



From left, members of Lancaster High School's new indoor track team are assistant coach Justin Stewart, Sean Jones, Mary Frere, Tanner Steensma, Patrick Kelly, Vilesha Waller, Ronnie Cutler and coach Jim Timm. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

LHS indoor track team completes its first season

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Like the U.S. Post Office, Lancaster High's indoor track and field team delivered no matter the weather. "In the snow and the cold, in the rain and the wind, they were on the track or the trails," said coach Jim Timm. "No matter what the weather was, they were practicing. They were a very dedicated group."

In its inaugural season, the Red Devils track team of four boys and two girls competed in three meets, including the Group 1A/2A state meet two weeks ago at Liberty University. Without the luxury of indoor track facilities, practicing on the cross country trail or the outdoor track was often a challenge, said Timm. But the group braved the cold temperatures and frequent snowstorms this winter without breaking a stride.

The team competed at the Boo Williams MLK Invitational in Hampton on January 20, where five run-

ners qualified for the Region 1A East meet. Senior Ronnie Cutler, junior Sean Jones and sophomores Tanner Steensma and Patrick Kelly placed second in the region in the boys 4X800-meter to qualify for state and were only seven seconds off the school's outdoor 4X800 relay record time.

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.

—Unofficial U.S. Postal Service slogan

Cutler also qualified for the state meet in the 3,200-meter run but didn't run because of an injury.

In the girls events, freshman Mary Frere finished fifth in the region in the two-mile run to qualify for state and ran a 12:36 race to finish third in the state in the 3,200. She beat the LHS outdoor two-mile time by 14 seconds. Freshman Vilesha Waller was the

sixth member of the team. Also a distance runner, Waller competed in the two-mile and the 1,000-meter run.

"These kids went from cross country straight into pushing for an indoor track season," said Timm. The program was approved in the fall of 2013.

"We were hoping to compete in three or four invitationals but only got to do the one before region," said Timm.

Indoor track and field meets include distance, hurdles, sprints, jumping and throwing events, he said.

"You can have a whole team and that's what we're hoping for next year, to grow and develop this program," added Timm.

Timm was assisted by LHS graduate and distance runner Justin Stewart.

Other area Group A schools with indoor track and field programs include Northumberland and Mathews.

All star games slated March 22

Someone will leave the Lancaster High School gym \$100 richer March 22 when the Norlan Shrine Club holds its 16th annual high school boys and girls basketball games.

The shootout, sponsored jointly by 101.7 Bay FM and WIGO Country, will take place during halftime of both games. The cost to enter is \$1 and one may enter as many times as they wish. The contest is open to all, including basketball players.

The all star games will feature the

best senior players from the Rappahannock River Conference #43 versus the best from the Tidewater Conference #44, said coordinator Carroll Lee Ashburn.

A most valuable players will be chosen in each game, said Ashburn.

The girls game will begin at 6 p.m. and the boys contest will follow after a 20-minute intermission.

Admission is \$5. Proceeds benefit Shriners charities including Crippled Children's Hospitals.

Gov. McAuliffe signs bill to allow Sunday hunting

by Jackson McMillan
Capital News Service

Virginians will have the right to hunt on Sunday beginning July 1, according to a bill signed into law March 5 by Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

House Bill 1237, introduced by Del. Todd Gilbert of Woodstock, gives private landowners and their family members lawful authority to hunt and kill wild birds and nuisance species on their property, provided the land is not within 200 yards of a "place of worship."

An exemption in the law gives landowners and their family members the right to hunt outside of 200 yards of a place of worship "any wild bird or wild animal, including any nuisance species, on the landowner's property." That exemption means deer and bear may be hunted on Sunday in addition to wild birds and nuisance species.

However, HB 1237 specifically prohibits hunting deer or bear "with the assistance or aid of dogs, on Sunday."

Non-landowners also may hunt on Sundays, with the written permission of the landowner.

Lee Walker, a spokesman for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, said biologists with the Bureau of Wildlife Resources need to examine game species affected by the additional hunting day and make recommendations for when hunting seasons should begin and end.

"The Bureau of Wildlife Resources will recommend setting (season) dates that will make sure additional hunting days will not negatively impact those hunted species (mentioned in the legislation)," said Walker. "We're trying to make as few changes as possible."

The new hunting regulations should be posted on the department's website by July 1, he said. The new regulations also will be included in the new hunting and trapping handbook, which will be released August 1.

Chesapeake Academy posts 2014 Summer Camp Sessions

Chesapeake Academy's 2014 Summer Camps will begin June 9.

Rick Griffin, a veteran summer camp director, will lead the program.

"Again this year we will sponsor three camps geared to youngsters of different ages," said Griffin. "Parents may want to enroll their children in more than one session, because there's something different offered each week."

Camp Irvington, for ages 4-7, will offer five sessions.

Camps include:

- Session 1, June 9-13, "Get Your Game On," with a week of individual and team games, daily challenges and tournaments.

- Session 2, June 16-20, "Everyday Heroes," with a chance to meet real-life heroes such as firemen and police and dress up as their favorite superhero.

- Session 3, June 23-27, "Nature Bond," with an opportunity to explore what the Northern Neck landscape has to offer.

- Session 4, June 30-July 3, "Happy Birthday USA," with national history and traditions and an all-American cookout.

- Session 5, July 7-11, "Tropical Paradise," with arts, crafts and beach games on a special beach created at Chesapeake Academy, 107 Steamboat Road, Irvington.

Camp Chesapeake for ages 7-11, also will offer five sessions.

Camps include:

- Session 1, June 9-13, "Mys-

tery Week," with an opportunity to sharpen detective skills using science and deduction.

- Session 2, June 16-20, "Camp Hollywood," with the chance to test acting skills and play games.

- Session 3, June 23-27, "The Great Outdoors," with hiking, kayaking and swimming.

- Session 4, June 30-July 3, "Blast from the Past," with national history and a real gold rush.

- Session 5, July 7-11, "Sports," with basketball, soccer and volleyball.

Camp Osprey, for ages 9-14, will offer three sessions.

Camps include:

- Session 1, June 9-13, "Adventure Camp," with rock climbing, sailing, kayaking, a ropes course and field trips.

- Session 2, June 23-27, "Mystery Tour," with surprise adventures.

