

Cat fanciers prepare for Newport News show

by Renss Greene

Local members of the Cat Fanciers Association, the world's largest registry of cat pedigree, are getting ready for the annual Newport News cat show.

I recently learned about this surprisingly complicated enterprise during a discussion with cat fanciers Cheryl Matteo-Kerney, president of the Chamberlin by the Bay Cat Fanciers Association and Pawprints in the Sand cat clubs and show manager; Leslie Herman, vice president and club historian of both clubs; and Georgie Fary, owner of a Grand Premier cat from last year.

We sat upstairs at Heads Up Hair Works in Kilmarnock. Georgie works there and was squeezing us in between clients. All three brought cats, and as we talked the cats wandered the room and occasionally over us. I asked the ladies why they got involved in breeding and showing cats.

Diving in

"This is the only show, annual championship cat show sponsored by the CFA, in the Hampton Roads region," Cheryl said. "The closest show is Richmond, and they will never see this diversity of potentially 40 different breeds in one place at the same time."

"I'd always had rescue kitties, and someone, who I to this day do not know, sent me a gift for a subscription to Cat Fancy Magazine," Georgie recalled. "I never found out who it was."

"So I started getting these magazines, and I started looking, and I thought, 'Well, you know...' I'd had a Siamese before who was rescued, and I grew up with a Siamese, so I said 'you know, I think I want a pedigree kitty.' So I started going to cat shows and checking out all the breeds. And so one kitty kind of led to another kitty, and we met Leslie, and (Georgie's husband) Stuart said 'You know, why don't you think about showing?'"

Georgie said she met Leslie at the first show she attended, a "huge" show in Maryland.

"A year or two later I went to another show, quote, 'just to buy supplies,' and I sort of came home with one of Leslie's American Shorthairs named Pico," said Georgie.

Cheryl said she been interested in breeding cats since college, but didn't start until much later.

"I just adore them as pets, and ever since I was at college, I wanted to breed Siamese," said Cheryl. "I didn't know anything at that point about show standards, the breed standards, and I was living in an apartment in the residence halls, and Haji Baba (her Siamese at the time) came into heat. Well, I soon realized that cats in heat are loud, but Siamese in heat are insane. So to make a long story short, we spayed Haji Baba and I had to wait another 15 years until I was able to actually figure out the registered Siamese breeds."

Similarly, Leslie has been interested in breeding cats since college, but in her case the interest covers the entire animal kingdom.

"I've been doing this a long time," she said. "I was in college at the time too, and it was 1970. My degree's in zoology, so I'm an animal fanatic. And I've got goats and chickens."

Growing up, her father wasn't a big cat fan,

so the family had dogs. When she was 20 she found out that a person could show cats.

Now, all three breed cats. They tell me very earnestly that despite the misconceptions, it is a hobby with heavy responsibilities and expense. In Georgie's words, lot of "dedication and heartbreak" go into breeding cats.

"We do care about every individual that is produced," Leslie said. "We are very picky if we have to place any and the types of homes that they go into, and we try to make good choices with who mom is and who dad is. And again, in referring to the standard, we have evaluated our female, per standard, and then evaluated the male, and we try to make sure that they compliment each other."

"Even though you're striving to get beautiful cats, responsible breeders are striving for extremely healthy, robust cats," added Cheryl. "Because many of our cats go to pet owners. We're not keeping all of the cats. We're keeping a few of the cats to show and breed, but the majority of them are going to be neutered and spayed."

"One of the myths of this, of people who breed, is that we're making a lot of money doing this, and it's a money pit," Leslie said.

Cat breeds, like any other domesticated animal breed, are created and maintained by humans. The Cat Fanciers' Association recognizes 42 breeds.

New breeds

How is a breed created and who decides what a particular breed should be?

"Most of us through time have discovered a breed that we are particularly fascinated by," said Leslie. "And breeds exist per humans, just like in the world of dogs, or horses, or ferrets, it's because we have seen a certain set of attributes that we like together, and we

have set up programs for breeding to perpetuate that group of attributes, and that is called a breed."

As an example, she tells me about the origin of one of her favorite breeds, the American shorthair:

"In American shorthairs, those cats were brought over by early settlers, European cats, and they were brought

over to work on farms," Leslie explained. "They were your barn cats, they were your predators, your mousers. And the people that had those cats, together, in discussions, decided to decide on the attributes that made them the working cat. In fact, the American shorthair is the only standard that actually has a purpose as a working cat, and the structure is for a cat that could be a very good mouser."

New breeds can be created, and breed standards can be changed. The people who decide what a breed should be are that breed's council. A sufficiently qualified and experienced breeder can join a council and have a say in what makes an ideal specimen of that breed. Leslie, for example, is on the American Shorthair Breed Council, and Cheryl is on the Siamese Breed Council and Balinese-Javanese Breed Council.

At the show

Showing cats, I learned, involves some very complicated scoring and strategy. Each cat competes against others of its own breed at first. At the Newport News show, there will be four categories in which the cats compete: kitten, for pedigreed kittens between four and



From left are Georgie Fary with GC Catalpa's Lyla Belle, Leslie Herman with Catalpa's Tinker Bell and Cheryl Matteo-Kerney with GP CherMa'Ki's Prince-of-Persia.

eight months old; championship, for unaltered (not neutered or spayed) pedigreed cats over eight months old; premiership, for altered pedigreed cats over eight months old; and household pets, which does not require that pets be pedigreed.

"Household pet is really for people who love their pets," said Cheryl. "They don't have to be pedigreed, they don't have to be registered, they can bring their pet, it's just that they can't be declawed and they have to be amenable to being handled by the judges. And that's become a popular class. People love to show their pets." In this category, the winners are largely at the judge's discretion, and personality plays a big part.

In the other categories, the cats aren't actually measured against each other, but against the ideal breed standard. And they go through this first step of judging six times.

Picking a champion

"Our show has six judges, and they are called 'all-breed judges,'" Leslie explained. "Each ring and each judge is totally autonomous. It's almost like we're going to have six shows in one. Each judge will make awards within each category, including best cat, best kitten, it may not be the same one that another judge uses. Every ring can be different."

After the judges make their decisions among categories and breeds, each picks his or her top 10 from every cat present. These selections are then used to choose the Grand Champion, Grand Premier, and so on. Cats then accumulate points towards nationwide awards across the entire country and show season.

Although Georgie describes the actual show process as "you put the cat in the cage, you step aside, sit down, keep your mouth shut," serious cat showing is not without strategy. Many breeders begin showing cats when they are kittens, not because they expect the cat to win any awards in the category, but to get them adapted to the show environment.

"For kittens, many of us do it because we want to get them used to the noise, the confusion, and being handled by strangers," Leslie said. "They have to be put on a table and that all can be very scary for them."

Others "campaign" with their cats, traveling to cat shows around the country to accumulate points for their cats.

"A lot of people travel to shows that are closer to them, but when they're campaigning, they're following their judges," Cheryl explained. "They're going to go where they have had a history of a set of judges choosing their cat often, so their cat can do well in that show, because they're striving for national points."

A show like the one in Newport News will attract cat owners from all over the country, and even international visitors.

The judges, too, possess a formidable knowledge of cat breeds.

"Every judge has had to go through a lot of requirements to reach the level of judge. There is quite a protocol for accomplishing this," Leslie said. "They are supposed to be very familiar with all the breeds' standards, and all the rules governing showing, of which there are a lot."

Which brings us back to the star of these shows: the cats, such as the one who made himself at home in my lap for much of the interview, JJ. JJ won nationally best Balinese-Javanese (his breed) in Premiership last year. In fact, JJ is properly addressed as "GP CherMa'Ki's Prince-of-Persia," since even naming cats is complicated in the world of cat showing.

