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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

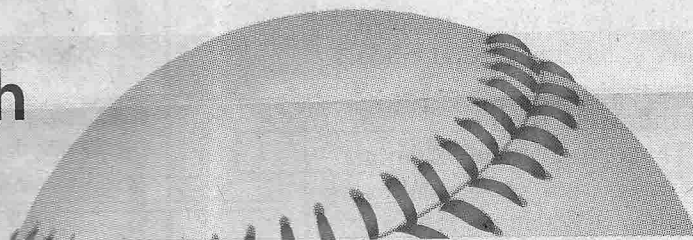
# POWHATAN TODAY

Powhatan, Virginia

The hometown paper of C. LaCroix

August 10, 2011

Americans win Dixie Youth  
State Title. See page 1B



## THE SOUND OF SUCCESS



## Couple ensures land remains pristine

Powhatan residents chose conservation easement as a way of guarding property's natural resources

### Contributed report

In 2010, Powhatan County adopted its current Long-Range Comprehensive Plan. A key portion of the Plan's vision is to

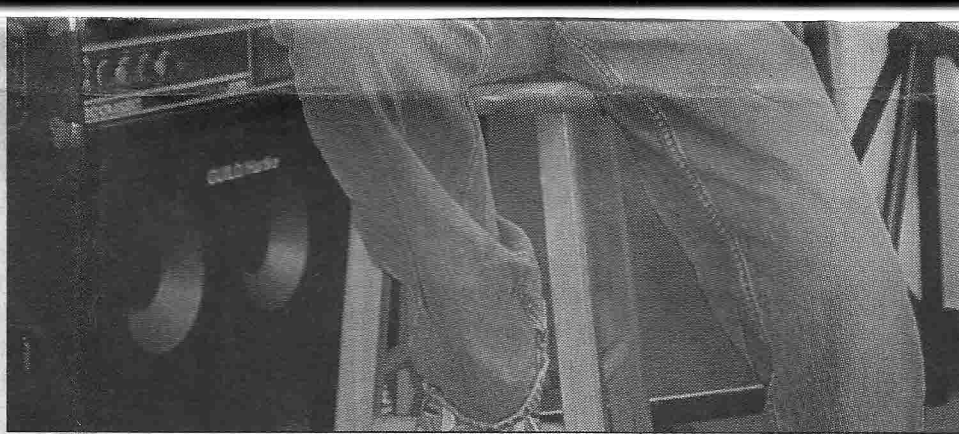


PHOTO BY ROSLYN RYAN

Powhatan resident Tony Stoddard and his wife Beth recently opened Powhatan Music and Sound in the county's Historic Village area.

# Local entrepreneurs jump in despite tough economy

By Roslyn Ryan

Editor

Despite an economic forecast that seems destined to remain gloomy for at least the near future, it seems there are still those brave enough to take on the challenge of starting a new business.

One such entrepreneur is Powhatan resident Tony Stoddard, owner of Powhatan Music and Sound in the Village.

Stoddard, who officially opened his doors last month, says he's been aware for some time that the county could use a business like his.

"One of the problems we've had in Powhatan is that there has been no nearby resource for instruments and accessories," says Stoddard, pointing

out that the closest place for Powhatan musicians to buy supplies was in eastern Midlothian. "I've considered it a possible business opportunity ever since my move to Powhatan in 2005."

The store, which stocks a full line of music equipment and accessories, also offers music lessons and band instrument rentals. Sound-proof lesson rooms have internet connections so students can make use of the latest on line teaching tools and Stoddard, who repaired string instruments for a living before opening his own business, can service everything he sells.

His wife – and business partner – Beth Brawley Stoddard, a professional musician and music teacher, also brings more than two decades of experience to the venture.

As far as getting the courage to open the business, Stoddard says his "a-ha moment" came after he recently

preserve natural resources and open spaces such as rivers, streams, creeks, forested and wooded areas, wildlife habitat, wetlands, floodplains, and soil resources..." Powhatan County is widely known for its rare and beautiful rural character, one of the many reasons that county residents choose to call it home, and why so many passionately strive to protect its scenic beauty for current and future generations to enjoy.

In April of this year, local landowners Daniel and Ceil Macmillan did their part to protect their own pristine corner of Powhatan County by placing their land under conservation easement – to be preserved for perpetuity.

The most traditional tool for conserving private land, a "conservation easement" is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. In this case, the Capital Region Land Conservancy (CRLC) helped facilitate completion of the easement for which the Virginia Outdoors Foundation is the easement holder. As the holder, VOF will ensure that the conservation goals stated in the easement are perpetually upheld.

The Macmillan's 47-acre property is composed of crop

see Business page 3A

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## side

### Girl Scout earns Gold Award

Powhatan resident will receive honor for work she did at county therapeutic riding center.



## Sports

### B1 Sports Roundup

Powhatan racers post strong finishes in VMS Modifieds.

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## Land: Couple places land under easement

**Continued from page 1A**

land, pasture land, timber land, and pond and creek frontage, so protection of it under easement preserves the local rural landscape. Having moved to Powhatan from New Jersey some years ago, the Macmillan's began to worry about whether their

rural home would continue to be the peaceful, relaxing, open space it always had been. Up north, they experienced the frustration of losing a portion of their property to new development. But this time, the couple were able to do something to preserve the way of life they love. Development

was springing up in other areas of Powhatan, and Ceil worried that "everything was turning to cement, with less and less green." As she said, "I don't have money to give, but I could give back to the community by preserving this land forever. I suppose it will be my legacy."