Section C
Rappahannock Record
Kilmarnock, VA

AreaSports
Recreation • Fishing • High School Teams

March 14, 2013
www.rrecord.com

Shriners All-Star games are Saturday

On Saturday, March 16, Lancaster High School will host the 15th annual Northern Neck Shrine Club High School All-Star games.

The Northern Neck District's best basketball players will take on the best of the Tidewater District in boys and girls contests.

Admission is $5. Proceeds go to Shriner's charities.

The girls competition begins at 6 p.m. The Northern Neck team includes region player-of-the-year Nia Jones and Kayla Leland of Northumberland, district player-of-the-year Shamerah Taylor, Aleyah Davenport and Arkasia Sutton of Lancaster, Caneishia Fulcher and Karley Inscoe of Colonial Beach, Kelsey Berkhalter and Lashconia Smith of Rappahannock, Avdasia Kelly of Essex and Kendawanna Fulcher of Washington and Lee. Joanne Webb-Fary of Lancaster will coach with assistance from Marcus Ferguson.

Tidewater All Stars include Taylor Denton, Jessi Nelson, Shelby Ware and Mackenzie Moughon of Mathews, Shannon Bristow of Middlesex, Hannah Loftis and Loren Smith of West Point, Katie Byrd, Crystal Fortune, Shayla Johnson and Amy Thomas of King William. District coach of the year Allison Robins of Mathews will lead the team with assistance from Tommy Erikson of Mathews.

The boys game will follow. The Northern Neck team includes co-player-of-the-year Tyler Colding, Jovante Smith and Tay Smith of Lancaster, Kyle Elmore, Keith Bryant and Aaron Lewis of Northumberland, Alonzo Tompkins of Essex, Ethan Harbin and Parrish Muse of Colonial Beach, Kwame Gray and C alvin Harris of Washington and Lee and DeShawn Thompson of Rappahannock. District coach-of-the-year Jonathan Parker of Colonial Beach will lead the team with assistance from Chase Davidson of Colonial Beach.

The Tidewater team includes region and district player-of-the-year Ryheem Lockley and J.D. Diggs of Middlesex, J.J. Mercer and Mark Noel of King and Queen, Josh Wilson of Mathews, Jason Gresham, Freeman McPherson, Vontrell Spurlock, Kevin Waller and Ryan Walter of King William, Martin Doyal, Gabriel Lee and Jermaine Taylor of West Point. Joe Harper of King William will coach with assistance from Marvin Fallin.

Most valuable players will be selected for both contests, said coordinator Carroll Lee Ashburn. Each will receive a trophy from the Shriners.

The Northern Neck Shrine Club also will recognize five players who reached the 1,000-point mark during their high school career, said Ashburn. They are: Shamerah Taylor, Nia Jones, Caneishia Fulcher, Karley Inscoe and Ryheem Lockley.

The 101.7 Bay-WIGO Country $100 cash half-court shootout will take place during half time of both games. Entry fee is $1. The Shriners also will conduct a 50-50 raffle during the evening.

SCOREBOARD

Varsity boys basketball
Group A tournaments
Final
Division 2
Radford 72, Gate City 58
Division 1
Altavista 80, West Point 62
Semifinals
Division 2
Radford 54, Essex 40
Gate City 73, William Monroe 61
Division 2
West Point 62, Parry McCluer 53
Altavista 47, JI Burton 26

Upcoming games
Varsity baseball
(Lancaster home games played at Dreamfields near Kilmarnock)
March 15:
Lancaster at Middlesex, Deltaville Ballpark, 7 p.m.
March 19:
Lancaster at Mathews, 5 p.m.
Varsity softball
(Lancaster home games played at Dreamfields near Kilmarnock)
March 15:
Lancaster at Middlesex, 5 p.m.
March 19:
Lancaster at Mathews, 5 p.m.
JV baseball/softball
(Lancaster home games played at Dreamfields near Kilmarnock, 5 p.m)
March 15:
Lancaster at Middlesex
March 19:
Mathews at Lancaster
Varsity girls soccer
March 15:
Lancaster at Washington & Lee, 6 p.m.
March 20:
King William at Lancaster, 6 p.m.
Varsity boys soccer
March 15:
Middlesex at Lancaster, 6 p.m.
March 20:
Lancaster at Mathews, 6 p.m.
Track
March 20:
Lancaster at Northumberland, 4:30 p.m.

'School to Pool' to serve students in two counties

Volunteers and Northumberland Family YMCA staff recently gathered to begin planning this year's School to Pool second-grade swim lesson program. The program is expanding this year as Richmond County second-graders prepare for swim lessons as well, according to branch director Cristian Shirilla.

The students will be bused to the YMCA in Heathsville where volunteer, Red Cross certified instructors will teach water safety and swimming to 200 children, said Shirilla. Many of these kids have never had the opportunity for lessons. Some of the kids have never even been in a pool, some afraid to get their faces underwater, while some are already excellent swimmers.

Each child will be evaluated and placed in the appropriate group, he said. The classes will meet for an hour each day for eight days.

YMCA staff from Northumberland and Richmond County YMCA staff and school officials have been planning the program.

"We are thrilled to be able to host both schools here at the Northumberland YMCA's outdoor pool," said Shirilla.

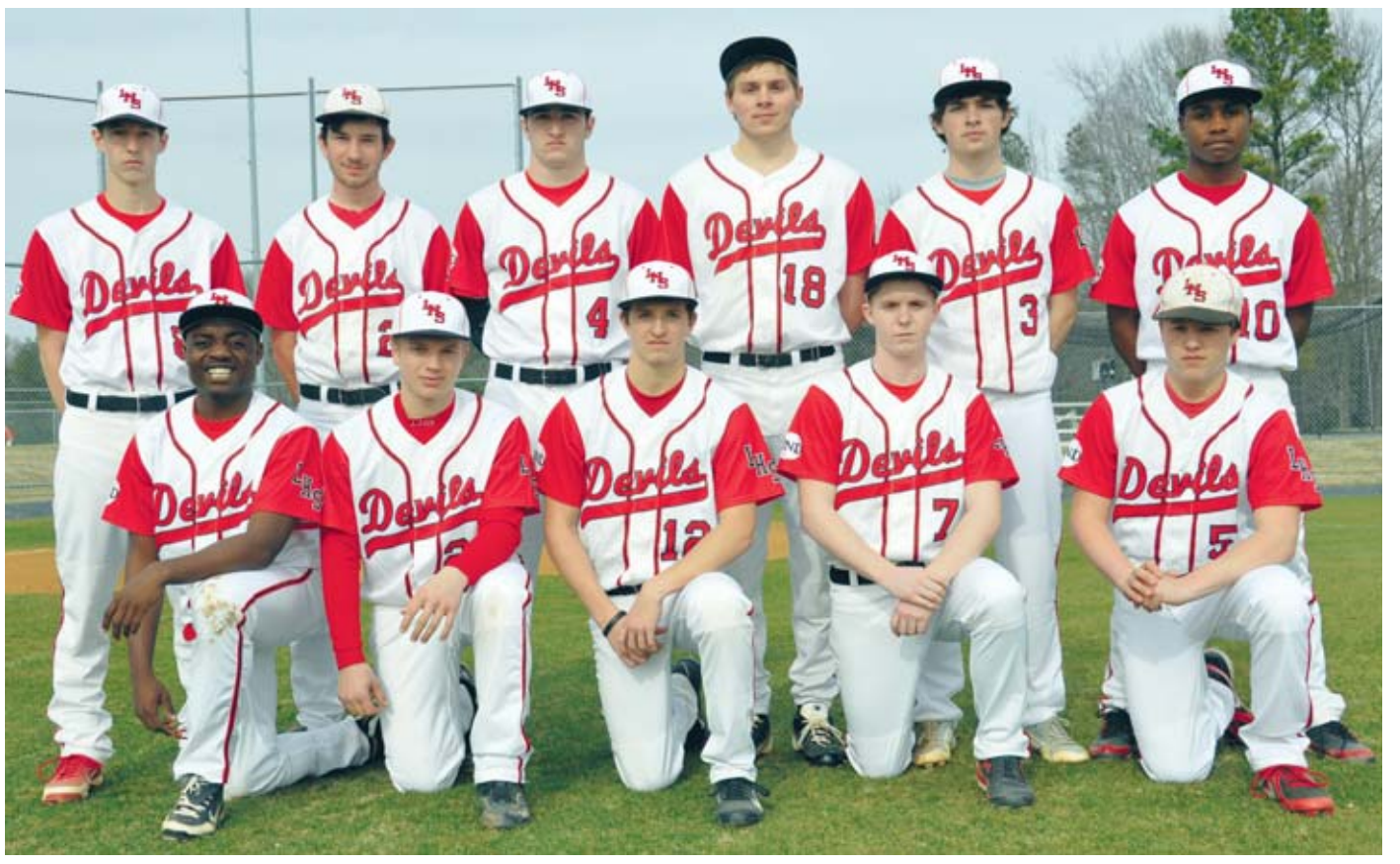
Northumberland second-graders will begin May 10, followed by Richmond County youth in early June. To volunteer for this community-wide effort, call Shirilla at 580-8901.

BRIDGE RESULTS

Six tables of bridge were in play March 7 at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club.

Winners north/south were first, Kay Inskeep and Teensa Williams; and second, Arden Durham and Dianne Monroe.

Winners east/west were first, Margaret Livesay and Virginia Adair; and second, Elaine Weekly and Iris Panzetta.



From left, members of the Lancaster High School varsity baseball team are (front row) Demetrick Lee, Kyle Thomas, Taylor Woolard, Bradley Hudson and Daniel Thomas; (next row) Jordan Hodges, Jonathan Seal, Josh Moore, Colton Hayden, William Abbott and Kedrick Lee. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Red Devils baseball program faces another challenging rebuilding season

by *Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi*

Aside from two, Lancaster High School baseball coaches Welby Saunders and Scotty George return their starting lineup intact this season.

Despite that, said Saunders, "The team is still young."

Nine players return from last year's team, which struggled through a 1-18 season, the worst for the two coaches since taking over the program seven years ago.

Lancaster lost two to graduation in Joel Hudnall and Sammy Somers.

"We return our whole pitching staff and our whole infield, all of our key positions," said Saunders, "but we'll miss the offense from Joel and Sammy and miss their leadership for sure."