- Session 3, July 7-11, "Sports," with soccer, tennis, track and field, golf and basketball.

All sessions are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is a \$30 one-time registration fee per camper.

Griffin noted the fee will be waived for those who register before April 1.

A complete description of each session, registration forms and the full pricing schedule are available at chesapeakeacademy.org, or contact Griffin at rgriffin@chesapeakeacademy.org, or call the school at 438-5575.

4-H Camp registration is now open

Registration is open for 4-H Junior Camp serving residents of Lancaster and Northumberland counties.

Camp takes place June 23-27, 2014, at the Jamestown 4-H Center near Williamsburg, said 4-H youth development Extension agent Tara Brent.

Children ages 9-13 are eligible to attend, said Brent. The fee is \$200 if registration and a \$75 deposit are received by April 1 and \$225 after April 1. Scholarships are available.

The camp theme is "4-H is Out of this World," said Brent. "Classes include videography, archery, riflery, swimming, marine science, canoeing and fishing."

Registration forms and scholarship information may be obtained by contacting the Extension office at 462-5780 in Lancaster County and 580-5694 in Northumberland County.



Wrestlers from Lancaster and Northumberland at last weekend's tournaments in Richmond included Kyle Hanks, Philip Harrison, Sam Bouis, Kevin Hanks, Billy Pipkin and Kenique Stewart. Photo by Bill Pipkin

Area grapplers compete in post season events

The Virginia Challenge Wrestling (VACW) Freshman, Sophomore, Junior States was held last Saturday at the Arthur Ashe Center in Richmond. The tournament, which was open to high school and club wrestlers statewide, attracted 330 wrestlers.

Billy Pipkin, Kevin Hanks and Kyle Hanks represented Northumberland High School and the Northern Neck Wrestling Club (NNWC). Pipkin and Kyle Hanks combined for a total of 26 points leading the NNWC to a third-place finish among 42 clubs. Kevin Hanks led the team with a second-place overall finish in the 138-pound division.

Lancaster's Kenique Stewart placed second in the 145-pound sophomore division and Sam Bouis placed first among sophomore heavyweights. Lan-

caster finished 20th in the sophomore division.

The Virginia High School Super States, sponsored by the VACW and the Virginia Wrestling Association, was held last Sunday at the Arthur Ashe Center. The Super States is designed to determine an overall state champion among 1A-6A schools and private schools. There were 110 wrestlers at the event including Northumberland's Pipkin, Hanks and Philip Harrison and Lancaster's Bouis and Stewart.

Harrison, wrestling in the 182-pound class, led the team with a third-place finish. After losing by a 13-10 decision in the first round, Harrison fought back with a win by pin in his second match. He avenged his first round loss to an Alleghany wrestler with a 10-3 decision

in his last match to place third.

In the 138-pound division, Hanks finished fifth with two forfeits, a pin and a loss. Pipkin fell short of the podium in the 126-pound class.

Bouis finished third and 145-pound Stewart placed fifth. Bouis ended the day with a 3-1 record with a pin and two wins by decisions. Stewart won his first match, then lost twice before bouncing back with a win to claim fifth.

"Both of these tournaments were managed well and offered high level wrestling during the post season," said Bill Pipkin. "With this being the inaugural year for the Virginia High School Super States, I believe it will be one of the most anticipated and sought-after events for years to come."

SCOREBOARD

Upcoming Games

Varsity baseball

(Lancaster's home games are played at Dream Fields near Kilmarnock, 5 p.m.)
March 18:
King & Queen at Lancaster

Varsity softball

(Lancaster's home games are played at

Dream Fields near Kilmarnock, 5 p.m.)
March 20:
Gloucester at Lancaster

JV softball

(Lancaster's home games are played at Dream Fields near Kilmarnock, 5 p.m.)
March 18:
Lancaster at King & Queen

Varsity soccer

March 20:
Middlesex at Lancaster

Lancaster at Gloucester

Varsity girls soccer

(6 p.m.)
March 17:
Lancaster at Washington & Lee

Varsity boys soccer

(6 p.m.)
March 17:
Middlesex at Lancaster

Fifth annual Kekoka Yoga Retreat slated May 16-18

The fifth annual Kekoka Yoga Retreat (KYR) will take place May 16 through 18 at YMCA Camp Kekoka, 1083 Boys Camp Road, Kilmarnock. Registration is under way.

The theme is "Bliss," said retreat chairman Susan Johnson.

"Whether you're brand new to yoga or have been practicing for years, all levels of experience are welcome," said Johnson.

The fee is \$125 and includes lodging, four meals, all levels yoga, meditation, workshops and lectures, arts and crafts, music and water activities, she said.

There also will be a workshop for teachers on physical adjustments and assists taught by Renata Gregori. Proceeds benefit scholarships for campers.

Session leaders include Johnson, Jenny Landry, David

Scarborough, India Stuart, Kirsten Knull, Katie West, Anna Pomaska, Sue Chewning, Dr. Matt Shifflett, Dr. Michael Sullivan, Audrey Stewart, Gregori, Shelle Taylor, Judy Knight, Danielle Grinnen, Caroline Shifflett, Suzanne Best, Troy Wyne, Khajit Syszynski, Amy Lewis and Wyatt Pertz.

All of the session leaders donate their time and expertise to help Camp Kekoka scholarship kids, said Johnson.

A highlight of the weekend is the food prepared by local organizations, she said. Every effort is made to use the freshest food from local sustainable farmers, many of whom donate the ingredients. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock and the Kilmarnock-Irvington-White Stone Rotary Club will each provide breakfast.

Massages will be given by appointment by Glynda Antonio of LaSource-Professional Spa Services and Wyne of Results Oriented Massage, both in Kilmarnock. Also available by appointment are Thai Yoga Massage, provided by Gregori, Ayurveda consultations by Dr. Sullivan, acupuncture by Audrey Stewart and energy work and clairvoyant readings by Chewning. Additional costs apply for these services and partial proceeds benefit camp scholarships, said Johnson.

Camp Kekoka is a residence camp for children ages 8 to 15. It encompasses 97 acres of waterfront at the end of Boys Camp Road. Campers learn to sail, wind surf, kayak and water ski.