Name that cat

The first part, GP, stands for "Grand Premier," representing JJ's victory last year. The second part, "CherMa'Ki's," is called the "cattery name" and identifies the breeder who bred this cat. Each breeder has a unique cattery name. Cheryl bred JJ, and her cattery name is CherMa'Ki. The last part is the cat's show name, although some cats, like JJ, also have a casual name. Leslie, whose cattery name is Catalpa, bred a Grand Champion named Lyla Belle, so Lyla Belle's full name and title is GC Catalpa's Lyla Belle.

After spending nearly an hour talking with Georgie, Leslie, and Cheryl (and several cats), I've mostly learned how much I don't know about cat showing.

Breeding and showing cats is a very complicated and sometimes competitive hobby, and the people who do it sink a lot of time, effort, and love into it. Georgie, Leslie, and Cheryl laughed and smiled as they tried to marshal their cats (yes, herding cats) for a picture before I left.

Snowed-out basketball games are rescheduled

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Snow that wouldn't go away and kept schools closed for four days last week also had Northern Neck District athletic directors scrambling to reschedule dozens of basketball games and wrestling matches.

Northumberland's JV and varsity boys will play at Lancaster on February 11, while a Lancaster at Essex match-up will be played on February 12.

In girls basketball, Lancaster will go to Northumberland for JV

and varsity games on February 11 and the Lady Devils will travel to Mathews on February 12.

According to LHS athletic director Joanne Webb-Fary, a Lancaster at Essex girls game, which was scheduled for February 13, also has been moved to accommodate the changes. The Lady Devils and Trojans will play in Tappahannock on February 14.

A multi-team wrestling match at Mathews High School last Saturday, which was to include several Northern Neck teams, was cancelled.

BRIDGE RESULTS

Six pairs played the Howell Movement on January 27 at the Woman's Club of White Stone.

Winners were first, Arden Durham and Jane Bunnell; and second, Judy Peifer and Virginia Adair.

The next bridge for this group is February 12 at 1 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

Colonial Beach at Lancaster
February 4:
Lancaster at Northumberland
Varsity/JV girls basketball
(JV 6 p.m., varsity 7:30 p.m.)
January 30:
Lancaster at Colonial Beach
February 1:

Lancaster at Gloucester (2 p.m., JV only)
February 4:
Northumberland at Lancaster
February 6:
Rappahannock at Lancaster
Wrestling
January 31:
Lancaster at York Round Robin (3 p.m.)

Safety at Sea seminar includes certification

The Mariners' Museum and Landfall Navigation will offer the Safety at Sea seminar on February 22. The seminar will begin at 8 a.m. at the museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News.

This day-long seminar, designed and conducted by sailors and experts in their fields, provides novice and experienced mariners with information and skills required for safe sailing in the Chesapeake Bay or offshore, handling heavy weather and conducting rescue procedures, said museum public relations manager John Warren.

Registrants will earn an official Near Coastal Safety at Sea Certification from US Sailing, said

Warren. The seminar does not meet US Sailing offshore racing requirements for the 2014 Newport to Bermuda Race.

The seminar is open to all cruising and racing skippers, crews and their families, recreational boaters and commercial mariners, he continued. Topics will include "Formula for Disaster - Lessons Learned," man overboard and rescue procedures, medical care and prevention, damage control, pumps and steering gear emergencies, Chesapeake Bay weather and life raft inflation and abandon ship procedures.

The program will be moderated by Capt. Henry Marx, owner and president of Landfall Naviga-

tion, who has over 40 years sailing experience on both U.S. coasts, the North Sea and the Caribbean. A panel of experts will include Capt. Mark Bologna, Will Keene, Bill Sammler and Pete Seidler, retired U.S. Coast Guard captain.

The registration fee is \$85 before February 1, or \$110. Mariners' Museum members receive \$15 off each ticket. The fee covers lectures, demonstrations, course materials, certificate and a boxed lunch.

To reserve space, visit MarinersMuseum.org/Safety-At-Sea, or contact Bryan Hill at 757-591-7749, or bhill@MarinersMuseum.org.



From left are (front row) Johnny Lewis and Jimmy Crandall; (next row) Cindy Harrell, and judges Bruce Conover and Mike Mullineaux.

Local handlers win championships

The AFTCA Region 3 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship was held January 10-12 at the CH Phelps Wildlife Management Area in Summerduck.

Johnny Lewis of Farnham handled his pointer Quinton Oak Budlight and was named champion.

Runner-up champion was Lancaster's Rolling Rex, owned and handled by Jimmy Crandall of Kilmarnock.

Waterfowl hunters face new stationary blind rules

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries recently announced changes regarding stationary waterfowl blinds.

Last year the Virginia legislature passed a law to change the dates when riparian stationary blind licenses can be purchased, reported migratory game bird program manager Dr. Gary Costanzo. In addition, the law now requires that latitude and longitude coordinates be submitted when any stationary blind licenses (riparian and non-riparian) are purchased.

These changes, effective January 1, will apply to blind licenses purchased for the 2014-15 waterfowl hunting season, said Costanzo.

The date changes affect when riparian landowners (or their lessees or permittees) can purchase stationary blind licenses, while the dates for the purchase of non-

riparian licenses have remained the same, he said.

Among the regulations regarding riparian stationary blind licenses:

- Riparian landowners or their lessees or permittees licensing a stationary blind that was not licensed the previous year by the riparian owner, lessee, or permittee may purchase a stationary blind license from February 1 through June 15. A stake or a stationary blind shall be erected on the site, and a license plate supplied with the license for that season shall be affixed thereto, by June 30. If a stake has been erected on the site of a stationary blind, such stake shall be replaced by a blind by November 1.

- Riparian owners or their lessees or permittees licensing a stationary blind that was licensed the previous year by the riparian owner, lessee, or permittee

may purchase a stationary blind license from February 1 through August 15. A stake or a stationary blind shall be erected on the site, and a license plate supplied with the license for that season shall be affixed thereto, by August 31. If a stake has been erected on the site of a stationary blind, such stake shall be replaced by a blind by November 1.

As a reminder, all blind licenses must be obtained through the department's point of sale (POS) system just as other licenses are sold. They are available at any license agent in the state, or dgif.virginia.gov/licenses/. The geographic coordinates of the blind location (latitude and longitude) are required to purchase license.

More detailed information is posted at dgif.virginia.gov/licenses, or call 1-866-721-6911.

Northern Neck Region AACA holds banquet

Members of the Northern Neck Region AACA gathered January 12 for their annual banquet to officially install the 2014 officers and board members.

Officers are president/press secretary Ward Sevilla, vice president/webmaster Wayne Burgess, secretary/newsletter editor Sherry Gattton, treasurer Mae Lynne Guest, activity chairman/director/legislative representative Paul Stosch, activity chairman/director Bob Sydnor, director Ron Cook, membership chairman Mary Jean Inscoc and car show chairman Brent Gattton.

Each year two members are recognized for their active role in the club with the Presidents

Award, reported Sevilla. B. Gattton was recognized for his leadership in improving and reshaping the annual car show and S. Gattton for serving in multiple positions as club secretary, newsletter editor, and her self-appointed unofficial position as social secretary/event planner.

S. Gattton livened up the event with some whimsical awards she created all in fun. She presented awards for Lead Foot to Stosch; Tuff 2 B Kool to Ed Melton; Go Getter to Cheryl Melton; Top Raffle Sales (first) to Harry and Kathy Harrison; Top Raffle Sales (second) to Stosch; Lost Traveler's Award to Sevilla; Behind The Scenes

Support to Cathie Sevilla; and an additional award, the Outstanding President's Award to W. Sevilla.