Back to lead the pitching staff is senior Colton Hayden and sophomore Taylor Woolard. Hayden suffered a major leg and ankle injury halfway through last season and "it's great to have him back," said Saunders. "Our strengths will be our pitching staff and leadership in our catcher."

Senior Kedrick Lee returns to play behind the plate.

"We need to work on our defense overall and our execution, especially during the times when things get tense," said Saunders. "We've talked a lot this year about not turning one mistake into two. It's okay to make an error but don't follow it up with another error. Fix it as soon as possible."

Playing in the infield this year will be sophomore first baseman Jordan Hodges, senior second baseman William Abbott, sophomore shortstop Daniel Thomas and junior third baseman Josh Moore. Moore is also on the pitching staff.

Freshman Kyle Thomas will also get time at third base.

Senior Bradley Hudson is a utility player and will get time at various positions.

Playing in the outfield will be sophomore Jonathan Seal, senior Jovonte Smith and Woolard. Smith played JV baseball as a freshman and returns to the program after a two-year break. "He brings a lot of speed and a lot of athleticism to the team," said Saunders, whose squad of 11 is the smallest he's had since coaching at LHS.

The Devils will open the season at West Point today (March 14) at 5 p.m. They play tomorrow, March 15, at the Deltaville Ballpark against Middlesex at 7 p.m.

Junior varsity

Coach Dave Cunningham and his 14-member JV team are also scheduled to open their season today against West Point at home at 5 p.m.

Cunningham has a pitching staff of five including freshmen Mathew Abbott, Dillon Rose, Grant Long and Jay Bryant and sophomore Caleb Gordon. Gordon is somewhat of a utility player and will see playing time in both the infield and outfield when he's not on the mound.

Abbott will play in the outfield when not pitching along with Long, freshmen Jamie Coates and Trevon Henderson and sophomore Noah Hook.

Seeing time in the infield will be freshmen Rose, Bryant, Spencer Hook, Drew Smith, Marcus Vickers, Trevor Smith and Jamerson Robertson. Eighth-grader Devin Smith will catch.

"I have four key returners, but a lot of new guys," said Cunningham, who led last year's team to an 8-8 overall record. "As my players are developing, the varsity team is taking them, so I've lost some players with experience.

The Red Devils' home games will be played at Dreamfields near Kilmarnock.

SCHEDULES

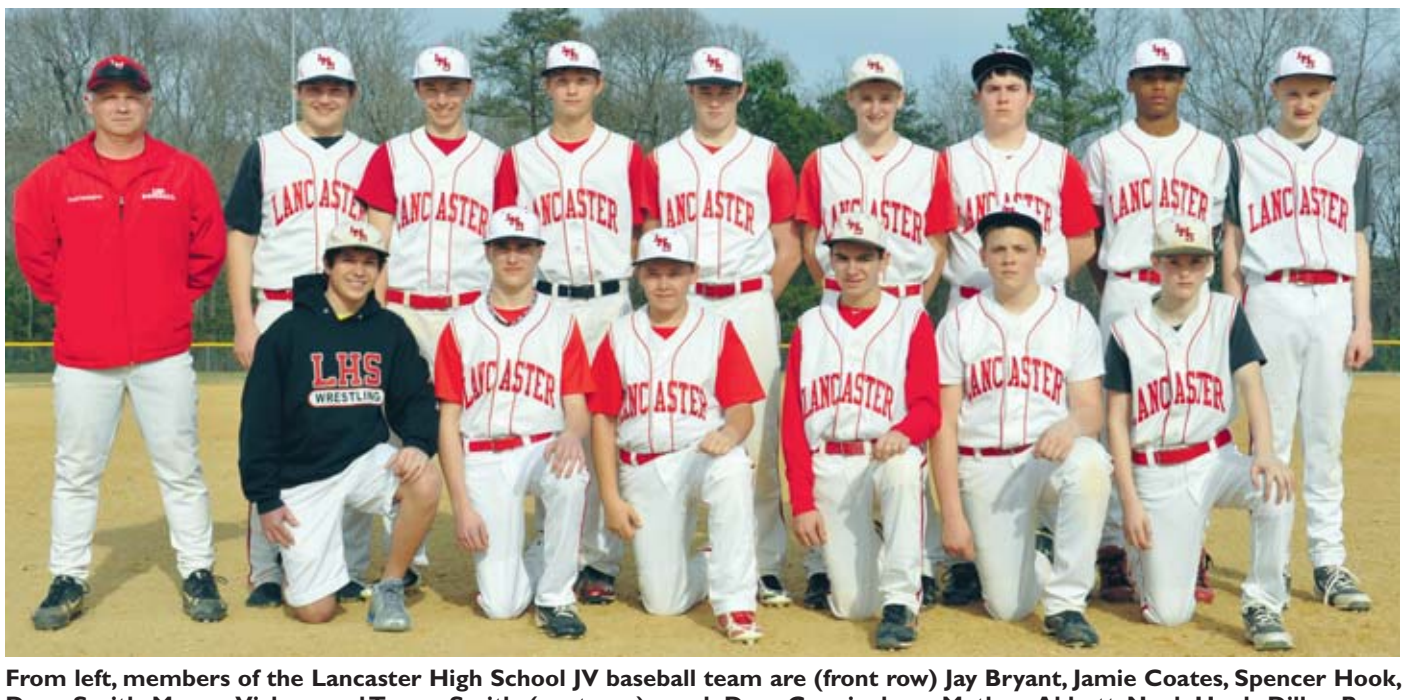
VARSITY BASEBALL

March 15	Middlesex at Deltaville Ballpark (7 p.m.
March 19	at Mathews (5 p.m.)
March 23	Middlesex (7 p.m.)
Marchh 26	West Point (5 p.m.)
March 28	Chincoteague at Nandua High School (4 p.m.)
March 29	at Nandua (11 a.m.)
April 5-6	Lancaster Tournament
April 8	at Langley (5 p.m.)
April 11	at Rappahannock (7 p.m.)
April 16	at Essex (5 p.m.)
April 18	at Colonial Beach (5 p.m.)
April 23	Washington & Lee (5 p.m.)
April 26	at Northumberland (7 p.m.)
April 30	Rappahannock (7 p.m.)
May 2	at Essex (5 p.m.)
May 7	Colonial Beach (5 p.m.)
May 9	at Washington & Lee (5 p.m.)
May 14	Northumberland (7 p.m.)

JV BASEBALL

(JV games, 5 p.m.)

March 15	Middlesex at Deltaville Ballpark
March 19	Mathews
March 23	Middlesex
March 26	at West Point
April 9	at Mathews
April 11	Rappahannock
April 16	at Essex
April 18	Colonial Beach
April 23	at Washington & Lee
April 26	at Northumberland
April 30	Rappahannock
May 2	Essex
May 7	at Colonial Beach
May 9	Washington & Lee
May 14	Northumberland



From left, members of the Lancaster High School JV baseball team are (front row) Jay Bryant, Jamie Coates, Spencer Hook, Drew Smith, Marcus Vickers and Trevor Smith; (next row) coach Dave Cunningham, Mathew Abbott, Noah Hook, Dillon Rose, Grant Long, Caleb Gordon, Jamerson Robertson, Trevon Henderson and Devin Smith. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

INSIDE: Tide Chart • Squadron honored • Bridge Scores • Schools • Business

Chesapeake Academy students practice shooting hoops in preparation for the student-led "Hoops to Help" fundraiser for Special Olympics March 23.

Student-led 'Hoops for Help' to benefit Special Olympics

Chesapeake Academy will host "Hoops to Help," March 23, a local kid-driven fundraiser to help raise funds for Special Olympics.

Anyone ages 3 to 99 in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula is urged to participate, especially those with a love for basketball. Chesapeake initiated the "Hoops to Help" fundraiser when it came to the school's attention that programs for local Special Olympic athletes were underfunded.

"This is kids helping kids," said athletic director event organizer, Cynthia Walker.

The Special Olympics of Virginia's mission is to provide year-round athletic competitions for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Registration and sponsorship forms can be accessed at chesapeakeacademy.org.

Chesapeake Bank will sponsor a $1,000 point challenge. Registered players get friends, family, and/or co-workers to sponsor them for a set amount of money, such as $5, $10, or $20. They arrive at the school's gymnasium on March 23 and shoot hoops for five minutes in a designated time slot. Participants tally the number of baskets made and points earned, and then add their point scores to an overall group count. If (and when) the group point count reaches 1,000, Chesapeake Bank will contribute an additional $1,000 in support of the fundraiser.

Cash and check donations will be accepted at anytime during the event, concessions will be available with proceeds to support Special Olympic athletes. March Madness NCAA basketball games will be streamed live throughout the event.

For specific details about participant time-slots, call the school at 438-5575. All sponsorship checks should be made to SOVA Area 28.

YPRCC celebrates annual oyster roast

Members and guests of the Yankee Point Racing and Cruising Club on Saturday celebrated the annual oyster roast and sock burning. The indoor-outdoor event is a club favorite and "the burning of the socks" is an East Coast tradition that transitions sailing and related activities from winter into spring.

"We couldn't have asked for better weather," said commodore George Bott while tending one of several oyster-serving stations. He said members George Currie, Dave Turney, Anker Madsen and vice commodore John Henley had previously shucked enough oysters for frying, stuffing mushrooms, making stew, casseroles and dips for crackers.

"Our technique probably wasn't the greatest, but we got the job done," said Bott.

Turney said four-time world oyster shucking champion Deborah Pratt's record of 24 in one minute, one second, was not broken.

"We didn't come close to that," Turney said, noting that he was using a tool Pratt had autographed.

Dave Turney enjoys fried oysters.

Fellow shucker George Currie, without benefit of professionally autographed equipment, estimated he had shucked "maybe one or possibly two oysters in twenty minutes."

Turney estimated that perhaps a thousand oysters were enjoyed. His wife, Nina, a member of the social fleet, kept the fried oysters coming while Carole Jean McConnico was responsible for filling and re-filling bowls of oyster stew.

John Payne and Dan Huddy helped tend the roasting station, and rear commodore Sara Ford supervised indoor kitchen activities while husband Bill took care of beverages.

Midway through the celebration, Henley entertained attendees with a "Burning of Socks" poem, and Sue Johnson led the group in celebrating guest Larry Comstock's birthday.