For reservations, visit ymcacampkekoka.org, or contact camp director Cassie Leichty at cleichty@peninsulaymca.org or 435-3616.

National, regional drivers expected for season opener

Anticipation is running high for the \$20,000 to win Aaron's King of the Commonwealth event April 12 at Bill Sawyer's Virginia Motor Speedway in Jamaica.

"When you look at the car counts and the exciting racing being put on during Florida Speedweeks and after, it only gets you amped and excited to have the best dirt late model drivers in the country headed to Virginia for what we feel is going to be a very exciting Aaron's King of the Commonwealth," said general manager

Clarke Sawyer.

The Aaron's King of the Commonwealth will be sanctioned by the National Dirt Racing League (NDRL) and will pay \$20,000 to the winner of the 60-lap A Main. The event also will include a \$3,000-to-win modified race.

Fans can expect to see the best in national and regional dirt late model drivers for this highly anticipated event, said Sawyer. Defending NDRL series champion Billy Moyer, Scott Bloomquist, Steve Francis, Don O'Neal,

John Blankenship, Jonathan Davenport, Chris Ferguson, Kent Robinson and the rest of the NDRL regulars will have their hands full as they compete against Chris Madden, Steve Shaver, Ricky Elliott, Jason Covert, Jamie Lathroum and a host of other regional hot shoes for the top prize.

Admission is \$35 for adults, \$30 for ages 60 and older, \$25 for military, \$15 for ages 7 to 17, and free for ages 6 and younger. Pit passes will be \$40.

Anglers club announces fishing seminar speakers

Northern Neck Anglers Club (NNAC) will conduct a Chesapeake Bay Fishing Seminar for members and the public from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 12 at the Boys and Girls Club of the Northern Neck, 517 North Main Street, Kilmarnock. The fee is \$25.

The forum will target species and methods common to the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula portions of the Chesapeake Bay, reported secretary Mark Roy. The seminar is open to the public as well as NNAC members.

Experts will teach proven fishing techniques, tricks, and locations, which will help any angler, said Roy.

Speakers and topics will include:

- Capt. Ryan Rogers, trophy drum, cobia and spadefish.
- Capt. Billy Pipkin, rockfish and trophy rockfish.
- Frank Brewer and Scott Gregg, flounder trolling and jugging.
- Capt. Bob Reed, speckled trout and puppy drum.
- Capt. Dave Compton, Spanish mackerel and blue-

fish.

• Dr. John Hoekstra, Russ Bertino of Smith Point Sea Rescue and representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, medical and safety issues.

Doors will open at 8 a.m. Food and drink will be available for purchase throughout the day. An advance registration guarantees attendance.

An agenda, speaker profiles and reservation forms are available at northernneckanglersclub.wordpress.com

CLUB GOLF

Golden Eagle

The Golden Eagle Golf Club play day winners for March 10 are first, Randy Meadows; second, (tie) Rob Grace and Tom Bundy; and third, Mike Stephens.

SPORT SHORTS

■ 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, bunto 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.

■ Spay/neuter rebate

The Animal Welfare League of the Northern Neck will offer its 50% spay/neuter rebate program through March 18 to residents of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland counties. The rebate, not to exceed \$50 per animal, applies to dogs and cats for sterilization surgery charges.

Owners 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 8.

■ Dessert bridge

Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury, 132 Lancaster Drive, Irvington, on March 19 will host Cards and Tiles for Life, a dessert bridge to benefit the Lancaster/Northumberland Relay for Life.

The event will begin at 1 p.m. The fee is \$10. For tickets, call Maria Ferrand, 438-4011.

Browns Lane bird walk set for March 22

Frank Schaff of the Northern Neck Audubon Society on March 22 will conduct a bird walk at the home of publicity chairman Maggie Eubank Gerdtts, 810 Browns Lane, Urbanna. The walk will begin at 8:30 a.m.

This is a prime time for bird watching as it is the end of the winter season and the beginning of migration, said Gerdtts. Recent sightings have included hooded mergansers, loons, buffleheads, ruddy ducks, great blue herons, robins, cardinals, blue jays, Eastern towhees, American goldfinches, brown headed nuthatches, robins, a rose-breasted grosbeak, red-winged black birds, white throated sparrows, an Eastern screech owl, Carolina chickadees and bald eagles.

Directions: Come into Urbanna on Route 227 across the bridge. Follow Route 227 as it meanders through town, continue past the firehouse on the left and continue out of town approximately a mile. Turn right on Browns Lane at the sign for Bethpage Camp Resort. Go 7/10ths of a mile. Turn right by the two mailboxes onto the dirt road opposite the entrance to Bethpage. Follow the little winding dirt road to the second cottage.

Call Frank Schaff at 462-0084, so a call may be returned if the walk is cancelled.

Shooting club posts its 2014 course calendar

The Rappahannock Pistol and Rifle Club recently set its training schedule for 2014.

First Steps Pistol orientation will be offered on March 21 and 22 and again on May 23 and 24, said training officer Mike Farson.

Personal Protection in the Home is slated for June 20 and 21, said Farson. Personal Protection outside the Home is scheduled for September 25, 27 and 28.

A complete description of each course is listed under classes at rprclub.com.

Those interested in participating in classes may contact the club via the website or call Farson, 757-784-5040.

■ Shamrock Shuffle

St. Clare Walker Middle School, 6814 General Puller Highway, Locust Hill, will host Shamrock Shuffle 5K & Leprechaun Fun Run on March 15. Race day packet pickup will begin at 7 a.m., followed by the fun run at 8:30 a.m., the 5k at 9 a.m. and an awards ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

Entry fees are \$15 for the fun run and \$30 for the 5K. Register at rungsingup.com/Race/VA/LocustHill/ShamrockShuffleLebrchaunFunRun, or call 758-2561. Race packets may be picked up from 3 to 6 p.m. March 14 at the school, or 7-8:30 a.m. on race day.

■ Kilmarnock 5K

Advance registration is open for the Kilmarnock 5K/Kids Fun Run on March 22 at the Kilmarnock Carnival Grounds off Waverly Avenue, Kilmarnock. Race day registration will begin at 6:30 a.m.. The 5k race will start at 8 a.m. The Fun Run will follow at 9 a.m.