Wayne Burgess delivered a presentation about the AACA National tour to be hosted by the Northern Neck Region in May 2014. The tour will bring approximately 100 individuals, with their antique cars, from all over the U.S. to visit historic and other interesting sites throughout and beyond the Northern Neck, said W. Sevilla.

The club meets at the Callao Business Center on second Thursdays. To join, contact W. Sevilla at 580-4177, or wsevila@msn.com.

Audubon announces February bird walks

The Northern Neck Audubon Society (NNAS) on February 10 will conduct a bird walk at Regent Point Marina on Locklies Creek near Topping. On February 22, the NNAS will drop in at Belle Isle State Park.

The Regent Point walk will be led by NNAS vice president and Regent Point Marina owner Jim Wagner and NNAS board member Frank Schaff.

The grounds of the marina and surrounding area provide a range of wildlife habitats, including marshes, open fields, woods and beaches with wide views of the Rappahannock River, said publicity chairman Maggie Gerdts.

Possible sightings include bald eagles, lesser scaups, buffleheads, mergansers, pied-billed grebes, loons, green-winged teals, eastern bluebirds, red winged blackbirds, belted kingfishers, nuthatches, yellow-rumped warblers, robins, tufted titmice, white throated sparrows and woodpeckers, she said.

Carpools will leave Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock at 7:15 a.m., said Gerdts. Those driving directly should arrive at the marina at 7:30 a.m.

To reach Regent Point Marina from Kilmarnock, take Mary Ball road east and cross the Robert O. Norris Jr. Memorial Bridge. Continue two miles and turn left onto Dirt Bridge Road. At the end of Dirt Bridge, turn left onto Regent Road. At the end of Regent Road, turn left at the marina sign onto Regent Point Drive.

Belle Isle State Park

Schaff will lead the Belle Isle State Park walk, said Gerdts. Walkers should plan to meet at 8 a.m. at the park's horse drop/parking lot.

With seven miles of waterfront along the Rappahannock River and Mulberry and Deep creeks, walkers will explore diverse tidal and non-tidal wetlands, lowland marshes, tidal coves and upland forests, she said.

Possible sightings include buffleheads, hooded, red-breasted, common mergansers, loons, geese, tundra swans, double crested cormorants, bald eagles, great blue herons, belted kingfishers, Eastern blue birds and gulls, said Gerdts.

To reach the park from Kilmarnock, take Mary Ball Road west to Lively and turn left onto White Chapel Road. At the end of White Chapel Road, turn right onto River Road. Go 3.1 miles and turn left onto Belle Isle Road. After the park entrance, continue through the four way intersection. The horse parking lot will be on the right.

Warm clothing and water resistant footwear are recommended for both walks, she said. There will be several pairs of loaner binoculars available.

Walkers should call Schaff at 462-0084 so a return call can be placed if a walk is cancelled.



Car club installs officers

The Memory Lane Car Club on January 19 installed officers during a luncheon at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club near Kilmarnock. Officers from left are Jack Ashburn, Kathy Harrison, Jim Felthouse, Cliff Nelson, Steve Lowe, Jerry Lester and Gary Danovich. The board thanked club members and the public for the great support shown last year and looks forward to another great year, reported Ashburn. The club is open to all types of collector vehicles. Call 435-6171.

Speedway to offer 'fan friendly' tickets for April 12 opening event

The Aaron's King of the Commonwealth event and the first ever appearance of the National Dirt Racing League (NDRL) has prompted Virginia Motor Speedway (VMS) owner Bill Sawyer to offer "fan friendly" tickets for the \$20,000 to win, one-day show April 12.

The Aaron's King of the Commonwealth race will feature the NDRL super late models as well as a modified special. The event will mark opening night for the 45th consecutive dirt track racing season at VMS, 4426 Tidewater Trail, Jamaica.

"I think it's important that we look after the working man's pocketbook to make it affordable for him to be able to come to Virginia Motor Speedway for our biggest show of the year," said Sawyer. "We want to put a very good ticket price out there and hopefully do the volume of numbers coming through the gate."

Adult tickets will be \$35; seniors, \$30; military (active or retired), \$25; students, \$15; and ages 6 and younger, free. All tickets are general admission. Pit passes will be \$40.

The Aaron's King of the Commonwealth also will offer fans an opportunity to win a pair of

tickets to the marquee event and a chance at winning a "King's Throne" from Aaron's. To register for a chance to win the prize package, visit aarons.com/kingsthron. No purchase necessary. See contest rules and regulations for complete details.

The 2014 schedule includes 12 weeks of Virginia Army National Guard Dirt Series action, including six nights of the popular twin race format; three special events and two mud bogs.

The weekly divisions compete for season division point's titles as well as the Virginia Army National Guard Dirt Series Championship. The division line-up will include the Victory Lap late models, Aaron's pro late models, Truckin Thunder sportsman, Budweiser modifieds and

the Collision One limited stock cars.

Driver registration is under way. Registration forms are available at the track website, or by calling 758-1867 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

The complete schedule is posted at vamotorspeedway.com.

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Unless noted, all phone numbers in this publication carry the 804 area code.

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SPORT SHORT

Waterfowl show

The 35th Annual Rappahannock River Waterfowl Show will be held March 15 and 16 at the White Stone firehouse. For tickets to the Preview Night Gala March 14 (\$55 per person), call 435-6355, email info@rrws.org, or visit rrws.org.

The show features original paintings, decorative carvings, gunning style decoys, folk art style carvings, prints, jewelry, photography, sculptures, door prizes, raffles and complimentary show prints. Admission is \$8; children under 12 admitted free. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 15 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 16.

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Weekly Tides

Windmill Point - Sunrise & Moon - January - February 2014

Day	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Fri. 1/31	5:09-0.6' 11:10 1.5' 5:45-0.6' 11:31 1.4'	7:10 5:28 7:20 6:47	Tue. 2/4	2:04 1.3' 8:41-0.2' 2:29 1.2' 8:57-0.2'	7:06 5:32 9:50 11:16	
Sat. 2/1	6:02-0.6' 12:00 1.5' 6:33-0.6'	7:09 5:29 8:00 7:58	Wed. 2/5	2:58 1.3' 9:37-0.1' 3:21 1.1' 9:48-0.2'	7:05 5:33 10:27	
Sun. 2/2	12:22 1.4' 6:55-0.5' 12:50 1.4' 7:21-0.5'	7:08 5:30 8:38 9:06	Thu. 2/6	3:54 1.2' 10:36 0.1' 4:16 1.0' 10:42 0.0'	7:04 5:35 12:18 11:06	
Mon. 2/3	1:13 1.4' 7:48-0.4' 1:39 1.3' 8:09-0.4'	7:07 5:31 9:14 10:13	Fri. 2/7	4:54 1.2' 11:37 0.2' 5:15 1.0' 11:39 0.1'	7:03 5:36 1:16 11:47	

Corrections	High	Low	Height
Piankatank River, Cherry Pt.	-1:42	-1:44	86%
Great Wicomico River Light	0:30	0:20	75%
Smith Point Light	1:01	0:44	86%

PM times are in boldface type



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SPORT SHORTS

■ Little League

Lancaster County Little League will hold registration for the 2014 season from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, February 1, at the Hayden Building at Dream Fields, 1693 Irvington Road, Kilmarnock.

Little League is open to children ages 4 to 18. When registering, parents of new players need to provide a copy of their child's birth certificate. Parents of all players must provide three documents as proof of Lancaster County residency. The documents need to show a street address. Visit dream-fields.org for registration forms.

■ Play ball

The Northumberland County Little League recently opened online registration for the 2014 season. Visit www.northumberlandlitttleleague.com and click the register button on the home page. "Live" registration will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. February 8 and 1 to 4 p.m. February 16 at the Little League Complex, 529 Academic Lane, Heathsville.

