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Angela Leonard/The Mount Airy News

**WORKOUT:** Augustinus "Augie" Hokestra, 22, of Holland, works a unicorn of Friesians belonging to Carlton and Dee Everhart at their farm in Cana, Va., Saturday morning, while Zack Williams, who lives nearby, provides balance on the carriage.

## A Bit Of The Netherlands Finds A Home In Cana

By ANGELA LEONARD  
Editor

CANA, Va. — Behind the white board fences of Tanbark Acres, black horses with flowing manes and feathered hooves create an unfamiliar sight against the green grass of the foothills. Neighbors are accustomed to seeing a pair, or perhaps a trio of the horses pulling a carriage down the road, their long hair moving with the rhythm of their steps.

They are a long way from their European roots in the Netherlands, where less than 100 years ago they teetered on the verge of extinction. They are Friesians — known for their black color, their feathered feet and legs and their exceptionally long, thick manes.

For Carlton "Doc" and Dee Everhart, they were a step back into raising and caring for horses after Doc retired several years ago. They've also brought a new national and international interest to Cana, as the Everharts market their horses via the Internet and this summer made plans to help host a curing of Friesians from throughout the Southeastern United States.

They also hosted Augustinus "Augie" Hokestra, 22, who arrived from Holland on Aug. 25 to help the Everharts prepare their own horses for the curing, and who will be returning to his job as a professional baker this Friday.

Dee said that before buying their first Friesian, they researched the breed, wanting to find a better-natured horse than the Saddlebreds they once owned.

"About the time of World War I, there were only three Friesian stallions left in the world," she said. "The three Dutchmen who owned them got together and said, 'We have to save our horses.' They sought out mares who were Friesian or largely Friesian and began to rebuild the breed.

"They were almost annihilated again in World War II," she added. "The farmers drove nails into their feet so they would be lame and the Germans would not take them, then after the soldiers were gone they removed the nails and doctored them back to health."

She said that there are only 30,000 of the registered Friesians in the world now, and that 2,700 of them are in the United States. There are 18 approved stallions in the U.S., and only 80 stallions worldwide.

The reason the breed has remained so exclusive can be found, at least in part, in the



Angela Leonard/The Mount Airy News

**UNIQUE SIGHT:** A threesome of Friesians working on Tanbark Acres is a far cry from the wagon train teams more familiar to the area.

curing process. Dee said that before the foals can be registered, they must pass through their first curing in which their confirmation is checked. "They cannot be registered if they have any white hair," she said. "They have to be DNA typed and microchipped."

As they age they are judged again based on their movement, and ranked accordingly. The top horses earn a "star." Only the very best of the stallions, which are shown in a stallion show in the winter, are approved for breeding and the others are gelded.

After learning about the breed, the Everharts went to Canada three years ago to look at a mare they were interested in buying. Dee said they met Augie for the first time there, where he was working horses for the owners.

"We bought the mare and left her there for the curing, and Augie was there when we returned for the curing," said Dee.

"The next spring," Dee continued, "we went to Holland to the Stallion Show, and Augie was there. We asked him to come here, and he said he would, but we didn't believe him."

She said that after exchanging emails several times, Augie sent them his flight plan and they made preparations for his arrival to work their horses a month before the curing.

Dee said that Augie regularly leaves his primary job as a baker to work horses for people abroad, and that in Holland he works under a horseman handling the horses.

"As a baker, I start at 3 a.m. and finish by noon," said Augie, 22. "I need something else to do, so I have horses." He said he works about 30 horses each day, and has worked at various places throughout the United States and Canada — never returning to the same farm twice.

His associations have included working with owners of Campbell's Soup, and Johnson & Johnson, as well as Martha Stewart, and a telephone conversation with President Bush.

Since first meeting Augie, the Everharts have built their herd to six Friesians, including two foals born on the farm, their mothers, and another mare and gelding.

They bought not only the mare in Canada, but a foal at a Texas curing, a gelding that came from abroad, two more horses from British Columbia and another mare.

They've since sold several of the animals to change the makeup of their herd, and added the foals born on the farm as well. Dee said that of this year's foal crop one was sired by a stallion featured in the movie "Bedazzled."

One of the mares, Hiltje, has already had this year's foal sold and the foals for the next two years as well, Dee noted. "She's money in the bank."

Dee said that Augie had been working with Hiltje, Ulysses, and Ulske and last week began working them in a unicorn hitch, which is one horse in front and two behind.

The horses were ready to go to the curing, which had been set in Greensboro this weekend, when the terrorists struck last week. The curing has since been canceled.

Augie will be leaving Saturday without seeing how "his" horses would have fared, but Dee said he's agreed to break his own rules and return to Tanbark Acres next summer to prepare another group of horses for curing.

"We'll be working to plan the next curing," said Dee, who had been spending her spare time notifying people that this year's event was canceled. "Augie says it should be here because of what we've done. Wouldn't that be something? From Holland to Cana!"