The event benefits the Northern Neck Montessori School. The 5K fee is \$35 adults, or \$30 ages 17 and younger. The Fun Run fee is \$10. Register at active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=2121689, or call Chris Allen at 313-5747, or email run5k@va.metrocast.net.

■ 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.

■ Hitting clinic

Travis Myers will hold a free hitting clinic at 2, 3 and 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 16, at the Cooks Corner Gym in Middlesex County. The clinic is sponsored by the Middlesex County Recreation Department and is open to baseball players ages 8-17. To register, call 832-5132.

■ Ducks Unlimited

The Rappahannock Chapter of Ducks Unlimited will hold its 2014 Spring Event from 5 to 8:30 p.m. April 17 at Good Luck Cellars Winery, 1025 Good Luck Road, Kilmarnock.

The event will include live and silent auctions along with roasted oysters, elk sliders, a bourbon tasting bar, gun raffle, guide exhibit, cigars and adult beverages. Tickets are \$40 per person. For tickets, contact Alfie Butts at 434-917-3532, or go to ducks.org.

■ Catch a train

The Rappahannock River Railroaders will hold an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 22 at the Club Headquarters, 83 Ball Park Road, Delta-ville. Light refreshments will be available.

Eight trains will be running on the club's layouts on the second floor. The train action can also be viewed on televisions located on the handicapped-accessible first floor. Donations welcomed.

■ Help wanted

Belle Isle State Park is recruiting for an AmeriCorps member to be part of the team that designs and presents environmental education programs to the public and to work with volunteers. The position begins in April and continues through the end of September.

Members receive a stipend and an educational award. Members over age 55 have the option to give the educational award to a child or grandchild. Contact Charlene Talcott at 462-5030.

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Weekly Tides
Windmill Point – Sunrise & Moon – March 2014

Day	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Fri. 3/14	4:34 0.1' High 10:32 1.2' Low 5:01 0.1' high 10:47 1.2'		7:18 Sunset 7:11 Moonset 5:55 Moonrise 5:33			
Sat. 3/15	5:16 0.0' High 11:10 1.3' Low 5:38 0.1' high 11:25 1.3'		7:16 Sunset 7:12 Moonset 6:26 Moonrise 6:30			
Sun. 3/16	5:56 0.0' High 11:16 1.3' Low 6:14 0.0'		7:15 Sunset 7:13 Moonset 6:57 Moonrise 7:28			
Mon. 3/17	High 12:02 1.3' Low 6:35-0.1' High 12:21 1.3' Low 6:49 0.0'		7:13 Sunset 7:14 Moonset 7:29 Moonrise 8:27			
Tue. 3/18	High 12:38 1.4' Low 7:14-0.1' High 12:57 1.3' Low 7:24 0.0'		7:12 Sunset 7:15 Moonset 8:02 Moonrise 9:27			
Wed. 3/19	High 1:16 1.4' Low 7:54 0.0' High 1:34 1.2' Low 8:02 0.0'		7:10 Sunset 7:16 Moonset 8:38 Moonrise 10:28			
Thu. 3/20	High 1:56 1.4' Low 8:36 0.0' High 2:14 1.2' Low 8:42 0.0'		7:09 Sunset 7:17 Moonset 9:18 Moonrise 11:30			
Fri. 3/21	High 2:40 1.4' Low 9:23 0.1' High 2:59 1.2' Low 9:28 0.0'		7:07 Sunset 7:18 Moonset 10:02			

Corrections
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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Babygarten follies

Elise Sterrett enjoys a recent Babygarten program at Lancaster Community Library. The next Babygarten session for ages 6 months to 2 years and their caregivers will be offered at 10:30 a.m. Monday, March 17.

Library to host mobile exhibit

A free family event, "Museum on the Go," will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 15, at the Northumberland Public Library, 7204 Northumberland Highway, Heathsville.

Participation will take only 15 to 30 minutes, said publicist Don Hirst.

The Northern Neck Soil

and Water Conservation District's new Mobile Education Unit—The Soil & Water Adventure Mobile—will be outside the library for families to walk through. Related children's activities inside the library will be available as well as light snacks.

The mobile unit was developed to enhance envi-

ronmental education and to better serve the community, explained Hirst. The goal of the mobile walk-through educational unit and billboard is to expose participants to information in a new way. This knowledge gives rise to greater involvement and helps develop good environmental citizenship.

In the interior soil "tunnel," as people physically walk "underground" through the soil exhibit, they will explore the marvels of the world beneath their feet. The interior walls of the walk-through exhibit show the soil layers and also realistically display various creatures that live underground, such

as insects, worms, animals, and microscopic organisms, he said.

The exhibits also illustrate how underground water—groundwater—flows and where it comes from. The outside of the unit reminds families that "Clean water ... our lifeblood (is not) just H₂O."

NHS names second quarter principal's roll

Northumberland High School recently named its second quarter principal's honor roll (As) for the second quarter for the 2013-14 academic session.

Seniors named to the honor roll are India Eguiguren, Dierra Green, Matthew Harris, Bridgette McLaughlin, Alexandra Pittman,

Jennifer Radcliffe, Logan Renton and Brandy Robinson.

Juniors named to the honor roll are Julia Arrington, Benner English, Jonathan Kiss, Adam Parker, Thomas Parker, Kyndia Riley, Sarah Schindler and Audrey Williams.

Sophomores named to

the honor roll are Allison Burgess, Allison Chism, Mary Kathryn Hall, Stephen Parker, Macy Swift, Derrick Thompson and Micaela Wilson.

Freshmen named to the honor roll are Trinity Bea, Mary Katherine Ellis, Jillian Jett, Alexis Newsome and Jada Noel.



Teething lessons

The Learning Center preschoolers recently celebrated Dental Hygiene Week with dental hygienist Kristin Gill. The students received free toothbrushes and flosses and discussed the importance of making healthy nutritional choices.

Agriculture Literacy Week will take place March 23-29

Volunteers from Virginia Farm Bureau and other agriculture organizations will read to children during the Agriculture in the Classroom program's fourth annual Agriculture Literacy Week, March 23-29.