Other guests included John Ashworth, Beth and Huw Bower, Victoria and Douglas Rixey, Mary Beth Comstock, Jane and David Hall, Brick Brickley, Betsy and Russ Armstrong, Steven Hanley and Susan, Jay and Carol Hughitt, Cage and John Henley, Julia Putney and Bill Brandt.

SPORTS SHORTS

■ Handgun safety

The Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club Inc. will conduct a National Rifle Association "First Steps Pistol" orientation course March 22 and 23.

NRA-certified instructors will teach the basics of safe pistol shooting, familiarization, how to choose a handgun and fundamentals of shooting. To enroll, contact training officer John Henley at 435-6550.

■ Mahjong event

The White Stone Woman's Club will host a mahjong game the second Monday of each month, from 1 to 4 p.m. beginning April 8. The fee is $3 which includes snacks and beverages and supports Lancaster High School Scholarships.

No reservations are required and players may compete as an individual or a pre–planned table. Players are urged to bring sets. Call 221-9795 with questions.

■ Save the Brain

The Middle Peninsula Northern Neck Community Services Board Prevention Services Division will present Save the Brain: A Concussion and Brain Injury Awareness Night on March 26. The free informational session with Jeffrey Barth, Ph.D, ABPP-CN, will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the T.C. Walker Educational Center auditorium in Gloucester.

Advance registration is requested. Call 642-5402, email prevent@mpnn.state.va.us., or visit tbi@surveymonkey/s/TBlawreness. Free helmets will be distributed.

■ Spay/neuter program

The Animal Welfare League of the Northern Neck will offer its 50% spay/neuter rebate through March 19 to the pets of permanent residents of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland counties. The program, not to exceed $50 per animal, applies to dogs and cats. The rebate applies only to sterilization surgery charges.

Owners just make an appointment with the veterinarian of their choice, pay the bill and then send proof of payment (paid bill) to the Animal Welfare League, P.O. Box 975, White Stone, VA 22578, postmarked no later than April 6.

■ St. Patrick's Bridge

The annual St. Patrick's Day Dessert Bridge will be held at 12:30 p.m. March 15 at De Sales Hall in Kilmarnock. Mahjong, canasta, scrabble, bunco and pinochle players are welcome.

Tables of four are $ 20. Make checks payable to: Women of St. Francis. To reserve a table, call Lorri Amidon at 462-6140, or send a reservation request and check to Lorri Amidon,c/o Women of St. Francis, P.O. Box 220, Mollusk, VA 22517.

■ State champs

Christchurch School recently won the Virginia Independent Schools Division II state championship after defeating Virginia Episcopal School 57-49 in overtime.

It was the first state championship for the Seahorses since winning it in 1991.The VES Bishops entered the state playoffs ranked #1 in the final state poll while the Seahorses were ranked #2. Christchurch defeated VES 79-65 in the regular season.

■ Spring affair

The Woman's Club of White Stone will host a Spring Affair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 11 at the clubhouse at 560 Chesapeake Drive in White Stone. This special event is a luncheon with fashions by Pearls of Kilmarnock followed by an afternoon of mahjong, bridge, board games and card games.

To reserve a table, call Ruth at 435-2406. A $20 fee covers lunch and beverages throughout the event. Proceeds benefit Lancaster High School scholarships. The event is open to the public.

■ Golf open

Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury's 29th annual Open Golf Tournament to benefit the RW-C Fellowship Fund, will be held April 23 at the King Carter Golf Club. There will be flights for men and for women.

For fees, brochures, and registration information, call the RW-C development office at 438-4350, or email foundation@rw-c.org.

From left are Commander Richard Dickson, District Lt. Commander James Colston and executive officer Judy Cook.

Local Sail and Power Squadron named among nation's top five

Northern Neck Sail and Power Squadron has been named among the top five Power Squadrons in the nation, as recognized by the Boat US/U.S. Power Squadrons Distinguished Squadron Civic Service Award. This is the most significant award honoring the best among the 420 squadrons of USPS.

The presentation was made at the Power Squadron's national meeting in Jacksonville, Fla., by National Chief Commander John Alter and BoatUS Foundation assistant director of boating safety Ted Sensenbrenner, reported public relations officer Ray Reuter.

The 46-member squadron serves several counties in Eastern coastal Virginia, as the number five squadron in the nation, said Reuter.

A significant squadron program is Northern Neck's long-standing commitment to working with sixth-grade students providing hands-on demonstrations of various topics, including: use of VHF radios; handling of life-threatening circumstances; operating fire extinguishers; using life vests; and performing oil spill cleanup. The squadron also sponsors a poster contest, participates in "Healthy Kids Day" and conducts a one-week program each year called "Nail and Sail" in which the campers spend their mornings performing repairs for needy people and their afternoons learning about water safety using kayaks and sunfish, he said.

EVANS BOWLING CENTER RESULTS

Ladies League

The Corner Restaurant remained in first place last week with three wins over Davis Auto.

All four Corner Restaurant bowlers each scored a 300-plus set. Gayle Conrad had a 345, the week's highest set, with games of 106, 100 and 139, the week's highest score. Betty Evans had a 344, with games of 118, 124 and 102. Donna Thomas had a 311, with games of 100 and 114. Mary Savalina had a 302, with games of 103 and 102.

For Davis Auto, Sandra Evans bowled games of 101 and 112. Vivian Callaway rolled a 105 game. Marie Piccard had a 100 game.

D & L Doc n' Divas took three games from Yeatman's Forklift. Terry Stillman bowled a 321 set, with games of 121 and 103. Darlene Benson tallied a 312 set, with a 125 game. Beverley Benson had games of 101 and 116. For Yeatman's, Alma George bowled games of 100 and 104. Val Crosbie had a 102 game.

Tri-Star took two games from R. P. Waller. Cathy Hoskins scored a 342 set, with games of 109, 101 and 132. Theresa Davis had a 101 game.

For R.P. Waller, Ola Rae Nash rolled a 306 set, with two games of 108. Marsha Nash had a 114 game. Ann Newsome had a 103 game.

CLUB GOLF

Golden Eagle

The Golden Eagle Golf Club play day winners for March 11 were first, Allen Robins; second, Mike Osteen; and third, Rob Grace.

Quinton Oaks men

The Quinton Oaks Senior Men's League winners for March 5 were first, Cabot Caskie; second, Ray Wiersma; and third, Gary Gill.

RIVER LANES BOWLING RESULTS

Monday Deadwoods, first, Top Flight; second, GIFFL; and third, Herd of Turtles.

Tuesday Party Animals, first, The Gang; second, Basket Case; and third, Gutter Gang.

Wednesday Humpday Humdingers, first, Dunn's Auto; second, The Road Runners; and third, G-Force.

Thursday Wild Thangs, first, A&D; second, Team 3; and third, Dixie Chicks.

Friday Incredibowlers, first, Senior Adventure; second, Holy Rollers; and third, I Hate This Game.

Weekley High Scores, Men's scratch game, Don Powell, 289; and scratch series, Travis Tenan, 801. Men's handicap game, Larry Jenkins, 347; and handicap series, Tenan, 867.

Women's scratch game, Brigitte Drake, 245; and scratch series, Drake, 611. Women's handicap game, Glenna Cantrell, 288; and handicap series, Tina Lyons, 743.

Weekly Tides

Windmill Point – Sunrise & Moon - March, 2013

Fri. 3/15	High 1:56 1.4' Low 8:36 0.0' **High 2:18 1.2'** **Low 8:40 0.0'**	Sunrise 7:16 **Sunset 7:12** Moonrise 9:10 **Moonset 11:19**	**Tue. 3/19**	High 4:56 1.1' Low 11:46 05' **High 5:19 1.0'** **Low 11:49 0.4'**	Sunrise 7:10 **Sunset 7:16** Moonset 1:55 **Moonrise 12:04**
Sat. 3/16	High 2:36 1.3' Low 9:19 02' **High 2:58 1.1'** **Low 9:21 0.1'**	Sunrise 7:14 **Sunset 7:13** Moonrise 9:48	**Wed. 3/20**	High 5:55 1.1' **Low 12:44 05'** **High 6:20 1.0'**	Sunrise 7:08 **Sunset 7:17** Moonset 2:40 **Moonrise 12:57**
Sun. 3/17	High 3:19 1.2' Low 10:03 0.2' **High 3:39 1.1'** **Low 10:04 0.2'**	Sunrise 7:13 **Sunset 7:14** Moonset 12:14 **Moonrise 10:30**	**Thu. 3/21**	Low 12:49 0.4' High 6:56 1.1' **Low 1:43 0.5'** **High 7:21 1.0'**	Sunrise 7:07 **Sunset 7:18** Moonset 3:21 **Moonrise 1:51**
Mon. 3/18	High 4:04 1.2' Low 10:52 0.4' **High 4:26 1.0'** **Low 10:53 0.3'**	Sunrise 7:11 **Sunset 7:15** Moonset 1:07 Moonrise 11:16	**Fri. 3/22**	Low 1:50 0.3' High 7:56 1.1' **Low 2:36 0.4'** **High 8:18 1.1'**	Sunrise 7:05 **Sunset 7:19** Moonset 3:59 **Moonrise 2:49**

Corrections	High	Low	Height
Piankatank River, Cherry Pt.	-1:42	-1:44	86%
Great Wicomico River Light	0:30	0:20	75%

PM times are in **boldface type**

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CHRISTIE'S GREAT ESTATES

SELECT PROPERTIES

BRIDGE RESULTS

Five-and-a-half tables of bridge were in place February 28 at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club.

Winners north/south were first, Ginger Klapp and Babs Murphy; and second, Kay Inskeep and Teensa Williams.

Winners east/west were first, Meredith Townes and Nancy Hall; and second, Helen Hopton and Iris Panzetta.

Six tables of bridge were in play March 5 at the Lancaster Women's Club.

Winners north/south were first, Virginia Adair and Judy Peifer; and second, Iris Panzetta and Norma Drinnon.

Winners east/west were first, Dick and Pat Draper; and second, Jane Kemper and Kathy Riley. The next bridge for this group is Tuesday, March 19, at 1 p.m.

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Creative problem solvers, from left, are (front row) Tara Gill, Marshall Lee, Christopher Cunningham and Virginia DeMario; (next row) Adarian Henderson, Kennon Roop, Hannah Wilmer, Karson Roop, Kyle McCartney, Daniel Smith, Amanda Steensma, Charlie Li and Sarah Wells Pollard; (next row) Katelin Seaver, Kayla Oren, Grace Oren, Courtney Croasdale and Hailey Banes.