Families are reminded to bring three current documents for proof of residency, dated between January 1, 2013, and January 1, 2014. Registration is open to boys and girls ages 4 to 16. The fee is \$55 per child.

■ Super Bowl chili

Heathsville UMC, 39 Courthouse Road, will host a "Super Bowl Chili Bowl To Go" fundraiser on Super Bowl Sunday, February 2. The roster includes chili, regular and vegetarian, at \$8 per quart, pans of mac 'n cheese at \$6, cornbread at \$4, apple cobbler and 'nilla banana pudding at \$6 each.

Pick up order forms at Heathsville EVB, Heathsville Post Office, Heathsville YMCA, or the church from 9 a.m. to noon Friday, 580-3630 or chirho@va.metrocast.net. Checks are due by January 31, by mailing to HUMC, P.O. Box 86, Heathsville, VA 22473. Pre-paid orders must be picked up from noon to 4 p.m. February 1 or 2, at the church.

■ Yoga session

Santosa Studio will offer a four-class hatha yoga session at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, February 4-25 at the studio, 25 Office Park Drive, Kilmarnock. The program is dedicated to mindful movement and beginning meditation.

The fee is \$40 for the full session, or \$15 for a single class. Pre-registration is required. Register at bestpft@mac.com, or 435-9078.

■ Photo contest

The Animal Welfare League (AWL) recently launched its annual Purrfect Companion Cat Photo Contest. The theme is the "Purrfect Yoga Cat." The entry fee is \$3 per photo. Photos can be dropped from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays at the AWL Thrift Store, 75 South Main Street, Kilmarnock, or mailed to AWL Photo Contest, P.O. Box 975, White Stone, VA 22578, by February 8.

Photos will be displayed at the store from February 10 to 3 p.m. February 22 when first-, second- and third-place winners will be determined by popular vote. To vote, visit the thrift store during the contest display period. For complete rules, visit the thrift store, or call 435-0822.

■ Conservation Corps

Applications are due April 14 for two summer sessions of the Virginia State Parks Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation will notify selected participants by May 1. Sessions are slated June 22 to July 12 and July 20 to August 9.

YCC crew members help with park projects, including wildlife and fisheries habitat improvement, trail and campground construction and restoration, timber and shoreline improvement, and landscape beautification. They receive \$500.

To apply, visit dcd.virginia.gov/state-parks/youth-conservation-corps.shtml, or call 703-583-5497.

■ Audubon to meet

The Northern Neck Chapter of the Audubon Society will meet at 7 p.m. February 3 at Grace Episcopal Church, 303 South Main Street, Kilmarnock. The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Blair Farinholt is the guest speaker. He manages the 488-acre historic Elmington estate in Gloucester, operates Mobjack Bay Properties and is heavily involved in the restoration of quail habitats.

■ Football fellowship

The Men's Fellowship Ministry at Zion Church at Lottsburg invites everyone to a Super Bowl Fellowship, with lots of food, fun and fellowship at 6 p.m. Sunday, February 2.

During the 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services February 2, fans are free to wear their team's sports attire.

■ On cue

KC's Crabs and Cues, 10428 Jessie duPont Memorial Highway, Kilmarnock, has an active APA pool league for men and women. The spring session is now organizing. Anyone ages 18 and older are welcome to sign up by February 11.

The league is for experienced and beginner players. Each person in the league has their own handicap to even out the competition. There are five to eight players on each team. To sign up, visit KC's, or call 435-7665.

■ St. Pat's bridge

The annual St. Patrick's Day Dessert Bridge and Game Day will be held at 12:30 p.m. March 14, at De Sales Hall, Kilmarnock. Mahjong, canasta, scrabble, bunco and pinochle players are welcome.

Tables of 4 are \$24. Make checks payable to: Women of St. Francis. To reserve a table, call Lorri Amidon at 462-6140. Send reservation requests and checks to Lorri Amidon, P.O. Box 220, Mollusk, VA 22517.

Funkhouser receives national track and field volunteer recognition

Ray Funkhouser of White Stone recently received the 2013 Volunteer Recognition Award for the Virginia Association of USA Track & Field.

The award was presented at the annual meeting of USA Track & Field in Indianapolis, Ind., said Funkhouser.

USA Track & Field is the governing body for track and field in the U.S. and is responsible for setting the rules for the sport while promoting and fielding teams to represent the U.S. in international competitions including the Olympic Games.

Funkhouser, a two-time national champion and American record holder, is vice president of USA Track & Field in Virginia and serves



Ray Funkhouser

as chairman of the race walk committee.

Reedville Fishing Derby is slated for May 2 and 3 Registration is under way

Smith Point Sea Rescue officials recently announced the 31st annual Reedville Fishing Derby will be held May 2 and 3, according to publicity director Jim Bullard. The competition species is striped bass.

Buzzard's Point Marina will again serve as the hosting facility.

Cash prizes, based on 100 entries, total some \$16,500. The largest fish landed in the derby pays \$5,000. Daily cash prizes include \$3,000 for first, \$1,750 for second and \$1,000 for third. In addition, an optional "derby within a derby" will be in force.

The per boat registration fee is \$225.

Smith Point Sea Rescue is a totally volunteer rescue unit which serves boaters from Ragged Point to the mouth of the Potomac River, south to the Rappahannock River and across the Chesapeake Bay to the Eastern Shore. Smith Point Sea Rescue can be reached 24/7 by calling on channel 16 or by calling 911.

The organization receives no governmental monetary support and depends solely on the proceeds of the annual Reedville Fishing Derby and donations to fund operations for the year.

Registration forms, rules and schedules are available at smithpointsearescue.com, said Bullard.



Michael Scott PHA and the Portuguese water dog, GCH Claircreek Impression De Matisse, took "best in show" four times at the recent five-day Celebrate Virginia Cluster Shows.

Northern Neck Kennel Club hosts two shows

On January 8 and 9, the Northern Neck Kennel Club of Virginia Inc. sponsored two American Kennel Club (AKC) shows, as part of the five-day Celebrate Virginia Cluster Shows at the Fredericksburg Expo Center.

Hundreds of champion canines and canine hopefuls, accompanied by their handlers and/or breeders, gathered for this annual event, which is open to the public, said Gwen Keane.

In addition to shopping opportunities for canine supplies, this is an educational opportunity for the dog lover to see their favorite breeds, and newly approved AKC breeds, meet handlers/owners, take a dog show tour, observe grooming skills and

watch the dogs perform in the ring, said Keane.

At this annual event, each breed competes against others in their group, she said. Groups include sporting, hound, working, terrier, toy, non-sporting and herding. The seven group winners advance into final competition each day, when one judge selects a winner as "best in show."

In previous years, many of these winners and their handlers have later competed in the Westminster AKC Show. The unanswered question now is "Who will earn the 'best in show' at this year's Westminster?" The Westminster show will be televised February 10 and 11.

EVANS BOWLING CENTER RESULTS

Ladies League

Ola Rae Nash led R. P. Waller in three wins over Tri-Star with a 360 set, including games of 115, 104 and 141—the week's highest score. Marsha Nash bowled a 100 game.

For Tri-Star, Mary Newton posted a 302 set with a 107 game

Express Auto won two games from The Corner Restaurant. Sandra Evans led with the week's highest set—a 362, including games of 125, 104 and 133. Vicki White rolled a 316 set with games of 109 and 117.

For The Corner, Gayle Conrad tallied a 357 set with games of 119, 120 and 118. Betty Evans scored a 321 set with a 134 game. Mary Savalina had a 116 game.