Volunteers from 73 county

Farm Bureaus, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Farm Credit of the Virginias, Colonial Farm Credit, Southern States and several 4-H and FFA chapters, along with AITC board members and staff and Virginia Farm Bureau Federa-

tion board members and staff, will mark the week by reading books about agriculture to children across the state.

Many will read the Virginia AITC Book of the Year, *What's in the Garden?* by Marianne Berkes, and donate copies to school and classroom librar-

ies. The book is written in riddle form and introduces children to new fruits and vegetables. It features the artwork of Virginia illustrator Cris Arbo and depicts plant parts and garden creatures.

Virginia AITC is part of a nationwide effort to help

teachers and students understand and appreciate agriculture, which is Virginia's and the nation's largest industry.

The AITC program is funded by donations received through the Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom.

Writing workshops offered at the library

Short story author Bobby Rogers will hold free writing workshops at 7 p.m. March 19 and 26 at the Northumberland Public Library, 7204 Northumberland Highway, Heathsville.

Each workshop will last approximately two hours. The focus will be on literary writing, as opposed to journalism, said publicist Don Hirst.

He will talk about developing creative ideas, thematic elements and how to construct a story using narration and dialogue, said Hirst. Practical aspects of developing writing techniques and skills will be covered.

Reservations are suggested but not required. Bring a notebook, pen and any current writing project you are working on.

Commodity contest helps put agriculture books in the schools

Virginia's Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program will celebrate Agriculture Literacy Week concurrently with National Ag Week, March 23 through 29.

Volunteers from county Farm Bureaus and other agriculture organizations will mark the week by reading books about agriculture to children in the schools.

Because Agriculture Literacy Week takes place during the heart of the college basketball season, the Virginia Foundation for AITC will hold its second annual "Agricultural March Madness" competition through March 29. Eight Virginia farm commodity groups—beef, dairy, equine, fruits, horticulture/gardening, pork, poultry and vegetables/grains—will face off in a friendly fundraising competition with the agricultural community deciding the winner.

Last year the contest raised \$1,755, with the state's equine industry generating \$590. The March Madness proceeds bought copies of the children's book *A Field Full of Horses* and created accompanying classroom activities that were shared with teachers throughout Virginia.

"This is such a fun way to get quality books and agricultural resources into the hands of as many Virginia students as possible. As a farmer myself, I know that

■ RCC scholarships

The deadline to file a scholarship application with the Rappahannock Community College Educational Foundation is March 17. RCC awards some 300 scholarships, totaling over \$300,000, for both entering and returning students.

Apply at rappahannock.edu/foundation/scholarships, or pick up an application at the college. There is no charge for filing a scholarship application, but applicants must first apply for and gain admission to the college, a process which is also free.

■ Lifelong sustainability

Dr. Gregory Haugan will

SCHOOL REPORTS

teach "Sustainability Concepts: Forcing Events and Pathways," a Rappahannock Institute for Lifelong Learning course, from 1 to 3 p.m. March 17, 24 and 31 at the RCC Kilmarnock Center, 447 North Main Street, Kilmarnock.

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.

■ Early education

Lancaster Primary School will accept applications through March 31 for the 2014-15 Early Childhood Program serving 3-year-olds. Applications are available at the school, Lancaster County Social Services and the Lancaster County Health Department.

For a program description and eligibility requirements, call Cynthia Bishop or Ann McNeal at 435-3196.

■ Saturday smARTS!

The Rappahannock Art League will offer Saturday smARTS! from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on third Saturdays at the Studio Gallery, 19 North Main Street, Kilmarnock. Art teacher Marilyn Sprouse is the instructor.

The theme for March 15 is candy creations. The program is for ages 7-16. Register at the gallery, or call 436-9309.

■ Cat's birthday

Children ages almost 3 to 6 are invited to a free birthday celebration for Dr. Seuss at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 13, at the Northumberland Public Library, 7204 Northumberland Highway, Heathsville.

Parents are urged to bring a camera so they can get a memorable photo of their children with the Cat in the Hat. There also will be Cat in the Hat book bags for everyone, plus treats, crafts and Dr. Seuss stories.

■ What if?

The Northumberland Public Library, 7204 Northumberland Highway, Heathsville, recently announced two upcoming What if ... Wednesday events for home-schooled youth. To register for the ongoing program, contact children's librarian Jan Bates, 580-5051, or jbates@nplva.org.

At 2 p.m. March 19, library director Alice Cooper will discuss Mars.

■ Abstract workshop

The Rappahannock Art League will host Abstract Painting with instructor Rose Nygaard from 1 to 3 p.m. March 18, 19 and 20 at the Studio Gallery, 19 North Main Street, Kilmarnock. For fees, registration and supplies, visit the gallery, or call 436-9309.

History, introduction to non-objective abstraction, elements of design, use of color, texture and composition will be covered.

■ Brown graduates

Samantha Brown graduated summa cum laude with a 4.0 grade point average from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College.

She received an associate's of applied science with a major in paralegal studies-litigation.

■ Scholarship contest

Coastal Virginia Magazine's annual high school scholarship contest is under way. The winning essay will be published online. Honorable mentions also will be published online. Entries will be accepted through March 15 at Coastal-VirginiaMag.com.

Essays must be 500 words or less and define "Coastal Virginia lifestyle." For details, contact My Nguyen at my@vgnnet.com.

■ Raku

The Rappahannock Art League will host Raku with instructor Ed Ramsey from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 26 and 27 at the Studio Gallery, 19 North Main Street, Kilmarnock, and April 11 at Ramsey's studio in Sharps where students will glaze and fire their pots.

For fees, registration and supplies, visit the gallery, or call 436-9309.

■ Music scholarship

The Rappahannock Music Study Club will award a \$1,000 scholarship to Northern Neck high school seniors, including home-schoolers, who are planning to continue the study of music. The application deadline is March 31.

Auditions will be scheduled April 26 at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury, 132 Lancaster Drive, Irvington. Application forms are available from the guidance departments in all high schools, or from the Rappahannock Music Study Club at 435-2189.

LHS releases first semester honor roll

Lancaster High School recently announced its first semester honor roll (As, Bs and 1C) for the 2013-14 academic session.

Freshmen on the honor roll are Lindsey Brocklebank, James Coleman, Kyran Gaskins, Enrique Henderson, Shawntasia Laws, Haley Pease, Diamond Taylor, Monica Waddy, Anna West and Rodney Wiggins.