Odyssey of the Mind challenges LMS team problem-solving skills

Someone once said, "Two heads are better than one." So, just imagine what 20 fourth- and fifth-grade heads can do when they try to solve a problem.

That is what three teams of the best and brightest students from Lancaster Middle School have been doing after school for the last several months, according to faculty member Dana Hogan. The students presented their solutions at the Odyssey of the Mind regional competition March 2 in New Kent.

The international educational program challenges students to put their creative problem-solving skills to work, explained Hogan. Teams work together for months before the competition to prepare a solution to a problem they select from five choices, and they solve another problem on the day of the competition posed to them with very little time to prepare.

Adults can provide instruction on skills needed to solve the long-term problem, but cannot offer any help or advice to solve it, she said. The team coach may ask questions to help the students to solve their problem, but may not solve it for them.

Each of the LMS teams, comprised of six or seven students, worked for three months to create a solution for their team's problem. They also had to work together to solve the spontaneous problem, posed to them during the competition. The team's final score was the total of the long-term problem and spontaneous problem points.

The Brain Busters team of Hannah Wilmer, Virginia DeMario, Charlie Li, Tara Gill, Kyle Henderson and Matthew Haydon, designed and built vehicles to transport items to be assembled in an area several feet away. They were very creative in developing their vehicles and the vehicles' propulsion systems, said Hogan.

A Girl's Best Friend team of Amanda Steensma, Chloe Fridley, Sarah Wells Pollard, Grace Oren, Kayla Oren, Hailey Banes and Courtney Croasdale wrote and performed a play depicting characters with qualities specified in the problem, but with a great deal of freedom in how they decided to perform them. Their skit had to include a set change and several other special features, said Hogan.

The Omer Squad of Daniel Smith, Christopher Smith, Katelin Seaver, Adarian Henderson, Kennon Roop, Karson Roop and Marshall Lee designed and built a structure out of only strips of balsa wood and glue to travel down a ramp, which they also had to design and build. Then, weights were placed on the structure until it broke. They also had to create a skit in the form of a commercial to present their project, said Hogan.

"This is the first year of a rekindling of Odyssey of the Mind at LMS after at least a 10-year hiatus, so it is not surprising that we did not bring any trophies home this year," she said. "However, our students, their parents and their coaches brought home some valuable memories and skills from the competition. Despite the occasional frustrating moments, everyone persevered, supported each other, and deserved the pride they felt for their teams' performances."

The students learned new skills, such as using a miter (including the famous axiom, measure twice to cut once), how to pick the right glue for holding balsa wood together, how to design structures/vehicles/props, how to project their voices on a stage, how to express their ideas and how to listen to others, or how to write a skit. Different students learned different skills, all of the students learned the most important of skills, how to work with other students to create something of their own in order to solve a problem.

"Our teams would like to thank the Lancaster Education Foundation, the LMS PTA, and their parents, coaches, and administration for making the students' participation in this, their first Odyssey of the Mind competition, possible," said Hogan.

The Northumberland High School forensics team (above) recently won first place in the Region A Forensics tournament.

NHS wins Region A Forensics title

On February 23, the Region A Forensics tournament was held at West Point High School with 12 teams competing.

Participating schools included Chincoteague, Windsor, Washington & Lee, Northampton, Rappahannock, Northumberland, Nandua, West Point, Mathews, Middlesex, King William and Arcadia.

For the first time since 1998, Northumberland won the Region A championship with 22 points. King William was the runner-up with 13 points and there was a tie for third between Washington & Lee and Arcadia.

Students placing first, second or third in their respective categories advance to the state tournament at Harrisonburg High School March 23. Students from Northumberland High School who placed and will be competing in that tournament are Joshua McKinley, first, storytelling; Laura Mangano, third, storytelling; Alexandra Pitman, second, serious dramatic interpretation; Johnnie McAfee, first, humorous interpretation; Megan Baughn and Alex Swisher, first, humorous duo; and Robin Wigfield and Kellen Wise, second, humorous duo.

Nominations are open for forestry camp

Nominations are open for the 67th annual Holiday Lake Forestry Camp June 17-22 at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center. This action-packed camp is hosted by the Virginia Department of Forestry, with support and cooperation from other conservation agencies, organizations, businesses and individuals.

Forestry Camp is more than a walk in the woods, according to 4-H extension agent Ellen Powell. Campers learn about wildlife habitat, tree identification, timber harvesting, reforestation, environmental protection and more. They also take part in exciting field trips, exploratory classes, outdoor recreation and a Lumberjack Field Day.

Teachers, natural resource professionals and others working with youth may make nominations. Campers must be Virginia residents ages 13 to 16 with good academic standing, have an interest in natural resources, and must not have attended Forestry Camp before.

Every camper receives a scholarship and pays only $75 to attend the week-long residential camp. New sponsors are always welcome.

To nominate a camper, visit dof.virginia.gov/edu/camp.htm.\ Nominations are due by April 15.

For more information, contact Powell at 434-220-9083, or ellenpowell@dof.virginia.gov.

Planning is under way for A.T. Wright 2013 reunion

The A. T. Wright School Association recently issued a call for all Warriors to convene for the Eighth Grand Reunion August 31 at the Beacon in Topping.

To borrow from a well-known song, "high school days swiftly pass imbued with memories fond and the recollections slowly fade away; But our dear A.T. Wright and memorable school bond, may they ever abide and with us stay," said committee member Lloyd N. Hill.

All persons who ever attended A.T. Wright and their friends and families are invited to come and share memories, said Hill. The committee is still in the planning stage and seeking input, he said. The entertainment, DJ and master of ceremonies are yet to be selected.

Other committee members are Dr. Elton Smith, Mamie Hebbons Wood, Rosa Moody Curry, Marilyn Holmes, John Holmes, Barbara Churchill Perkins, James Beane, Donald Epps, Elaine Waters Davenport, Mary Kenner Dolby and Hill.

Schoolmates may contact Hill at 438-6713.

NHS posts second quarter Honor Roll

Northumberland High School recently posted the "B" Honor Roll for the second quarter of the 2012-13 academic session.

Students named to the Honor Roll are:

Seniors, Joseph Betts, Nyasia Brown, Taryn Burrell, Jasmine Carter, Beth Clegg, Caitlyn Cralle, Tanner Cralle, Andrea Davis, Travis Dawson, Johnathan Hinton, Julie King, Tyler Kirby, Kayla Leland, Jodi Newman, Nikki Northern, Jessica Rew, Dominic Scerbo, Amber Scott, Darl'Kita Seldon, Shantel Stewart, Alex Swisher, Kellen Wise and Summer Allen.

Also, Genevie Boarman, Lauren Brent, Rashauna Carter, Taylor Childress, Taylor Davis, Josh Diggs, Justin Diggs, Monty Dobyns, Josh Dodson, Richard Frolia, Lizzie Hall, Bryce Johnson, Nia Jones, Solnett Lee, DeAndre Lucas, Zachary Newman, Estafania Orrantia, Micaela Pittman, Tevin Pollard, Whitney Rice, Nathan Rogers and Destiny Thornton.

Juniors, Hunter Basye, Treasure Crawley, Katie Crowther, Kelsey Dawson, Trevor Deihl, Collin Donovan, Gabe Figgatt, Dierra Green, Matthew Harris, Daniel Harrison, Quantasia Johnson, Leyla Latypova, Laura Mangano, Josh McKinley and Bridgette McLaughlin.

Also, Kaci Payne, Logan Renton, Brennon Saunders, Lauren Self, Kayla Wilson, Bria Barbour, Aaron Curry, Connor Haislip, Abby Loving, Brandy Robinson, James Robinson, Hakeem Shabazz and Robin Wigfield.

Sophomores, Julia Arrington, Megan Baughan, Alexxus Canter, Mackenzie Dameron, Susan Haynie, Noah Kramer, Tyler Lewis, Collin Many, Trent Newsome, Thomas Parker, Kyndia Riley, Alonza Sutton and July Traylor.

Also, Cody Weicht, Antoine White, Audrey Williams, Yahaira Acosta, Ahmad Bea, Kristina Brown, Cassie Collins, Carter Deihl, Joey Gaskins, Haley Headly, Jack Jett, John Lewis, Taylor Norris, Sarah Schindler, Jacob Seggelink, Mac Smith and Warren Tallent.

Freshmen, Allison Chism, Daniel Deitz, Keith Fisher, Brianna Hamblin, Haley Hayden, Brittney Hendrickson, Zachary Kent, Olivia Lawson, Almoni Mitchell, Celia Perrie, Philip Raine, Kellee Ramsey, Kenneth Rioland and Jessica Thomas.

Also, Olivia Vogel, Amber Bibbens, Trevor Cantrell, Miranda Clark, Ashlyn Gough, Teshee Johnson, Tara Kogon, Joshua Long, Hollis Perona, Jordon Plante, Matthew Rahn, Slater Rice and Rajaa Shabazz.

SCHOOL REPORTS

■ Co-parenting

The Middle Peninsula Northern Neck Community Services Board Prevention Services Division will conduct a Children First co-parenting education class from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 23 at the MPNNCSB Mental Health and Substance Abuse Administration Building at 13794 Tidewater Trail in Saluda.

The class is designed to prevent custody conflicts for divorced, separated spouses, single parents. The fee is $50 per person. Pre-registation, including payment, is required. Call 1-888-773-8550, or visit rvuc.com.

■ Educational grants

St. Mary's Whitechapel Episcopal Church educational grant applications are available. Applicants, or their family, must be residents of Lancaster County, or the child or grandchild of a St. Mary's Whitechapel parishioner.

Requests for guidelines and applications should be sent to St. Mary's Whitechapel Episcopal Church, 5940 White Chapel Road Lancaster, VA 22503; smwclora@aol.com; or 462-5908, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. All applications must be received by April 1.

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JEWELRY FACTS

BY ROSS CHRISTIANSEN

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Theatre IV actors from left are Dee Sims, Jequan Jackson, Jamila Curry and Brian Knox.

RFA presents Theater IV and 'The Oliver Hill Story'

"The Oliver Hill Story," performed by actors from Theatre IV, was recently presented to sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders at the Lancaster Middle School Theater in Kilmarnock.