## Surry Approves Zoning Ordinance

By WENDY BYERLY  
Staff Writer

DOBSON — All five members of the Surry County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Monday night to pass the proposed county zoning ordinance after a presentation by the county planning department and comments by several citizens.

"About six people spoke at the public hearing," reported Chris Knopf, director of the Surry County Planning Department. "All of them were in favor. There was one man who was in favor, but had a problem with the way property near where he lived was zoned. He is currently involved a legal case over that land."

At the meeting, which approximately 60 people attended, the commissioners decided, despite some discussion about the one man's legal case, to approve the zoning ordinance as it was presented.

"I thought there would be more people, but I felt like we did a good job educating and informing the public as to what was going on," said Knopf. "I like to think maybe we did such a good

job that there wasn't a lot of opposition to it."

He commented on the commissioners' opinions, "I think they were well pleased. In July the Planning Board had a joint meeting with them so that they would be familiar with it and could ask any questions they had.

"We also submitted it to the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill," reported Knopf. "I feel like we covered all of our bases so that we could be fair and make sure we were legal."

He said the whole thing took about an hour, including a presentation by the department, an overview of the process and public comments. "All of the comments I heard were about how pleased people were with the public participation and with the opportunities the public had to take part in it and be informed," commented Knopf.

"Getting it passed was the easy part," he added. "Now we've got to get it incorporated with the permit process. We need people to bear with us so that we can get acclimated with it.

"I am really pleased with the ordinance," Knopf said.

## Bush Reaches Out To World Leaders, Weighs Aid To Hard-Hit Airline Industry

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, reaching out to build a global alliance, said Tuesday he hopes to "rally the world" in the battle against terrorism and predicted that all "people who love freedom" would join. French President Jacques Chirac said his nation stands firmly with the United States in the effort.

A week after the nation's worst terrorist attack, Bush said his goal was "to find terrorists, to smoke them out of their holes, and to get them and to bring them to justice."

Bush spoke as he began an evening dinner meeting with Chirac.

For his part, Chirac said, "This tragedy does not have a parallel."

"We stand in total solidarity," he said, speaking through an interpreter.

However, Chirac stopped short of using Bush's "war" ter-

minology.

"I don't know whether we should use the word 'war,' but what I can say is now we are faced with a conflict of a completely new nature," Chirac said.

The meeting came as the Bush administration stepped up its efforts to reach out to leaders around the world to build a coalition against terrorism, even appealing for help to Cuba and Sudan, with which the United States has had tense relations. The administration also began preparing a multibillion-dollar financial aid package for battered U.S. airlines.

Attorney General John Ashcroft, meanwhile, announced that the FBI had detained 75 people for questioning. At least four material witnesses have been arrested in the largest criminal investigation in the nation's history.

Ashcroft also announced

new rules to allow the Justice Department's to detain people on immigration violations for 48 hours, double the current limit, and the creation of an anti-terrorism task force with representatives in major cities.

Chirac was the first world leader Bush has met with since last Tuesday's suicide hijacking attacks in New York and Washington that left more than 5,000 people dead and missing. British Prime Minister Tony Blair is coming to Washington Thursday.

"Make no mistake about it: This administration has got a firm goal and a determination to achieve the goal," Bush said. "And that is to rally the world toward a campaign to find terrorists, to smoke them out of their holes and to get them, and to bring them to justice."

France has sometimes had

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## Senate Committee Considers Tax Package

RALEIGH (AP) — A Senate committee recommended Tuesday adding \$109 million in additional consumer taxes to the House tax plan, a day after Gov. Mike Easley threatened a veto of a state budget that wasn't balanced.

The Senate proposal would also delay a sales tax trade with local governments, boosting the revenue raised in the second year of the two-year budget by another \$100 million.

In all, the legislation would increase taxes by \$620 million once the hikes are fully implemented. The amount would decrease in the third year, after a temporary two-year income tax increase on the wealthy expires.

The tax hike would equal roughly \$400 million after the income tax increase is dropped.

"Many would like to do more. Many would like to do nothing. But this is where we are," said Sen. John Kerr, D-Wayne, co-chair of the Senate Finance Committee.

The proposal keeps most of the recommendations in the House tax package approved

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Caroline Beamer/The Mount Airy News

**FOOD FOR THE FALL:** This Fritillary butterfly stops for a meal on a butterfly bush along Wrenn Avenue. A sure sign of fall are the Monarch butterflies fluttering their way through the county.

## Man Run Over And Dragged By Own Car

THOMASVILLE (AP) — A man was killed Monday after being dragged 19 feet and run over by his own car.

Richard Kennedy, 51, of Thomasville, was pronounced dead shortly after 7 a.m. Monday from head trauma sustained when his car hit him.

Kennedy had driven his Chevrolet Cavalier to his brother's home when his vehicle stalled. He opened the hood and used a pair of pliers to

get the engine to fire, but the car was still in gear, police said.

The engine started while Kennedy was still leaning under the hood and it began to move forward. The car dragged Kennedy about 19 feet to a ditch, where it ran over him. The car came to rest about 100 feet away in the brush.

Kennedy was transported to Thomasville Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.