Sophomores on the honor roll are Steven Barksdale, Kalin Benza, Samuel Bouis, Spencer Hook, Grant Long, Tyler Martin, Cole Schomer, Aloni Scott, Laura Stickler, Devonte Taylor and Joshua Thomas.

Juniors on the honor roll

are Ivory Ball, Kyle Matthew Bennett, Caleb Gordon, Noah Hook, Justin Hudnall, Corinna Ireland, Sean Jones, Le'Aria Kelley, Timothy McDaniels, Larry O'Bier, Jasmine Owens, Brook Reed, Jonathan Seal, Brandon Selph, Joel Spiers, Daniel Thomas, Kelli Tignor and Rodesha Veney.

Seniors on the honor roll are Cameron Brent, Carlee Broadus, Tashet Curry, John DeGaetani, Elaina Gainer, Tykasia Gaskins, Dalton Howard, NaJee Laws, Aaliyah Morris-Lee, Nicholas Nonnemacker, Weston Schomer, Tre'Von Taylor, Kevin Thomas, Shawn Valdrighi and KaDasia Veney.

Virginia Tech names Dean's List students

Virginia Tech recently announced its Dean's List for the 2013 fall semester.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must attempt at least 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester.

Local students named to the Dean's List include:

- Joshua M. Bell of Warsaw, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering in the College of Engineering.
- Alexis K. Bruzgul of Lancaster, a freshman majoring in animal and poultry sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
- Jacquelyn T. Hinson of Kilmarnock, a sophomore majoring in human development in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.
- Rebecca K. Huey of White Stone, a senior majoring in communication in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.
- Diane C. Kelly of Reedville, a sophomore majoring in human development in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.
- Sarah E. Kelly of Reedville, a sophomore majoring in human nutrition, foods, and exercise in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
- Alexandria S. Mason of Lancaster, a freshman majoring in psychology in the College of Science.
- William T. Peyton of Warsaw, a senior majoring in meteorology in the College of Natural Resources and Environment.
- Aaron T. Saunders of Warsaw, a freshman majoring in university studies at Virginia Tech.

LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, March 17, 2014
6:30 p.m.

Lancaster Middle School
Media Center

Authorized by Lancaster County School Board

Dr. Prince eyes retirement after 57 years

After serving generations of eye patients on the Northern Neck since the 1950s, Dr. James R. Prince announced his retirement from his optometry practice in Kilmarnock in late January.

For the past 57 years Dr. Prince provided primary optical care for thousands of area residents and in doing so established himself as one of the leading optometrists in Virginia and the Southeast, reported the family.

A native of Canton, Ohio, Dr. Prince served in the U.S. Navy before graduating from Tufts University in Boston and the Massachusetts College of Optometry. He and his wife, Sylvia, moved to Richmond in the mid-1950s. Seeking to own his own practice, Dr. Prince in 1957 began working weekends in Kilmarnock at the practice of Dr. Riethmiller. In 1960, he purchased the Northern Neck portion of Dr. Riethmiller's practice and began his career as one of the area's most prominent—and sometimes only—optometrist.

"In his earliest days practicing in the area, Dr. Prince would spend time in public



Dr. James R. Prince and secretary Rosemary Thrift sort files in the 1990s.

places in town meeting residents and handing out his business card," said his oldest son John Prince. "His practice at Northern Neck Eye Center soon thrived and remained

busy until his retirement." "In keeping with the times and the means of the people he served, Dr. Prince often accepted things such as oysters in payment from area water-

men. He was known to rush from his house, even on Christmas Day, to meet patients with eye injuries needing immediate treatment," said his son-in-law Richard Lewis. "His dedication to his profession and patients earned him the respect and affection of thousands over the years."

"Serving the needs of the people of this area has been one of my greatest joys, personally and professionally," said Dr. Prince. "I have gained lifetime friendships from among my patients and our life here in the area has been more than I ever imagined."

Those who simply knew Dr. Prince as their local eye physician probably had little idea of the esteem in which he was held by his professional colleagues throughout Virginia and the Southeast. He joined the American Optometric Association in 1957 and that organization named him as a Fellow of the Academy in 1967. Dr. Prince was named president of the Southern Council of the AOA in 1975. From 1983 to 1993 he served on the AOA's Council on Optometric Education, a committee that sets

Retirement party slated for March 21

A retirement party will be held for Dr. James R. Prince from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, March 21, at the clubhouse of Hill's Quarter, 480 Old Saint John Road, Kilmarnock. His patients and friends are invited.

accreditation at schools of optometry. The AOA recognized him for outstanding service in 1993.

Between 1973 and 1983, Dr. Prince served two terms on the Virginia Board of Examiners in Optometry and in 1976 was elected president of the Virginia Optometric Association. That same year the VOA named him Optometrist of the Year. He also was honored with the VOA Distinguished Achievement Award in 1994.

Dr. Floyd Griffith joined Dr. Prince in the Northern Neck Eye Center in 1982 and together the two men served patients from across the Northern Neck

and Middle Peninsula, maintaining offices in Kilmarnock, Warsaw and West Point.

Dr. and Mrs. Prince, both longtime members of Grace Episcopal Church, where he served on the vestry, raised a family of five children, John Prince of Pensacola, Fla., Susan Havens of Crossville, Tenn., Marjorie Holt of East Billerica, Mass., Mary Lewis of Richmond and Tom Prince of Ashland, Mass. The couple also has nine grandchildren.

Dr. Prince indicated that he and his wife will continue to live in Kilmarnock in retirement pursuing their many interests.

Spring Fling Block Party slated March 21 among five Kilmarnock businesses

The Spring Fling Block Party from 3 to 7 p.m. March 21 will feature five businesses along South Main Street in Kilmarnock.

Burkes Fine Jewelers owner and designer Karen Burke came up with the idea a couple of months ago when she was watching the snow fall.

"The exceptionally frosty winter we've had here in the Northern Neck makes me even more excited to see spring arrive," said Burke.

The Spring Fling block Party will be a great way to get folks out and about in town, she added.

Merle Norman Cosmetics, Attitudes Boutique, Bank of Lancaster and Weekends will join Burkes to offer special sales, demonstrations and treats.