The presentation was funded by the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts, reported Julie Geier, RFA vice president for external communications.

The program followed the career of Oliver Hill Sr., a Richmond-born trial attorney who worked against racial discrimination and was instrumental in desegregating public schools in Virginia, said Geier.

Some 300 students and faculty enjoyed the fast-paced, information-packed program and the question-and-answer period following the show, she said.

NES holds academic night

Northumberland Elementary School on March 5 hosted Family Academic Night for grades 3-5. The event began with performances by each grade level. Students and parents then attended learning stations. The Junior Beta Club from NMS provided babysitting for younger siblings. "We thank everyone who participated in this wonderful evening," said third-grade teacher Sherri Kent.

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Smith shares results of teacher survey with Lancaster school board

by *Audrey Thomasson*

KILMARNOCK—A recent survey of Lancaster public school teachers paints a picture of dissatisfaction with the superintendent and central office. At the same time, the teachers are satisfied with schools providing necessary resources and the ability to adjust instruction based on test scores.

Bill Smith, a former school board member and organizer of the parent group "Community for our Schools," conducted the independent online survey in February and received a 67% total response rate from the three schools. Teachers were asked 10 questions that covered their school, principal and the district administration. He presented the results at Monday's school board meeting.

"After our December meeting, many teachers said they didn't speak because they were afraid of losing their jobs," said Smith.

The survey was used as a way to gather critical feedback from teachers while protecting their identities, he said.

The survey results show teachers feel they are not receiving a clear vision from the superintendent, Smith said. Most troubling was the result at the middle school showing 38% of teachers looking for another job. That number drops off to 9% at the primary school and 21% at the high school. Teachers at two schools responded favorably about their principals, he added.

Superintendent Dr. Daniel Lukich received the lowest marks for his visibility and in promoting and supporting open lines of communication. An overwhelming 85% of teachers responding said they were very dissatisfied, and 26% said there was an atmosphere of fear in the school system.

Some 63% were very dissatisfied with Lukich's ability to communicate goals and vision clearly.

Administrative officials in the central office fared only slightly better, averaging a dissatisfaction rate of 64% for effectively working with the schools to achieve goals. Some 69% of respondents checked "never" or "rarely" on the central office administration's ability to be flexible or maintain an environment conducive to shared ownership.

Primary school

Satisfaction at the primary school ranked highest. The school received a positive rating of 91% for providing all the necessary resources for students and teachers. Some 73% said student discipline was firm, fair and consistent and the environment was safe.

The teachers also gave high marks to principal Dr. Holly Wargo for providing useful feedback and following through in a timely manner. Some 45% said they would like more feedback.

About 86% said the school promotes student achievement and provides appropriate intervention and remediation, analyzing and adjusting instruction when needed. Teachers were very satisfied with their teaching experience and felt valued with a positive rating of 82%.

Middle school

Teachers responded favorably at 69% on the school's ability to provide all their resources, with 31% dissatisfied. However, 56% felt the school was lacking in firm, fair and consistent discipline and the environment was disruptive and unsafe.

Principal Kim Hammond received low marks from 62% of teachers on giving useful instructional feedback and following through on concerns in a timely manner. The school fared better in providing intervention and remediation to promote student achievement with a rating of 50% for "sometimes" and 19% for "always."

The school received a favorable 88% rating for adjusting instructional practices based on test scores. Only 56% of teachers are "sometimes" satisfied with their experience and feel valued, while 37% said they were looking for another job.

High school

The high school received a 68% positive rating for providing necessary supplies for students and staff with some 31% dissatisfied. About 69% rated the school satisfactory to outstanding in administering discipline and creating a safe environment with minimal disruption.

Principal Dr. Lori Watrous received top marks for giving useful feedback and following through on their concerns, with 69% saying "always" and a 31% score of satisfactory. The school received a 79% favorable rating for providing intervention and remediation as well as promoting student achievement.

Some 72% of teachers were favorable on the school adjusting instruction based on test scores. However, 45% said they were not satisfied with their experience and did not feel valued while another 55% were somewhat or completely satisfied.

SCHOOL REPORTS

■ Lifelong changes

Engineer Dr. Gregory Haugan will present "The New Triple Constraints: Population Change, Climate Change, and Energy Resources," a Rappahannock Institute for Lifelong Learning course, from 1 to 3 p.m. March 14, 21 and 28 at RCC's Kilmarnock Center.

Advance registration is required with a tuition payment of $35. To register, contact Sharon Drotleff at the Rappahannock Community College Educational Foundation office, 333-6707, 877-722-3679, or sdrotleff@rappahannock.edu.

■ Music scholarship

The Rappahannock Music Study Club will offer a $1,000 scholarship to high school seniors, including homeschoolers, who plan to continue the study of music in college this fall. Application forms will be available from the guidance departments in all high schools or from the club at 435-2189. The deadline for applications is March 25.

Applicants must have musical talent and reasonable proficiency, a good academic record and need financial assistance. A short performance audition is required and will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 6 at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury near Irvington.

■ Honor Roll

Junior Emily Szyperski, daughter of Wende and Jeff Szyperski of Weems, has been named to the first semester honor roll at Saint Mary's School in Raleigh, N.C.

■ Prom shop

Melrose United Methodist Church will host a prom clothes shop and swap from 10 a.m. to noon March 23 and 2 to 4 p.m. March 24. Donate lightly used prom clothes to help! Come by to swap or shop, or call 529-6344.

■ RCC scholarships

Each year Rappahannock Community College distributes nearly 300 scholarship awards, totaling over $300,000. The deadline is March 20 to apply for scholarships for fall 2013.

Apply at rappahannock.edu/foundation/scholarships, or fill out a printed application form, which can be obtained at the college or downloaded from the website. There is no charge for filing an RCC scholarship application, but applicants must first gain admission to the college.

■ Kellum scholarship

Scholarship applications are available for the Hope J. Kellum Scholarship Fund, open to all high school seniors in the community. Email request to jdilday@kaballero.com, or call 436-6465. The application deadline is April 1.

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Northumberland's school drug policy is questioned

by *Shannon Rice*

LOTTSBURG—Northumberland's school policy on drugs came under question during the March 11 school board meeting, following the recent expulsion of two students for drugs found in vehicles.

Gerald Howard, who sat in one of the expulsion hearings at the request of the student's parents, said school board vice chairman Dick Saxer supported the expulsion based on the schools' zero tolerance policy on drugs. However, Howard claimed the only zero-tolerance policy he saw in the school handbook was related to fighting.

Another parent noted the policy handbook that Howard referred to was actually the condensed version found in student daily agendas.

In the corrective actions section of the student code of conduct, the policy specifically states: "Mandatory expulsion for bringing a firearm onto school property or to a school sponsored activity or use or possession of a controlled substance, imitation controlled substance or marijuana, as defined in Chapter 34 of Title 54.1 and § 18.2-247 of the Code of Virginia, on school property or at a school sponsored activity."

"It sets a very, very clear example for other students that we're not going to allow that in school districts," said Saxer.

Howard also said the school board should have considered the recommendations of Sheriff Chuck Wilkins and the school resource officer who, he said, both spoke on the student's behalf.

"The school resource officer came up and said not to do it because of the amount they found—he described it as covering just the tip of his finger—and said he was 99% sure that the student didn't know it was in there," said Howard. "Why do we have the school resource officer there if you're not going to respect their opinion?"

Saxer responded that it is the school board that makes the decision in such cases, not the sheriff's department, not the deputy, not the parents and not people who were allowed to come into a suspension hearing.

"I would never tell anyone to come to this board because if you couldn't overturn that, there is nothing that you can overturn. My advice would be always appeal but expect nothing," said Howard.

Dana O'Bier spoke in favor of the board's decision, saying she was glad that disciplinary policies are being followed and carried out.

"This is not a court of law. They are following through and helping keep our kids safe," said O'Bier.

STEM Academy

In unrelated matters, Northern Neck Technical Center assistant principal Todd Davis announced that last week the center was approved by the State Board of Education to establish a Governor's STEM Academy focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Students who participate in the academy will have the opportunity to earn up to 10 transferable college credits while still earning the high school advanced studies diploma, said Davis. In addition to STEM courses, students may also elect to take courses in agriculture, food, natural resources, transportation, distribution and logistics. Juniors and seniors also have an opportunity to participate in local internships. Virtual classes will be available.

Starting in September, a minimum of 144 slots will be available for students in grades 9 through 12. At this time, students will be able to take an introduction and principles of engineering course and an introduction to horticultural sciences course.

Headmaster Jeb Byers (right) talks with students about the school's oyster aquaculture project. For five years, students have been collecting and recycling cans and using the proceeds to purchase oyster spat to raise at the school's waterfront.

Christchurch earns sustainability award

Christchurch School headmaster Jeb Byers and Stewart School headmaster Ken Seward led a School Leaders Roundtable at the recent Virginia Commonwealth University Energy and Sustainability Conference in Richmond.

On behalf of Christchurch School, sustainability coordinator Will Smiley joined Byers at the conference banquet to accept the Crystal Award for Sustainability in the K-12 school category, reported communications coordinator Jennifer Homer.

The award recognizes Virginia companies and institutions for sustainability achievements, said Homer

Lions Club announces regional Bland winners

The Region 1 Lions Club recently held its Bland Scholarship competition. The Williamsburg Club hosted the event.

Vocal winners were first, Josephine Miller sponsored by the Williamsburg Club; and second, Katherine Margaret Campbell sponsored by the York County Club.

Intstrumental winners were first, Melody Maestien sponsored the New Kent Club; and second, Kyle Hu sponsored by the Williamsburg Club.

The Lions Clubs of Region 1 thanked Robert Hodges for a fantastic job as master of ceremonies, the Williamsburg Club for all their support and help, the contestants and most of all the parents who braved the elements to see that their child was there and able to compete.

The first-place winners in each category advance to the District Competition April 3, for a chance to move up to the State Competition.

Art contest winners posted

The 2013 winners in The Virginia School Boards Association announced the winners of the 2013 Eastern Regional Art Contest.

Student art from the elementary, middle, and high school levels represented each school division in the competition, which was judged March 5 at the regional forum for area school board members, according to deputy executive director Gina G. Patterson.