Yeatman's Forklift took two games from D & L Doc n' Divas. Mary York bowled a 318 set with games of 120 and 110. Alma George rolled a 317 set with games of 118 and 110. Joan Bowles scored two games of 102. Val Crosbie had a 108 game.

For D & L, Pat Harris posted games of 109 and 102.

Virginia State Parks visitation sets record

Virginia State Parks again set a new attendance record with 8,871,822 visitors in 2013, 6% higher than 2012's record attendance.

The 36 award-winning Virginia State Parks are managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

"In many ways outdoor recreation is weather-driven, and last year we saw the weather impact attendance," said state parks director Joe Elton. "Unseasonable rain in June and July kept people away from state parks, but then mild weather in the fall allowed people the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and everything state parks have to offer, from an afternoon hike to overnight stays in our cabins, lodges and campsites."

Day use attendance also reached a record with 7,779,790 visitors, up 7%.

"Millions of Virginians use state parks for daily exercise, and, like millions of visitors from many other states, they enjoy and experience state parks because they appreciate the beauty of the outdoors and recognize the affordability of parks," said Elton.

Belle Isle State Park in Lancaster County experienced total

attendance of 42,742, including 12,140 overnight visits, and 30,602 day visits. Westmoreland State Park in Westmoreland County experienced total attendance of 226,711, including 75,803 overnight visits and 150,908 day visits.

Statewide the parks remain an economic force that affects local communities. Virginia State Parks directly and indirectly had an economic impact of \$206 million in 2013, up 4%.

"Our state parks are popular because they promote a healthy lifestyle and healthy environment, and they stimulate outdoor recreation and tourism spending important to the health of our economy," Elton said. "State parks help local economies generate more than \$12 for every \$1 of general fund money allocated to state parks in the state budget."

Belle Isle State Park projected economic impact totaling some \$1.4 million. Westmoreland State Park projected economic impact totaling some \$8 million.

To make cabin or camping reservations at any of 36 Virginia State Parks, call 1-800-933-7275, or visit virginiastateparks.gov.

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<p>Mondays</p> <p>Level 2 Class</p> <p>Heathsville</p> <p>Feb. 10: 8 weeks</p> <p>Transportation Building</p> <p>5 - 6:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Tuesdays</p> <p>Kilmarnock</p> <p>Feb. 11: 8 weeks</p> <p>NN Family YMCA</p> <p>2 - 3:15 p.m.</p> <p>RGH Rehab Center</p> <p>5:30 - 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Thursdays</p> <p>Heathsville</p> <p>Feb. 13: 8 weeks</p> <p>Transportation Building</p> <p>10-11:15 a.m.</p>
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A guide to healthy living in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula 2014

With today's growing interest in health, nutrition and fitness, **Bay HealthStyles** is a great opportunity for businesses to let 15,200 potential customers know about their products and services that can lead to a better quality of life. **Bay HealthStyles** is a supplement that will be inserted in the Rappahannock Record and the Southside Sentinel.

Advertising Deadline: Friday, February 7 | Publishing: Thursday, February 20

Call Sara, Marilyn or Troy at the Rappahannock Record 435-1701 or email mail@rrecord.com
Call Wendy or Libby at the Southside Sentinel 758-2328 or email wpyane@ssentinel.com



From left are Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts (RFA) president Loretta Warren, storyteller Lynn Ruehlmann; RFA director Kathleen Pollard and RFA Arts for Youth vice president Robin Blake.

Students enjoy stories of the American Revolution

The Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts (RFA) continued its Arts for Youth program with "Steadfast and Spirited: Stories of the American Revolution" featuring storyteller Lynn Ruehlmann.

Some 600 students and staff from Lancaster Middle School, Chesapeake Academy, the Northern Neck Montessori School and the Northern Neck Homeschoolers Association attended Ruehlmann's performances January 14 and 15 at the Lancaster Middle School Theater, 191 School Street, Kilmarnock, reported RFA vice president for external communications Julie Geier.

Based on true stories of three remarkable women, Ruehlmann led the audience through the events and emotions of living during the Revolutionary War.

Her first story portrayed the Colonists' reaction to the Stamp Act through the character of Deborah Sampson. As a child, Deborah was an indentured servant and as a young adult she disguised herself as a man in order to join the war and fight as a soldier.

The next story featured Peggy Shippen whose family were staunch Loyalists. Peggy married Benedict Arnold and together they worked as spies for the British.

Lastly, she portrayed Phyllis Wheatley who was brought to

America as a slave. After learning to read and write, Phyllis wrote the poetry that earned her fame and a published book.

Through her portrayals, Ruehlmann helped students learn about significant events of the Revolutionary War, from its onset with the Stamp Act, to its end with the Treaty of Paris, said Geier.

Ruehlmann has been a professional storyteller for more than 5 years. She performs for schools and adult organizations all over the U.S. and conducts workshops for teachers and students. She uses her background in English and theater to create and perform her own storytelling programs of historical stories, myths, folklore and personal recollections.

Among her many accomplishments, she has taught storytelling classes at Old Dominion University and given presentations at CORE Knowledge Conventions in California and Massachusetts.

RFA Arts for Youth vice president Robin Blake selected "Steadfast and Spirited: Stories of the American Revolution" for its links to many history and language arts standards of learning.

Arts for Youth is funded in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and by contributions from RFA supporters. The season will conclude March 21 with a performance by Flamenca Vivo Carlota Santana.

Item procurement under way for academy's annual auction

Chesapeake Academy's 37th annual Auction and Dinner will be held at 6 p.m. May 3. Proceeds enhance academic programs while enabling the day-school to offer financial aid for eligible students, reported development associate Catherine Emry.

Led by parent volunteer Adrienne Bugg, the theme will be Midnight in Paris, said Emry. Auction items will include trips, gifts, services and products for all ages and price points.

For the first time, BidPal

technology will allow patrons to preview and bid online beginning April 1 and will also allow event sponsors to advertise their services by live links, she said.

Chesapeake Academy relies on the many generous individuals and businesses of the Northern Neck for the success of this auction, and procurement is under way, said Emry.

To donate an item, become a sponsor, or purchase an ad in the auction catalogue, contact Emry at 438-5575, or cemry@chesapeakeacademy.org.



Jim Rice

Accordion lessons

Accordion master Jim Rice spoke at the January meeting of the Rappahannock Music Study Club.

Rice introduced the accordion to attending members, demonstrated its functions and musical range, and gave an educational journey of the instrument from its birthplace in the old world to its role in today's musical performances, reported publicity chairman Laura Reeves.

Rice is organizer and president of Accordion Renaissance, dedicated to promoting the accordion and related free reed instruments through education, training and performances, said Reeves. He also offers free introductory group accordion lessons to youth ages 8 to 12 through Accordion for Kids, USA.

The Rappahannock Music Study Club supports music education in schools and communities and awards scholarships to Northern Neck students desiring to further their musical education, she said.

SCHOOL REPORTS

■ Lifelong music

The Rappahannock Community College Educational Foundation's Rappahannock Institute for Lifelong Learning will present "Different Sounds of Music" from 1 to 3 p.m. February 7, 14 and 21 at Grace Episcopal Church, 303 South Main Street, Kilmarnock.

Advance registration, with a tuition payment of \$35, is required. To register, contact Sharon Drotleff at 333-6707, 877-722-3679, or sdrotleff@rappahannock.edu.

■ Teen leaders

Northern Neck 4-H programs are now recruiting teen leaders for 2014 4-H camp. Teen leaders must be age 14 and be available to serve for the camping week, June 23 to 27.

The deadline is February 7 for Lancaster and Northumberland counties. Applications and reference forms may be obtained at the LHS and NHS guidance offices, or the Extension office at 462-5780 in Lancaster and 580-5694 in Northumberland.