Bank of Lancaster will give out shopping bags which will earn folks additional savings throughout the evening, said Whitney Crandall Lang of Burkes. The bank also will serve snacks.

Jennifer Bishop of Merle Norman Cosmetics will offer 25% off eyebrow threading and non-Merle Norman accessories such as handbags and sunglasses.

"This will be a great time to explore the new spring products and trends," said Bishop. Merle Norman skincare products will be 10% off and all cosmetics will be 20% off.

"We're giving away a complete skincare kit to one lucky winner so be sure to enter the drawing," added Bishop.

Attitude Boutique will offer 21% off storewide and a special Whoopie Pie Dessert bath soak gift with purchase, said Lang.

Burkes will offer free jewelry cleaning and tips on properly caring for jewelry. Burkes also will debut a new jewelry line, run a Pandora special, give 21% off select jewelry, and offer a free gift with purchase, said Lang. Nikki Henderson of La Source Spa will also be at Burkes to pamper guests with complimentary hand massages.

Weekends will present a fashion accessory tutorial every hour, on the hour. "We're excited to partner with our neighbors to bring a new, fun event to town. Our experienced staff will be teaching guests different ways to wear scarves as well as various ways to tie bowties and neckties," said manager Brenda Hale. All scarves and ties will be 20% off for the event.

"We are hoping this becomes an annual tradition. There is nothing better than seeing the community come together to socialize, have a great time and support local businesses," said Burkes Fine Jewelers owner Fred Burke.

Forest owners can retreat to the woods

Virginia landowners can learn more about actively managing their woodlands during the sixth annual Forest Landowners' Retreat April 25-27 at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center near Appomattox.

Natural resource professionals will cover topics such as forest management options for hardwoods and pines, wildlife, forest health issues, timber sale planning and more.

"This program provides a good introduction to forest management concepts, especially for those who are new to forest own-

ership," said Jennifer Gagnon of Virginia Tech's Forest Landowner Education Program. "The weekend retreat format allows people to talk with other landowners as well as experts in the field."

"We use the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest as an interactive 'classroom,' where people can see how a well-managed forest looks and functions," said Ellen Powell of the Virginia Department of Forestry.

The fee is \$65 per person, or \$95 per couple, to cover meals, lodging and materials. A com-

muter option is available for \$35 per person or \$50 per couple, for participants who wish to make their own lodging arrangements.

Sponsoring partners for the retreat are the Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program. Additional support is provided by the Ballyshannon Fund.

The registration deadline is April 11. To register, visit forestupdate.frec.vt.edu, or contact Gagnon at 540-231-6369, or jgagnon@vt.edu.

RCC advisory committee members meet with faculty

Members of the Rappahannock Community College citizen's advisory committee for business management programs recently met with faculty representatives.

Participating committee members included Richmond County Department of Social Services director Claudette Henderson, EVB senior vice president Patricia Gallagher, Real Media vice president Tom Davis, Essex County deputy administrator Linda Lampkin and Northumberland County Chamber of Commerce president Doug Lemke.

Also, assistant professor and culinary arts/hospitality program coordinator Hatley Bright, Home Builders Association of the Rappahannock executive officer Margaret Hudnall, retired human resources consultant William Blencowe, Chesapeake Bank director of human resources

Patricia Lewis and Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury president and chief executive officer Stuart Bunting.

Also, Chesapeake Bank vice president Thomas Richardson, Bay Consortium WIB Inc. executive director Mike Jenkins, Montague Farms Inc. president Bill Taliaferro, The Tides Inn general manager Gordon Slatford and Dominion

Resources external affairs manager Jen Kostynick.

Participating faculty members included associate accounting professor Pradeep Ghimire, assistant information systems technology professor Michael Greene, associate information systems technology professor Ruth Greene, adjunct business instructor Christine Swinson and adjunct business instructor Arthur Neal.



Burgers and tunes

Northern Neck Burger Company, 62 Irvington Road, hosts open mic nights at 7 p.m. on Thursdays. Rivoarok was among the performers on March 6. Band members from left are bass guitarist Jason Smith, singer/guitarist Helle Feller and drummer Dougie Norris. The band performed a set of all original music. Photo by Renss Greene

Menhaden stock assessment workshops are set

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will conduct an Atlantic menhaden stock assessment workshop June 2 through 5 at the National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center, General Auditorium, 101 Pivers Island Road, Beaufort, N.C.

The assessment will evaluate the health of Atlantic menhaden and inform the management of the species, according to ASMFC stock assessment scientist Dr. Genny Nesslerage. The commission's stock assessment process and meetings are open to the public, with the exception of discussions of confidential data, said Dr. Nesslerage.

The commission welcomes the submission of alterna-

tive analyses and models for consideration in the Atlantic menhaden benchmark stock assessment, she said. For alternative analyses and models to be considered, they must be sent in the required format, with accompanying description of methods to the commission by May 2.

Requirements for submitting and presenting material are avail-

Fish cage forum coming to Saluda

Virginia State University's Aquaculture Extension Program will conduct an intensive cage production forum from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 16 at the farm of Donnie Perry on Northwoods Lane off Route 33 in Saluda.

For new and prospective fish farmers interested in growing fish in cages, the workshop will include discussions and demonstrations covering cage production, construction and design; and processing, marketing and community supported agriculture, said media relations coordinator William Gee.

A \$10 per person registration fee includes lunch. Register online by April 9 at tinyurl.com/vsufishcage2014, or contact VSU fish health specialist Dr. David Crosby at 524-5620, or dcrosby@vsu.edu.

able at gnesslage@asmfc.org. The benchmark stock assessment will be peer reviewed through the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review process in December 2014 in Atlantic Beach, N.C.

For details on attending this workshop, contact fishery management plan coordinator Michael Wayne at mwayne@asmfc.org.

JEWELRY FACTS

BY ROSS CHRISTIANSEN



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Dolls by Shirley Kinney will be on display at her studio in Lancaster.

Area artists to open studios for NPL tour

Arts Alive, the Northumberland Public Library's fifth annual artist studio tour, is slated April 5 and 6.

More than 20 artists in the lower Northern Neck will participate in this self-drive tour, reported board of trustees president Micki Pugh. Additional artist groups will display their works at three guild sites at Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern (RHHT) in Heathsville.