Winners were, elementary, Madelyn Polson, Middlesex Elementary School; middle school, Autumn McMeechan, St. Clare Walker Middle School; and high school, Olivia Smith, Caroline County High School.

The winning art will be framed and displayed in the offices of the VSBA in Charlottesville and the Richmond offices of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, said Patterson.

R3 leaders

Lancaster Middle School PTA president Donna McGrath recently released the LMS Respect, Responsibility and Reliability (R3) Leaders for the weeks of November 26 and December 3. From left are (front row) Charlie Li, Sophie Headly and Kashya Johnson; (next row) Faith Heron, Passion Thomas, Terence Frisby and Corey Smith.

SCHOOL REPORTS

■ Financial Aid Night

Rappahannock Community College will sponsor a Financial Aid Night from 4 to 6 p.m. April 2 at the Kilmarnock Center. The session will be held in Room K102.

The purpose of the event is to educate and assist students and parents with financial aid and completing the 2013-14 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

■ Family learning

The Family Grow and Learn Series continues from 10 to 11 a.m. March 16 at the Northern Neck Montessori School in Kilmarnock. The session is free and child-care will be provided. Pre-registration is requested. Call 435-3503, or email nnmontessorischool@gmail.com.

Speakers will be Suzanne Moughon and Beth Rohne. The topic will be "Play and Learn—Exploring the World With Your Child," addressing social skills, independent thought, problem solving, language and physical skills through a variety of activities, involving the children.

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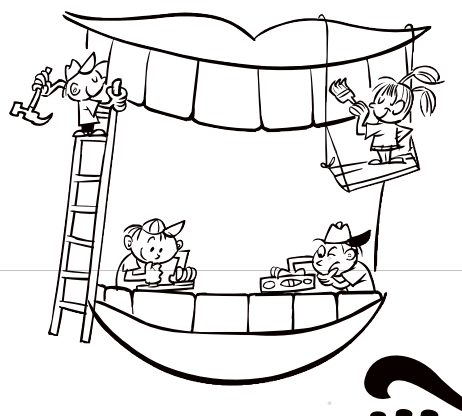

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Janet Dehoux, NP: A long-time resident of Mathews, Nurse Practitioner Janet DeHoux is a familiar and trusted care provider for women in Middle Peninsula communities offering comprehensive gynecologic and obstetric care with a focus on health and wellness.

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Monilla M. Dent, MD: Dr. Dent provides complete prenatal and postnatal care from the Riverside Partners in Women's Health newly renovated Gloucester location with deliveries at Riverside Regional Medical Center, the area's only Neonatal Intensive Care Center (NICU).

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Karanvir S. Virk, MD: A fellowship-trained specialist in minimally invasive gynecological surgery, Dr. Virk provides state-of-the-art surgical procedures and non-surgical treatments for a full range of GYN conditions.

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From left are David Rowe, William Saunders, Mike Lennon, Ida Hall, David Parks, Forrest Dameron, Bonnie Miller, Mike Vlahovich, Bill Bryant, Pete Cardozo, Richard Davis, Mal Luebkert, John England and Danny Crabbe. Photo by Larry Chowning

Chesapeake heritage training workshop held

The Chesapeake Heritage Program recently provided training for watermen to give visitors an on-water experience that includes history, the bay's health and the watermen's heritage on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Organizations involved in producing this pilot program are Northern Neck Planning District Commission, Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Region Partnership, Northern Neck Tourism Commission (NNTC), Rappahannock Community College (RCC), Chesapeake Environmental Communications, Coastal Heritage Alliance, and the Virginia Watermen's Association.

Developed by Mike Vlahovich of Coastal Heritage Alliance, training on developing thematic tours was provided to 12 participants sponsored by the Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Region Partnership and RCC Workforce Development, reported NNTC tourism coordinator Lisa Hull.

In addition to three days of classroom instruction, the pilot program included presentations by Maryland watermen conducting tours for visitors, National Park Service staff from the Captain John Smith Chesapeake Water Trail, Virginia Tech Extension, Virginia Tourism Corporation, U.S. Small Business Administration, and RCC Workforce Development. The third day of the training took place at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum, and concluded with an afternoon oyster cultivation demonstration and water tour of the Little Wicomico River sponsored by Crabbe's Charter Fishing. At the conclusion of the program, the participants received a certificate of completion from RCC.

To follow up the training program, two workshops will be offered April 2 at RCC in Warsaw on "What is a Marketing Plan?" and "How to Create Your Marketing Plan" by Virginia Tourism Corporation partnership marketing development specialist Sandra Tanner. The first workshop will start at 9 a.m. in Room 156 and the second workshop will begin at noon. Although the workshops are offered free to the public, registration is required. Call 333-1919, or email nntc@northernneck.org.

CMTI offers home study programs

Professional mariners preparing to sit for a U.S. Coast Guard exam to receive their deck officer or engineering licenses can now enroll in a home study program through Chesapeake Marine Training Institute (CMTI).

"We understand that not only do students learn in a variety of ways – some in a classroom and some self paced – but our students are also often already working professional mariners with sea time to work into their training schedule," said CMTI president and founder Capt. Guy Sorensen. "It's important to us to accommodate all students and offer them a high quality education, whether they study at home or in our classrooms."

The Gloucester Point-based professional marine training center offers several home study programs with various options, mainly to prepare deck officers and engineers.

The 500/1600 Master/Mate Inland or Near Coastal program prepares mariners to earn their license as a deck officer serving as Master or Mate on vessels not exceeding 500 or 1,600 gross registered tons and operating within inland or near coastal waters. The course includes, among other topics, navigation and plotting, safety and rules of the road. This deck officer home study course is available for $1,495.

Students who purchase this deck officer home study program will receive one week of exam preparation at the CMTI campus in Gloucester.

The Qualified Member of the Engine Department (QMED) courses are available with one endorsement, all endorsements, Chief Engineer, Assistant Engineer and Designated Duty Engineer.

Endorsements are specifications of what job the mariner is licensed to perform. The QMED home study programs range in cost from $650 to $1,095. Endorsements include oiler, refrigerating engineer, deck engineer, fireman, junior engineer, electrician, machinist, pumpman, deck engine mechanic and engineman.

Students who purchase any CMTI home study programs will receive access to a toll free phone number to talk directly with one of the experienced marine instructors.

Once students complete their home study program, they must take their test at a U.S. Coast Guard Regional Examination Center.

"We recommend all students receive their Coast Guard approval to sit for the exam before they purchase and start working on the home study program," said CMTI general manager Amanda Symonds. "If students need any help getting that pre-approval, we can do that to help streamline the process, through our application assistance program."

CMTI will mail all course materials—including everything from textbooks, charts and parallel rules to pen, pencil and eraser. Shipping is $35.

To purchase a home study program, contact CMTI at 800-642-2684, or chesapeakemarineinst.com.

All pre-exam preparations and one-on-one work with an experienced mariner turned instructor will be held at the CMTI campus.

Photographer participates in convention and print competition

Charles R. Lawson, CPP, AFP of The Highlander Studios at 310 North Main Street in Kilmarnock returned home with six photographic print awards from the annual Virginia Professional Photographers Association (VPPA) convention and competition recently held in Roanoke.

His images "Partners in Crime," "Accurate at 10,000 Leagues," "Lone Sentinel," "A River Runs Through It," "Calling All Stations" and "Time-Ripened Tomatoes" were exhibited alongside the finest in professional photographic imagery during the convention, he noted.

Lawson also reprised his role as creator of the awards banquet audio-visual presentation of all blue ribbon prints set to music, with a safari theme—the theme of this year's convention.

Lawson is a Virginia representative to the governing body of the Professional Photographers of America, the lieutenant governor of the Capital District, VPPA, and a member of the board of directors VPPA.

His studio offers fine art portraiture photography as well as photographic restoration, fine art reproduction, and giclee printing services. His award-winning images will be on display through March at the studio.

From left are Ken Schaefer, boatyard manager Paul Andersen, general manager James Wagner, Tom Bjorkholm, and owners Cathy and Jim Wagner.

Marina and boatyard join merchant's program

Bank of Lancaster's Golden Advantage Club director Theresa Ransone recently welcomed Regent Point Marina and Boatyard to the Golden Advantage merchant Sponsor Program.

"We are proud to announce that Regent Point Marina and Boatyard is a new member of our Merchant Sponsor Program with Golden Advantage," said Ransone. "All Golden Advantage Club members receive an exclusive discount at the boatyard by showing their membership card."

Jim and Cathy Wagner are owners of Regent Point Marina and Boatyard. Recent improvements have expanded the boatyard's ability to offer all types of year-round service work, they said. The all-weather repair facility enables the ABYC certified master technicians to work on various boat projects, such as fiberglass and hull repairs, engine repair and replacement, rigging, brightwork and electrical repairs, as well as electronic installations.

The marina grounds offer a park-like setting on Locklies Creek just off the Rappahannock River. The marina is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. The boatyard is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

"When you're 55 or better, Bank of Lancaster's Golden Advantage program gives you access to financial and lifestyle products and services, escorted travel, seminars and more," said Ransone.

Michael Morchower publishes book

Attorney Michael Morchower recently announced the publication of his new book, *Magic Mike*. The book is a biographical accounting of Morchower's most exciting years in his practice of criminal law during which there were dramatic social and legal changes. It provides an insider's look into the courtroom with its frank assessment of law enforcement, deal making, and judicial quirks and idiosyncrasies.

"After forty years of representing clients, I decided to retire from the practice of law," said Morchower. "The courtroom is always a pressure cooker and, as the saying goes, the law is a jealous mistress. Writing about my experiences has given me an opportunity to reflect on my career and the decisions I made professionally. My book will give you an inside view of justice in Virginia."

The book is subtitled, "The real story of Richmond's legendary criminal defense attorney" and discusses many of the highly publicized cases that featured prominently in many Virginia newspapers and television news stories. "Magic Mike" was no stranger to publicity and made friends with many cameras. The book tells the stories that didn't make the news.

"My last appearance in Lancaster Circuit Court was May, 15, 2008, when the late Honorable Thomas N. Nance dismissed all charges in an armed robbery case against my client. Since my last two jury trials in Richmond and Henrico County were acquittals, I suppose enough is enough."

Morchower has been a part-time resident of Irvington since 1975, and has lived there full time since his retirement at the end of 2011. He lives with his wife, Kathy, two dogs, Tiger and Google, three cats, Joey, Ozzie and Taj, and 12 huge Koi, all of whom have names.