The deadline is February 14 for Richmond and Westmoreland counties. Applications and reference forms are available at the Extension office, <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/westmoreland>, or call Extension agent Wendy R. Herdman at 493-8924.

■ PALS Program

A PALS Program for ages 3 through grade 4 will be held at 9:30 a.m. February 12 at Chesapeake Academy, 107 Steamboat Drive, Irvington. Singers, songwriters, and recording artists Kathy Byers and Bill Schontz will present a selection of vocal and instrumental music focusing on environmental awareness, the promotion of good character and friendship.

Children in the community are invited. Reservations are required; call 438-6146. PALS events are sponsored by the Wiley Foundation, the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts and Target Stores with support from the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

■ Tech petting

Rappahannock Community College recently announced a Technology Petting Zoo will be held February 7 at the Warsaw Campus lecture hall and February 14 at the Glens Campus lecture hall. Each free session will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m.

The Petting Zoos represent an innovative program from the Library of Virginia, which gives a variety of new technology tools to selected local libraries around the state in exchange for their help in offering demonstrations to staff and the public.

■ Special education

The Lancaster County Special Education Advocacy Committee (SEAC) will host Hank Millward from 6 to 8 p.m. February 5 at the Lancaster Middle School library, 191 School Street, Kilmarnock. The public is invited, especially parents who have a child receiving special education services. Free childcare will be provided.

Millward will present "Parental Rights in Special Education—What You Need to Know to Advocate for Your Child." He is a family support coordinator with the Virginia Department of Education.

■ What if? famous Americans

What If... Wednesday, a program for home-schooled kids at the Northumberland Public Library, 7204 Northumberland Highway, Heathsville, will meet at 2 p.m. February 5. The topic will be famous Americans.

To register, call Jan Bates at 580-5051, or email jbates@nplva.org.

■ GED open house

A recent partnership between Rappahannock Community College's Adult Education program and the GED® Testing Service allows RCC to offer the GED® test on computer.

The program will be discussed in open houses from 10 a.m. to noon February 8 and 15 at RCC's Warsaw Campus. Sign up at 333-6829, 435-8973, or bpizzetti@rappahannock.edu.

■ Conservation scholarships

The Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District and Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts recently announced two \$1,000 scholarship opportunities for Northern Neck students pursuing a major related to natural resource conservation and/or environmental studies. Applications are due March 3.

Guidelines and applications are available by contacting Faye Andrashko at faye.andrashko@nswcd.org, 333-3525, ext. 113, or 5559 Richmond Road, Warsaw.

■ Dolphin deaths

Margaret Lynott will speak at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science After Hours lecture at 7 p.m. January 30 at Waterman's Hall on the Gloucester Point campus. Manager of the Virginia Aquarium's Stranding Response Program, she will examine the unusual mortality event that has so far killed more than 1,000 bottlenose dolphins along the mid-Atlantic coastline.

Reservations to this free public lecture series are required. Register at vims.edu/events, or call 684-7846.

■ Gurley graduates

Hunter Lee Gurley of Lancaster graduated with a bachelor's in health sciences from James Madison University during the December 14, 2013, commencement exercises.

Gurley was among more than 700 students who received undergraduate, master's, educational specialist and doctoral degrees.

■ JMU dean's list

James Madison University recently released its dean's list for fall 2013.

Area students earning the recognition include Alexis Jewell of Reedville, a senior majoring in psychology, and Jessica Rosati of Heathsville, a senior majoring in justice studies.

■ Art workshops

Upcoming Rappahannock Art League workshops include two separate sessions of Art Clay Silver Jewelry Making at the home of instructor Jan Dobrowolski. For fees, registration, supplies and directions, visit the Studio Gallery, 19 North Main Street, Kilmarnock, or call 436-9309.

Workshops are offered from 6:30 to 9 p.m. February 5 and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. February 8 (bring a lunch).



Theater tickets raffled

The Lancaster County Virginia Education Foundation recently raffled four theater tickets to see *The Adams Family* at the Landmark Theater in Richmond. From left are foundation president Margaret Socey and Kelly Purcell of the Northern Neck Family YMCA. The winner is Edna Davenport of Lively. Proceeds from the raffle benefit the foundation.

Good News Club spring session to begin Feb. 19

The spring session of the Northumberland County "Good News Club" for elementary youth will begin February 19, after school in the Northumberland Elementary School Gym, 757 Academic Lane, Claraville.

The club is sponsored by the Northumberland 4 Kids Council, an organization of local churches and individual volunteers with

a heart for offering community youth safe, healthy, Christian after-school activities, reported chairman Kevin Mooers.

The 90-minute sessions will continue after school on Wednesdays through May 14.

Pre-registration is required. Forms are available from club leader Jean Bennett, 580-4432.

Brooke T. Mahan earns academic honors at VCU

Brooke T. Mahan, the daughter of Richard H. and Diane Mahan of Ophelia and JoAnn T. Delano of Tappahannock, recently was named to the honor roll at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

She also is the granddaughter of Richard E. and Betty Mahan of Farnham, Bessie Georgianna of Ophelia and the late Betty Ann Taylor.

Mahan is pursuing a bachelor's in human services with a minor in child psychology. She is a 2007 graduate of Essex High School.



Brooke T. Mahan

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BY ROSS CHRISTIANSEN
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From left are Allan Whitaker and Warren Bishop of Lamberth Building Materials Inc.



From left are Lisa and Alayna Holcomb and Justin Spring of Chesapeake Boat Basin.



Steve Kancianic of Yours Truly Photography.



From left are Fred Ripley, Lewis Trimble and Pete Southmayd.



From left are Robin Barrack and Terry King of Geo Products.

Businesses add to yard sale treasures

The community strongly and generously supports the Grace Church Yard Sale as church members continue with their "Who in the World" campaign that contributes 100% of the funds raised to local causes.

The yard sale will be held from 8 a.m. to noon May 3 at Camp Kekoka, 1083 Boys Camp Road, Kilmarnock, reported Judy Ripley.

Recent contributions from area businesses include a new 2.5 horsepower outboard motor with a three-year warranty from Chesapeake Boat Basin; numerous tables, lamps and paintings from Lewis Trimble Antiques; Cabot's Stains and a guitar from Geo Products; a cable set from Whay's TV; tarps from Allison's ACE Hardware and Lamberth Building Materials Inc; and picture frames and photo cards from Yours Truly Photography.

Tax forms available. To donate items, call Ripley at 462-7233. For pickup, call Jim Spangler at 436-4656.



Carroll Whay of Whay's TV



Eugene Brown of Allison's ACE Hardware.

Chamber to hold annual membership event

The Lancaster by the Bay Chamber of Commerce recently announced its annual membership meeting and dinner will be held Saturday, February 1, at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club.

In recognition of the Super Bowl, the Chamber has opted to have a football-themed cocktail hour beginning at 5 p.m. with games, hors d'oeuvres and bev-

erages, said director Cindi Huey. Dinner will follow at 7 p.m. and guest speaker Martin Briley at 8 p.m.

Briley, president and chief executive officer of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership will share his insight on what it takes to enhance and grow the local economy, said Huey.

The Chamber also will

introduce new board members Susan Hill of Carwash Café, Ryan Conway of Northern Neck Insurance Company and Wade Bishop of Currie Funeral Home, she said. Graduating board members of 2013 are Susan Cockrell of the Town of Kilmarnock, Ben Burton of Bay Design Group and John Naum of Northern Neck Insurance Company.

USDA releases annual crops comparisons

The United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service—Virginia Field Office recently released crop comparisons for 2013 and 2012.

In Virginia, corn for grain yields in 2013 averaged 154 bushels per acre, up 51 bushels from the previous year. If realized, this will be a new record yield, reported director Herman Ellison.

