

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weather
GETTING A LITTLE WARMER TODAY
Periods of rain throughout the day with a high of 78, climbing to the 90s for the weekend. **A4**

The Free Lance-Star

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SPOTSY >> MAN SENTENCED FOR KILLING DAUGHTER

REYNOLDS GIVEN LIFE

BY ELLEN BILTZ
THE FREE LANCE-STAR
The Partlow man who shot his 13-year-old daughter in the back of the head on the family's front porch last year, will spend the rest of his life in prison.
Earl Wayne "Butch" Reynolds, 45, testified during his sentencing hearing yesterday that he doesn't remember the argument leading up to his daughter's death or the moment when he fatally shot Kayla Reynolds.
"I don't remember any of that. That's what hurts so bad. I wouldn't do that," Earl

Reynolds said through tears.
At points during yesterday's hearing in Spotsylvania Circuit Court, those speaking had to pause because Reynolds was sobbing uncontrollably.
Judge David H. Beck gave Reynolds a life sentence on the first-degree murder conviction, as well as three years on a firearms conviction and 20 years with 10 suspended on a conviction of malicious wounding for shooting his stepdaughter, Amber Barnett, in the neck.
"The court does not find

ONLINE >> To read the plea agreement in this case, visit fredericksburg.com.
"you to be a demon," Beck said just before announcing the sentence, acknowledging Reynolds' sincerity in apologizing for his crimes. "But what you did was demonic and horrific."
Reynolds was charged last Aug. 21 after Kayla was shot in the back of the head on the porch of the mobile home where the family lived.
Barnett was shot just before Kayla and testified



DAVE ELLIS / THE FREE LANCE-STAR
Earl Wayne 'Butch' Reynolds (left, in this file photo) said he doesn't remember the shooting.

yesterday that after the bullet hit her in the early hours of the morning, she

dropped to the porch and played dead.
Just after she was hit, she said, she heard Kayla's last three words: "No Daddy, no."
Then she heard a gunshot and Kayla fell to the ground as Reynolds ran from the yard, she said.
Barnett testified that she and Kayla had been arguing with their father about his drug and alcohol abuse and that angered him.
Reynolds said yesterday that he had been drinking all day until around 10 or 11 p.m. Aug. 20, when Barnett

Clinton message forceful and clear

FORMER PRESIDENT URGES HILLARY'S SUPPORTERS TO BACK OBAMA, WHO GOT THE PARTY'S FORMAL NOMINATION LAST NIGHT

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
DENVER—Former President Clinton forcefully endorsed Barack Obama's bid for the White House last night, telling delegates to the Democratic convention that Obama is "ready to lead America and restore American leadership in the world."
The former president's remarks came on the night when Obama stepped triumphantly into history, the first black American to win a major-party presidential nomination, as thousands of Democrats transformed their convention hall into a joyful, shouting celebration.
Former rival Hillary Rodham Clinton asked delegates to the party convention to



ROBYN BECK / GETTY IMAGES
Former President Bill Clinton likened Obama's upcoming campaign to his successful bid in 1992.



PETER CIEHLKA / THE FREE LANCE-STAR
Bob Bornschein cuts hydrilla this week near a Potomac Creek pier owned by Charlie Bourne, who operates Charlie's Crab House in Stafford.

NEWS BITE

border
PATROL HAVING TURNOVER ISSUES

Working on the border has created an environment in which about 30 percent of agents leave in less than 18 months. **A4**

military
CIVILIANS DECIDE IRAQ DEATH CASE

A case where a former Marine is accused of manslaughter in Iraq has gone to the jury. **A5**

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Hydrilla 'harvest' in full swing

MARINE MOWER SLICES PATHS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN ON THE POTOMAC; CLEARS MARINAS AND RIVERFRONT PARK IN STAFFORD

BY RUSTY DENNEN
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

When Rob Bornschein and Warren Teets cut the grass, it's a little more complicated than wheeling a mower out of a shed.

The two men work for Pristine Marine Inc., clearing hydrilla from area waterways for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

The fast-growing water weed has been a problem in the Potomac River and its tributaries since the early 1980s. It's been especially bad this year along the Virginia shore, clogging boat ramps and marinas and making life difficult for seafood businesses.

Bornschein and Teets put in a full day on Monday, clearing hydrilla from Charlie Bourne's place on Potomac Creek in King George County. Bourne is in the seafood business; watermen come and go at his pier near the mouth of the creek.

Hydrilla, resembling a green carpet,

HYDRILLA'S HISTORY

Hydrilla first appeared in the Crystal River system of Florida in 1960, imported from Africa by the aquarium trade.
It appeared on the Delmarva Peninsula in 1981 and attracted national attention when infestations were found in the Potomac River in the early 1980s.
The plant is found throughout the southern United States from California to Delaware and in Virginia and Maryland freshwater tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay.
Hydrilla out-competes native submerged vegetation and can quickly fill a pond or lake, thus choking off the water body for boating, fishing, swimming and other recreational uses.
It does provide good habitat for fish and shellfish as well as water-quality benefits.
—U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation



surrounds the pier and extends out about 100 yards from shore.
"When it's really thick, one or two passes and the boat is full," said Teets, who stood on shore, watching Bornschein operate the Rube Goldberg-like contraption.
The harvester sits on a small barge. The business end, lowered into the water on the bow, is an International Harvester sickle blade, modified for use under water.
It chops off the top four feet of the long, stringy weed rooted in the river bottom. The cuttings accumulate on a conveyor belt, which is periodically emptied into a trailer on shore.
Bornschein deftly maneuvered the craft around one side of the pier, and in between boat pilings, steering with paddle wheels fitted on each side.
SEE HYDRILLA, BACK PAGE

Local schools lag behind in AYP tests

KING GEORGE IS ONLY AREA SYSTEM TO MEET HIGHER REQUIREMENTS

BY JEFF BRANSCOME
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Only 52 percent of the Fredericksburg region's schools met testing goals under the federal No Child Left Behind law, far below the state average.

Statewide, 74 percent of all public schools made Adequate Yearly Progress guidelines in English and math in 2007-08, and 54 of the 132 school divisions made the annual benchmarks as a whole.

As a state, Virginia made AYP after failing to do so last year because students with limited English proficiency

SEE AYP, BACK PAGE

ONLINE >> For detailed results for school divisions and individual schools, go to doe.virginia.gov.