Bank launches online financial education center

EVB recently launched the Financial Answer Center, an online education system for all things financial.

The Financial Answer Center provides customers with immediate answers to hundreds of financial questions and enables customers to download extensive Quick Guides to over 30 broad categories of information to help manage their financial life. Some of the topics covered include investments, retirement planning, cash and debt management, running a small business, planning for college and dozens more.

"Making important financial decisions is a lot like with spring cleaning —both processes can be intimidating and it's often difficult to know where to begin," said retail manager Ann-Cabell Williams.

The Financial Answer Center and its related tools "help customers get their financial houses in order by providing the specific information they need easily and quickly," said Williams.

The Financial Answer Center is provided free on EVB's website and is available to customers and others. It was developed by a team of financial and educational content experts from Truebridge Inc., a Boston-based financial marketing company.

"We are delighted to be associated with a forward-looking bank like EVB," said Truebridge president Stewart Rose. "Helping banks deepen their relationships with their customers is our mission and we're pleased to provide EVB the financial education platform to make that happen."

"With so much misinformation on the internet,we believe our Financial Answer Center provides a valuable resource that people can trust as they look for answers to their financial questions," said Williams.

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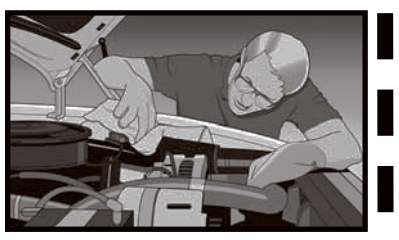
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From left are Paulette Scott and Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury president Stuart Bunting.

Scott earns RW-C honors

Paulette Scott has been named the Employee of the Month for February 2013 at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury. She has worked at RW-C from 1998 to 1999 and in housekeeping from 2010 to the present.

She also, in March 2012, became certified in CPR and completed the RW-C At-Home Personal Care Aide Training Program.

Virginia agricultural exports reach all-time high in 2012

Gov. Bob McDonnell recently announced agricultural exports from Virginia reached a new all-time high of $2.61 billion in 2012, shattering the previous record set last year by almost 12%. The announcement came during his remarks at the fifth annual Governor's Conference on Agricultural Trade in Richmond.

The Commonwealth reached a record level in 2011, when more than $2.35 billion in products were shipped into the global marketplace from Virginia ports, a 6% increase over 2010. Agricultural exports, which also include forestry products, have grown in value by approximately 17% since 2010. The growth in agricultural exports comes despite a continued slow economic recovery worldwide.

"The decision in 2010 to fully integrate agriculture and forestry, Virginia's two largest industries, into our administration's economic development and jobs creation strategic planning continues to yield solid results for Virginia's overall economy and expand our global presence," said McDonnell. "Agricultural exports, which generate approximately $1.40 in-state for every $1 shipped out, have reached all-time highs in two of the past three years, producing more revenue for our producers and everyone along the business chain from farms to our ports, and creating more good jobs all across Virginia.

"With the trade offices, we've established in key global regions and new ones we'll open this year, as well as the trade missions we will conduct later this year, I expect to see Virginia agricultural exports continue to grow, and good jobs continue to be created here at home. Our recently passed transportation bill also will help ensure that Virginia continues to have the modern and well-funded road and rail network necessary to get our goods from producers in the Commonwealth to tables all across the world in the decades ahead."

Topping the charts

Virginia's strong position in the global marketplace is enhanced by a number of factors, including: quality producers, agribusinesses, and exporters; an excellent sea, air, and land port system; and a diversified portfolio of export markets and products.

Top export products in 2012 included soybeans; soybean meal; lumber, logs, and wood products; unmanufactured leaf tobacco; soybean oil; wheat, corn, barley and other grains; pork; animal feed; processed foods and beverages, including wine; animal fats and oils; wood pellets; cotton, seafood, and raw peanuts.

Top export markets

China, by far, is Virginia's top agricultural export customer with exports totaling more than $638 million in 2012, up from $304 million in 2011. Agricultural exports to China, largely driven by soybean and grain shipments, have increased by almost 230% since 2010 when $194 million of goods were shipped there from Virginia.

Canada holds the second spot with exports totaling more $205 million in 2012. Morocco is third with approximately $139 million in goods purchased.

Virginia's other top export markets, along with values shipped rounded to the nearest million dollars, include Switzerland, $122 million; Turkey, $94 million; Saudi Arabia, $90 million; Indonesia, $82 million; Vietnam, $82 million, Venezuela, $67 million; Cuba, $66 million; Mexico, $61 million; Japan, $53 million; Egypt, $52 million; Ireland, $49 million; Taiwan, $43 million; Russia, $42 million; Malaysia, $41 million; Hong Kong, $39 million; Chile, $38 million; Poland, $37 million; Italy, $37 million; Tunisia, $35 million; Jamaica, $34 million; Georgia, $32 million; Germany, $31 million; and India, $28 million.

Key points for 2012

• The export commodity showing the largest percentage growth was wood pellets, which saw a more than 800% increase from 2011 to 2012. Exports grew from almost $4 million to approximately $35 million, largely driven on new sales to the European Union.

• The export value of soybeans more than doubled between 2011 and 2012, from $327 million to $734 million. A significant portion of this growth is attributable to the McDonnell administration's efforts to find new customers in the global marketplace.

• The Commonwealth saw key growth in areas where the governor's agricultural export initiative focuses resources and attention: China, India, Mexico and other Latin American countries, and several countries in Europe.

• Virginia's agricultural exports to China increased by more than 100% from 2011 to 2012. Approximately 15% of Virginia's agricultural export trade in 2012 was with China.

• Exports to India grew from $5 million in 2011 to $28 million in 2012. Most of the growth was associated with new sales of soybean oil and lumber, logs, and wood products.

• Exports to Mexico grew by more than $20 million, with new business in poultry and pork.

• Exports to Cuba reached an all-time high of $66 million. Virginia is now the second largest U.S. agricultural exporter to Cuba.

• Peanut exports grew from about $6.5 million to approximately $17 million, largely based on new trade into the European Union.

"The new all-time record for agricultural exports demonstrates the importance and benefits of the Governor creating a clearly defined strategic plan for the Commonwealth's two largest industries and allowing them to take advantage of new opportunities," said Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Todd Haymore.

"In addition to the strategic plan, the relatively small investments in the global marketplace called for by the governor and supported by the General Assembly are helping to facilitate deals between our agribusinesses and foreign purchasers," said Haymore. "By expanding dramatically our global footprint, Virginia has never been better positioned than we are now to build on these successes and capture new export opportunities in the future as demand grows."

The Governor's Conference on Agricultural Trade is co-hosted by the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, Virginia Port Authority, Virginia Tech, and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS).

Agriculture and forestry are Virginia's largest industries, with a combined economic impact of $79 billion annually: $55 billion from agriculture and $24 billion from forestry. The industries also provide approximately 500,000 jobs in the Commonwealth according to the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia.

National Ag Week slated March 17-23

From enjoying a good meal to buttoning up a favorite shirt this month, think about the farmers who provide Americans' food and fiber.

During National Agriculture Week, March 17-23, consider that Virginia agriculture and forestry contribute $79 billion to the Commonwealth's economy each year and make up Virginia's largest and oldest industry.

"People sometimes take for granted the abundant food supply that we enjoy," said Mike Bryant of Northumberland-Lancaster County Farm Bureau, a part of Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, the state's largest agriculture advocacy organization.

"It's good to remind everyone of the important role farmers play in all of our lives," said Bryant. "I'm proud to say that one American farmer can feed a total of 155 people—that's pretty amazing."

Ag week is intended to help Americans understand the importance of farmers in providing food and fiber and economic activity. Agriculture is the nation's largest employer, with more than 21 million people working in some part of the industry—from growing food and fiber to selling it at the supermarket or other outlet.

Agriculture Literacy Week runs concurrently with National Ag Week. Northumberland-Lancaster Farm Bureau will mark the week by reading, *Kelly's Big Day*, to county school children.

State budget includes funds for wildlife damage on farms

The Virginia General Assembly adjourned February 23 with an amended budget that included funding for an additional staff person to assist farmers with wildlife damage to crops and livestock.

Gov. Bob McDonnell added $72,525 to the budget to provide for another wildlife damage specialist who will provide direct assistance to producers through the U.S. Department of Wildlife Services to deal with nuisance species such as coyotes.

"Virginia's coyote population has been on the rise for at least a decade," said Martha Moore, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation vice president of governmental relations. "And that's evidenced by the number of sheep and cattle killed on the state's farms. Farm Bureau is pleased to see support for providing expanded assistance to farmers who want to protect their herds from coyotes."