Production is estimated at 55.4 million bushels, 54% above the 2012 production. Corn for grain harvested area was 360,000 acres, up 10,000 acres. Corn silage harvested totaled 125,000 acres, with an average yield of 20.0 tons per acre.

The Commonwealth's soybean yields in 2013 averaged 38 bushels per acre, down four bushels. Area harvested, at 590,000 acres, is an increase of 10,000 acres. Soybean production is estimated at 22.4 million

bushels, 8% less than 2012 production.

All hay production in Virginia is estimated at 3.08 million tons, up 2% from last year. All other hay production is at 2.76 million tons, up 3%. Alfalfa production is 324,000 tons, down 7%.

Virginia wheat producers planted 320,000 acres of winter wheat, no change from last year.

Nationwide

Corn for grain production is estimated at a record 13.9 billion bushels, down slightly from the November 1 forecast, but 29% above 2012. The average yield in the U.S. is estimated at 158.8 bushels per acre.

This is down 1.6 bushels from the November forecast, but 35.4 bushels above the 2012 average yield of 123.4. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 87.7 million acres, up slightly from the November forecast and 2012.

Soybean production in 2013 totaled 3.29 billion bushels, up

1% from the November 1 forecast and up 8% from 2012. U.S. production is the third largest on record.

The average yield per acre is estimated at 43.3 bushels, 0.3 bushel above the November 1 forecast and 3.5 bushels above last year's yield. Harvested area is down slightly from 2012 to 75.9 million acres and is the fourth highest on record.

Farm work-related deaths drop by one

Nine lives were reported lost due to farm work-related accidents in 2013 in Virginia—one less than in 2012.

Unspecified tractor or equipment incidents resulted in two deaths; tractor overturns accounted for two; incidents involving animals accounted for two; tractor rollovers accounted for one; an all-terrain vehicle accident while performing farm work resulted in one; and a fall from a hay loft accounted for one, according to unofficial statistics from Virginia Farm Bureau.

For the past 19 years, deaths resulting from tractor incidents have accounted for the majority of farm accident fatalities that Farm Bureau has documented.

"These statistics are an important reminder that when working

Chesapeake Financial Shares reports decrease in 2013 earnings

On behalf of Chesapeake Financial Shares, Inc., parent company of Chesapeake Bank and Chesapeake Investment Group, chairman of the board and chief executive officer Jeffrey M. Szyperki reported earnings for calendar year 2013 of \$7,353,053, representing a 4% decrease from 2012 earnings.

The reported earnings per share were \$2.208 fully diluted as compared to \$2.322 in 2012, a 4.9% decrease.

"Chesapeake Financial Shares ended the year December 31, 2013, with total assets of \$661,770,841, a decrease of 1% from 2012," said Szyperki.

"With the current low demand for loans and the highly competitive market,

we were very pleased to have ended the year with a 2% increase in loans outstanding. Our current loan loss reserve is 1.66% of total loans at December 31, 2013," he continued. "Total delinquencies 30 days and over increased to 4.932% of total loans at December 31, 2013, from 3.031% at December 31, 2012. The increase is comprised largely of a single credit which the bank feels will result in no loss."

On January 17, the board of directors voted to hold dividends at \$.135 per share effective March 1, 2014. The board felt this was prudent given the dividend increase earlier in 2013, he said. The company was recently recognized by SNL Securities as one of only 20 banks in the United States

that has rewarded shareholders with cumulative dividend growth of at least 30% and annual 2% increases over the past five years.

"2013 was a great and interesting year for our organization," said Szyperki. "The constant struggle for earnings in an extremely low interest rate environment while making both the 'Top 200 Community Banks' in the United States for the sixth consecutive year coupled with being cited as #8 in the 'Best Banks to Work For' in the United States is paradoxical at best.

"We feel we're a high-achieving bank while also recognizing the current environment makes it harder daily. All in all, though, we're highly optimistic."

Bank announces Fawver promotion

Bank of Lancaster, an affiliate of Bay Banks of Virginia Inc., recently announced a promotion.

President and chief executive officer Randal R. Greene announced that vice president Pamela J. Fawver has been promoted by the board of directors to senior vice president.

Fawver joined the Bank of Lancaster in February 1998 as manager of the bank's Montross branch, bringing with her 20 years of banking experience. In 1999, she was promoted to branch officer and in 2001 she was promoted to assistant vice president.

In December 2005, Fawver was promoted to vice president and in December 2010 was promoted to regional sales manager. In May 2013, Fawver was elected by the board to retail delivery administrator with overall responsibility for retail delivery for Bank of Lancaster.

"Pam not only provides excellent leadership but she is what community banking is all about," said Greene. "Pam fully embraces our company's desire to create long-standing relationships with our customers through products and services that are of value to each individual customer. We are extremely pleased to have Pam on our senior management team."

A graduate of Rappahannock High School, Fawver attended James Madison University and continued her education through Rappahannock



Pamela J. Fawver

Community College. She is a graduate of the Virginia Bankers' School of Bank Management held at the University of Virginia and the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University.

She is a member of the Town of Montross revitalization committee, board member of Riverside-Tappahannock Hospital, conducts classes on Careers in Banking for the Virginia Employment Commission in Warsaw, and is a member of the Warsaw Rotary Club.

Fawver also has been active in "Sponsors for Success" at Cople Elementary and "Get Smart About Credit" at Washington & Lee High School and Colonial Beach High School.

She is past officer of the Northern Neck-Southside Area Bankers Association and has served on the boards of the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce and the Richmond and Westmoreland Counties Habitat for Humanity. She is a past member of the Richmond County Special Education Advisory Board and has served as secretary of the George Washington Birthplace National Memorial Association.

Fawver is a member of Rappahannock Baptist Church, where she is a trustee and teaches Sunday school.

She and her husband, Bruce, live in Richmond County and have two grown children, Kyle and Erin.

Brad Parks nominated for second Lefty Award

Author Brad Parks has again been nominated for the Lefty Award, given to the best humorous mystery novel published during the preceding year.

Parks, who won the honor last year, could join Janet Evanovich and Donna Andrews as the only writer to capture multiple Leftys. The winner will be determined in March by a vote of attendees at the Left Coast Crime conference in Monterey, Calif., where Parks also will serve as toastmaster.

"I love getting a note from a reader that says they laughed out

loud while reading my books," said Parks, a resident of Middlesex County. "I really believe laughter is the best medicine and I'm happy to dispense as much of it as I can."

Other nominees include Andrews, Timothy Hallinan, Lisa Lutz and Cindy Sample. Parks was nominated for his 2013 work *The Good Cop*, which features quick-witted investigative reporter Carter Ross. The next book in the series, *The Player*, releases March 4 and has been called "compulsively readable" by Booklist.

Parks previously won the Lefty Award for his 2012 work, *The Girl Next Door*. In addition to the Lefty Award, Parks has also won the Shamus Award from the Private Eye Writers of America and the Nero Wolfe Award from the Nero Wolfe Society for *Faces of the Gone*. He is the only author in history to have won all three honors.

He also is the author of *Eyes of the Innocent*.

Descriptions of his books appear at bradparksbooks.com, or follow him on Facebook at BradParksBooks.

RGH posts its upcoming life support class calendar

The Rappahannock General Hospital staff development office recently posted the Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers course schedule for February and March.

Four-hour sessions will be offered at 8:30 a.m. February 5, 13, 19, 27, March 5, 13, 18 and 27.

Call Cathy Meyers at 435-8000, ext. 8280 for fees and registration. Reservations are recommended because

class size is limited, said Meyers.

Books are available from staff development by request, she said. Classes are taught by American Heart Association instructors.

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Lella Lee Edwards displays her prize-winning watercolor.