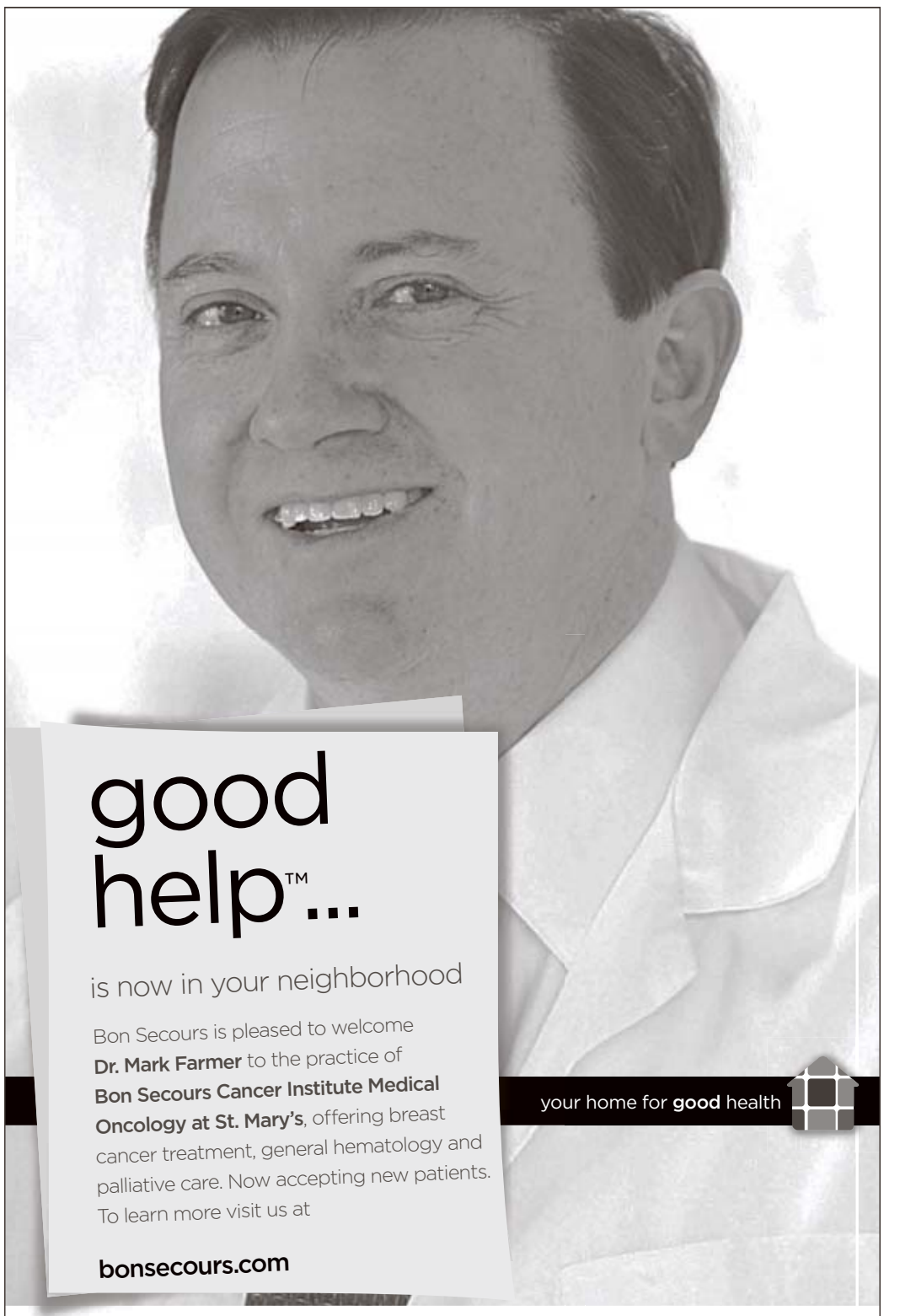
Legislators went a step further and provided $125,000 to Virginia State University for a Virginia Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist position. Those funds would match a grant from the state Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to also develop a call center for wildlife damage issues.

Virginia Tech, the state's other land grant university, received authorization to begin final detailed planning for dairy and livestock multi-use research facilities. The facilities will be funded by bonds once the planning is finalized.

Additionally, $413,750 was provided for operations and maintenance for the new Virginia Cooperative Extension and Agricultural Experiment Station research building on the Virginia Tech campus, to be completed in February 2014.

An additional $300,000 was provided for soil and water conservation districts' operational funding, and $250,000 was added to incrementally increase the Commonwealth's match to a forestry industry severance tax for the Reforestation of Timberland Fund.

Also, $200,000 was restored to the state Office of Farmland Preservation for use in matching grants available for localities' purchase of development rights programs, and $125,000 was restored to the state's Beehive Grant Program for the first year of the biennium.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

■ Job workshops

Upcoming Virginia Employment Commission workshops include Ex-offender Reentry Workshop at 2 p.m. March 14; Virginia Workforce Connection Orientation at 10 a.m. March 18; Careers in Corrections at 3 p.m. March 20; and Budgeting for the New Year at 3 p.m. March 21.

The workshops will be held at the VEC Workforce Center at 14243 Historyland Highway in Warsaw.

■ Vendors welcome

Artists, crafters, antique dealers, local shops and community groups and other vendors are invited to participate in the third annual Lancaster "Court Day" Festival April 13. This celebration is sponsored by the Mary Ball Washington Museum & Library and is open free to the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Vendor booths are $30 for a 10x10-foot space or $50 for a 10x20-foot space. Nonprofit groups may request a fee waiver. All spaces are outdoors on the museum grounds and old court green. Registration forms can be downloaded at mbwm.org, or 462-7280.

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IBM	210.08
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Omega Protein	9.11
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Verizon	47.81
Wells Fargo	37.13

Quotes and information furnished by Davenport & Company LLC, Rt. 3, Ice House Field, White Stone, VA. (804) 435-7705 or 1-800-378-2165.

Jazz support

Rumsy & Bugg recently sponsored the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts On Stage Performance by the Virginia Symphony Orchestra Jazz Ensemble. From left are Tripp Bugg and RFA president Loretta Warren. The 2012-13 On Stage season wraps up at 7:30 p.m. April 13 with a concert by Steep Canyon Rangers at the Lancaster Middle School Theater. For ticket information, visit rappahannockfoundation.org or call 435-0292.

■ Healthcare forum

The Lancaster by the Bay Chamber of Commerce will present a Healthcare Forum, "What Health Reform Will Mean to Small and Mid-Size Businesses," from 5:30 to 9 p.m. March 26, at the Bank of Lancaster northside branch in Kilmarnock.

Sponsored by Rappahannock General Hospital, the forum is free and open to the public and welcomes Chamber members and non-members. Register at 435-6092 or lancasterva.com/events.

■ Pharmaceutical advice

Commonwealth Assisted Living at 460 South Main Street in Kilmarnock will host a free informational session on medications from 9 to 11 a.m. March 18.

Meet one-on-one with a Walgreens pharmacist to discuss medications. Please bring a list.

■ Small business consulting

The University of Mary Washington Small Business Development Center in Warsaw will provide confidential consulting from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays at the Rappahannock Community College Kilmarnock Center. To schedule an appointment, call 333-0286.

■ Art & Wine event

The Westmoreland County Museum and the Inn at Montross will present an Art & Wine Wednesday event featuring the works of artist Linda Boatman from 5 to 8 p.m. March 20 at the museum. Boatman will speak at 6 p.m.

Desserts and wine will follow at The Inn, where dinner also will be available. RSVP the museum at 493-8440, or wmcmuseum@verizon.net.

VHI recently updated its cardiac care data for consumer comparisons

Patients and providers want to help avoid a return to the hospital after cardiac care. However, as many as one out of every six congestive heart failure patients return to the hospital within 30 days.

The Virginia Health Information (VHI) Cardiac Care Report Ranks Hospitals on readmission and mortality rates.

VHI has just released the most up to date information on cardiac care. The latest data shows that while hospital readmission rates after a heart related procedure are almost double among Medicaid and Medicare patients compared to those who are commercially insured, that rate has been steadily decreasing over the past three years. To access the report, go to vhi.org , click on cardiac care, type in zip code and mile radius, then click show results and compare hospitals.

"Given that heart disease remains the No. 1 cause of death in Virginia as well as the country, patients and their family members can use the VHI website to compare 87 hospitals in the state for mortality and readmission rates. The report includes procedures and care such as congestive heart failure, angina, angioplasty, pacemaker insertions and coronary artery bypass surgeries," said VHI executive director Michael Lundberg. Consumers also may access other VHI reports including C Section Rates for Doctors and Hospitals, Hospital Patient Satisfaction Rates, HMO Quality and Performance Data, Health Care Costs Pricing for 31 procedures and services, Insurance Options, Long term Care and Assisted Living Facilities and Outpatient Procedure Information.

"VHI is uniquely qualified to provide consumers with user friendly health care information so they can make better informed decisions," continued Lundberg. "We work hard to stay current on data, and we are continually looking to expand the categories of comparisons that are available at one's fingertips."

How do local hospitals compare?

For medical cases based on 2011 readmission rates after a heart related procedure:

• Rappahannock General Hospital reported 159 cases and received a mortality rating "as expected" and a readmission rating "less than expected."

• Riverside Tappahannock Hospital reported 330 cases and received a mortality rating of "as expected" and a readmission rating of "as expected."

• Riverside Walter Reed Hospital reported 444 cases and received a mortality rating of "as expected" and a readmission rating of "more than expected."

According to the Virginia Health Information (VHI) Cardiac Care Report, a "less than expected" rating is generally best, followed by "as expected" and "more than expected."

Medical treatment includes diagnosing and therapy for heart disease: angina, congestive heart failure and acute myocardial infarction (AMI). When treatment for these conditions does not include surgery, VHI has grouped them into this service line.

For congestive heart failure cases based on 2011 readmission rates after a heart related procedure:

• Rappahannock General Hospital reported 62 cases and received a mortality rating of "as expected" and a readmission rating of "as expected."

• Riverside Tappahannock Hospital reported 140 cases and received a mortality rating of "as expected" and a readmission rating of "as expected."

• Riverside Walter Reed Hospital reported 171 cases and received a mortality rating of "as expected" and a readmission rating of "as expected."

Congestive heart failure, heart failure, is a condition in which the heart can not pump enough blood to the body's other organs.

The report also compared invasive, cardiac catheterization, percutaneous cardiovascular procedures, open heart surgery and CABG treatments. However, the three local hospitals reported too few cases to rate, or do not offer these treatments.

Invasive treatment includes patients with medical conditions generally described in the medical cardiology service line that also had surgery. Surgeries include cardiac catheterization, cardiac pacemaker insertion, balloon angioplasty and placement of cardiac stents.

Cardiac catheterization, or angiogram, is a procedure that identifies possible problems with the heart or its arteries. During a cath, a thin plastic tube, called a catheter, is inserted into a blood vessel in the groin or arm. The catheter is guided up toward your heart. A special dye is injected into the catheter so X-rays can show any artery blockage or other heart problems.

Percutaneous cardiovascular procedures primarily include various types of coronary angioplasty. Coronary angioplasty is a medical procedure used to open arteries that have narrowed to the point that they impede blood flow to the heart. This procedure can improve some of the symptoms associated with blocked arteries, such as chest pain and shortness of breath.

Open heart surgery includes procedures such as coronary artery bypass surgery and cardiac valve procedures.

Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG), also called coronary artery bypass surgery, heart bypass or bypass surgery is a surgical procedure performed to relieve angina and reduce the risk of death from coronary artery disease. Arteries and/or veins from elsewhere in the patient's body are grafted from the aorta to the coronary arteries to bypass atherosclerotic narrowings and improve the blood supply to the coronary circulation supplying the myocardium (heart muscle).

Since 1993, VHI has supported and advocated for health care transparency in Virginia. Those without internet access may call 1 877 841-4636 to receive information by mail.

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