Public picks a winner

The Rappahannock Art League recently announced the winning entries in the January exhibit, You Be the Judge. RAL members entered artwork and the viewing public then cast their votes at the Studio Gallery, 19 North Main Street, Kilmarnock, reported gallery manager Hope Towner. A watercolor entitled "Dogwoods," by Lella Lee Edwards, won first place, said Towner. An acrylic painting by Mary Ellis, "Rooster," won second place and Anne Cotter's multimedia painting, "The Music Within," was third. Honorable mentions were given to Agnes Carter, Linda Eglund, Pat Ramey and Nancy Reath, she said.



Visiting Angels staff from left includes Cynthia Cogar, R.N., Andrea Fricke, Frank McCarthy, Denise Marron and Whitney Garner.

Local home care service earns national recognition

With a client satisfaction score greater than 95%, Visiting Angels serving the Northern Neck and Middlesex has been awarded national recognition as a Best of Home Care Provider by Home Care Pulse, the industry's leading firm in satisfaction research and quality assurance.

With corporate offices in Rexburg, Idaho, Home Care Pulse works with hundreds of home care agencies to identify those providers who are recognized as well above average in services provided to their clients. Having been previously recognized as a "Trusted Provider," the local Visiting Angels, based in Kilmarnock, has earned the distinction as a superior service provider and "Provider of Choice" in three key categories: Compassion of Caregivers, Timeliness of Caregivers, and Effective Communication from Agency to Client.

"Our clients are regularly surveyed about our performance so this is essentially our clients and their families recognizing our superior service," said owner Frank McCarthy. "While we hired an independent third party to execute the surveys, it's our clients doing the talking. These three categories, compassion, timeliness and communication, are areas in which we work hard to excel. These three measurements are critical to meeting the

expectations of our clients. I am proud of this accomplishment, as is our entire caregiver community. This award absolutely sets us apart from other local and regional home care providers."

Client telephone surveys have been conducted since June 2013 and will continue during the year. Randomly selected clients are surveyed monthly.

With more than 65 caregivers, Visiting Angels Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula has been in the business of providing non-medical home care services since 2008.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Quotes as of: Close on 1/27/14

AT&T	33.51
Altria (Philip Morris)	36.83
BB & T Corp.	37.79
Bay Banks VA	5.08
Ches Fin Shrs	17.00
CSX Corporation	26.14
Davenport Equity Fund	18.42
Davenport Value + Income Fund	13.93
Davenport Equity Opp Fund	14.78
Bank of America	16.31
Dominion Resources	66.42
Eastern VA Bank Shares	6.96
Exxon Mobil	94.92
IBM	177.90
MDLZ	33.61
Omega Protein	10.46
Sun Trust Banks	37.85
Union First Market Bankshares	23.69
Verizon	47.69
Wells Fargo	45.53

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

Jeweler welcomes Lang

Burkes Fine Jewelers recently welcomed Whitney Crandall Lang to the team as sales associate and marketing/advertising coordinator. She brings many years of customer service and marketing experience to the family-owned company.

"We grew to know Whitney over 12 years ago when we hired her for her very first job at Karen's Kup and we're happy to have her back on our team," said owner Karen Burke.

Lang is a familiar face in the community having spent the past five years in customer service at the Northern Neck Family YMCA, said Burke.

Lang is a native of the Northern Neck having grown up in Kilmarnock. She is a graduate of Lancaster High School and Rappahannock Community College. She lives in Kilmarnock with her husband, Arthur, and their



Whitney C. Lang

10-month-old son, Jamie. She is the daughter of Tammy and Jimmy Crandall of Kilmarnock.

"We are so excited to have Whitney join the Burkes Fine Jewelers family. Her positive personality and expertise in social marketing are a huge asset to our business," said owner Fred Burke Jr.

Northern Neck SWCD earns statewide honors

Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District technical manager Brandon Dillistin was awarded the Chaffin Soil and Water Conservation District Employee of the Year Award among employees of the 47 districts across the state who have 5 to 10 years of service with SWCDs.

The award, for "outstanding leadership, motivation and technical expertise promoting the stewardship of our natural resources," was made during the December Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts annual meeting in Williamsburg, reported education and public relations director Faye Andrashko.

This annual meeting provides training updates and other resources for district directors and staff, said Andrashko. It also offers an opportunity for the 47 districts across the state to gather once a year to exchange ideas and inspirations, to network for soil & water conservation and watershed issues across the state.

All five district staff and three board members participated, she said.

At the same conference, the NNSWCD was presented the USDA 2013 Outstanding Earth Team award for Virginia, for the district's involvement in recruiting volunteers for district out-



Brandon Dillistin displays his Employee of the Year Award.

reach programs.

In addition, the vice chairman Charles "Chip" Jones of Westmoreland County was elected vice chairman of the Area III SWCD region.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Open house

Over the Top Catering will hold a grand opening from 4 to 8 p.m. January 31 at their new showroom at 429 Dock Street, Tappahannock.

The showroom will be set up similar to an event and guests may sample several signature items.

NARFE to meet

The Northern Neck Chapter 1823 National Active and Retired Federal Employees will meet at 1 p.m. February 14 at the Lancaster Community Library, 235 East School Street, Kilmarnock. In recognition of Black History Month, Julius Rosenwald School Foundation president Mary Jackson will discuss the foundation's mission to acquire ownership of the school property, to preserve and restore this historically important school, and to provide services to meet the needs of the community—charitable, educational, and historical.

All current or retired federal employees, or surviving spouses, and their guests, and others interested in learning about The Julius Rosenwald School Foundation are invited.

Free tax help

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program will provide free income tax preparation services at the Lancaster Community Library from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, February 19 through April 12.

Help is offered to those with annual income below \$51,000 who have difficulty preparing their own tax returns. Trained volunteers will prepare basic returns. Taxpayers who have more complex returns should see a paid tax preparer.

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We are here for you!

Dr. Harold H. Weiler is proud to welcome **Dr. Paul T. Edwards** to the staff of Old Dominion Eye Care, Inc.

Originally from Mathews, Virginia, Dr. Edwards, an Optometrist recently joined our staff. He has been practicing in the Mathews area since 1995 and still maintains his office there. Dr. Edwards provides routine eye exams, contact lens fittings and screenings for glaucoma and cataracts. He also treats eye diseases, infections, injuries and provides low vision services for the partially sighted. He, along with Dr. Harold Weiler, can provide for all of your eye care needs.



We also welcome the patients from Drs. Prince and Griffith to our practice.

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Dr. Wind has what it takes to practice orthopaedics anywhere he wants.



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(And now in Burgess too)

As a fellowship-trained orthopaedic surgeon, Tyler Wind, MD, has the background and specialized skills in joint replacement, minimally invasive surgery and sports medicine that would make him a welcome addition to any medical staff in the country. His decision to practice here means that people in communities throughout the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula can count on exceptional surgical and non-surgical orthopaedic care. To make an appointment with Dr. Wind please call **Northern Neck Bone & Joint at (804) 443-8670.**

Dr. Wind is now seeing patients at:
Bay Harbor Medical Center, Burgess
740 Jessie Dupont Memorial Highway.
Call (804) 443-8670 to schedule.

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Deputy Santa's helpers

The White Stone Office of Davenport & Company LLC made a donation to The Deputy Santa Program for 2013, sponsored by the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department. Rather than exchange gifts within the office, staff members pool the money they would otherwise spend on each other and donate it to a local charity. From left are Brian Manetz, associate branch manager Jay Black, Kathy Pittman, Garry Clay, Sherry Germain, Jay Wallin, Sheriff Ronnie Crockett, branch manager Keith Hudgins, Kristin Ashburn and Jessica Thomas. The Deputy Santa program is intended to provide Christmas for underprivileged children within the community.