Ticket-holders may observe artists at work in their studios and purchase artwork created in the community. Proceeds from the tour benefit the library, said Pugh.

This two-day tour wends its way from Heathsville to Reedville to White Stone and Lancaster, with studios scattered at points in between.

New to the line-up are Lynn Savarese, stained glass; Laura McLeod, metal work; Jacqueline Leavitt, watercolor/pastel/pen/pencil; Judy Penry, basketweaving; Maggie Lyons, writing; Renate Muller, pottery; Franklin Rixey, watercolor; CarolAnne Taylor, photography; Alice Burgess, watercolor; Linda England, mixed media, art quilts; and Sue Broadway, jewelry.

Returning artists are Julie Seder, jewelry; Shirley Kinney, clay, gourd sculptures and cloth figures; Sid Mace, wood turning; Diana Jamison, oil painting; Brian Jones, pottery; Andy Pitts, furniture; Ron Taylor, metal sculpture; Charles Van Denburgh, oil painting; Sue Starkey, mosaics; Mary Carter, jewelry; Penny Mace, fiber arts; Rhonda Lawrence, silversmith-

ing; and Connie deBordenave, watercolor.

RHHT exhibitors include the Blacksmith Guild in the Forge, the Woodworkers Guild in the Carriage House and the Spinners & Weavers in the Tavern.

Ticket-holders will receive a detailed map. The map also is available at nplva.org. Tour hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 5 and noon to 5 p.m. April 6.

Light refreshments will be provided at the studios. Most studios have access to rest rooms, and several of the studios are fully handicap accessible. Door prizes of selected artwork are on display at the library.

Tickets are \$20; children younger than age 12 will be admitted free. Tickets may be purchased at the Northumberland Public Library, Foxy, Wildest Dreams, and EVB branches in Callao, Heathsville, Burgess and Kilmarnock. Brochures will be available when purchasing a ticket, and they will also be supplied to local post offices and a number of business locations.

Additional supporters are Ingram Bay Contracting, WCVE, House and Home Magazine, Bank of Lancaster, Chesapeake Bank, Essex Bank, EVB, Allison's ACE Hardware, Callao Supermarket, Car Wash Café, Cralle Insurance Agency, Fourth Lloyd Productions, Glenn Lester Co. Inc. Harford Tire Service Inc., Jacey Vineyards, Jayne McQuade, Kilmarnock Inn, Luna, Olin-Fox Farms Inc., Pritchard & Fallin and The Orchard.

Snapshot of Virginia farm statistics came at good time

Preliminary findings from the 2012 U.S. Census of Agriculture were released February 20, and Virginia came out looking pretty good in some respects.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture surveys America's farmers every five years.

The most recent survey found that, in contrast to surrounding states, the amount of land in farms in Virginia increased by more than 229,000 acres, to a total of 8.33 million acres. The average farm size also grew by 10 acres, to 181 acres.

"Based on the preliminary report, we noticed that any Virginia farm that has 100 acres or more increased in size in 2012," said Herman Ellison, Virginia statistician for the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

"The other category we can look at is farms by economic class. (In 2012), farms that generated \$50,000 in income or more also increased in number, while our (smaller) farms generating less than \$50,000 a year decreased" from 41,645 in 2007 to 39,113 in 2012," said Ellison.

It's hard to draw strong conclusions from the preliminary report, he said. The full census report is expected in May.

However, he noted 2012 was a year with record prices for grain farmers.

"That's when we had high grain prices for corn, soybeans and wheat. This is also the year there was a major drought in the Midwest grain areas," said Ellison. "Our corn yields didn't do so well, but we had a record year for soybean production."

Timing might have been everything when it came to the larger numbers for Virginia farmland, said Dr. Gordon Groover, an associate professor in Virginia Tech's Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. He speculated that higher grain prices going into 2012 might have led some farmers to convert pastures and hay land to crop production, especially in Southside Virginia. As for farms getting larger, that's a long-term trend he wasn't surprised to see continue.

"If capital inputs like tractors, buildings and land prices have increased in costs, the one way for farmers to stay current is to expand production and reduce the fixed cost per unit of production," said Groover.

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation assistant director of commodity marketing Tony

Businesses show strong support for MDA Benefit

Lois Pinel of Team Amiee's Angels recently announced some of the sponsors and businesses supporting the MDA Benefit from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 26 at the White Stone Church of the Nazarene, 57 Whisk Drive, White Stone.

The event will include entertainment, a soup and salad bar, information and a silent auction. Tickets will be \$10 per person at the door. Children younger than age 12 are free.

"Members of the community with neuromuscular disorders are urged to attend and will also enter free," said Pinel, who with her husband, Greg, are organizing the event in honor of their 4-year-old granddaughter, Aimee Reese Phelps. Aimee was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, SMA, at age 20 months.

To purchase tickets in advance, contact Lois Pinel at gandlerprises@hotmail.com, or 438-5566, or

Rachel at Chesapeake Bank in Kilmarnock.

Representatives of Rappahannock General Hospital and the Northern Neck Family YMCA will conduct free health screenings and offer health and fitness guidelines, said Pinel.

Other sponsors to date are Dehnert, Clarke, & Co., Wilby's Catering, Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club, Visiting Angels and Tri-Star Supermarket. To become a sponsor, or donate an item for the auction, contact Pinel.

They thank all of their sponsors as well as the many businesses and individuals who have donated items for the silent auction, said Pinel.

Silent auction contributors and items include:

- Good Luck Cellars, gift basket with wine, crackers, olive oil and gift certificate.
- The Local, coffee mug and gift certificate.
- Foxy, necklace and earring set.

- Jimmy and Sook, men's polo shirt.
- King Carter Golf Club, four rounds of golf, with cart.
- The Country Cottage, basket with ice cream and treats.
- Nate's Trick Dog, gift certificate.
- Shear Pleasure Salon, gift certificate and product.
- Burkes Fine Jewelers, gift certificate.
- Northern Neck Burger Company, gift certificate.
- Rappahannock Hang Ups, nautical accent mirror.
- RGH Volunteer Auxiliary Gift Shop, two Climaweave pillows.
- Poolside Spas, start-up kit.
- KC's Crabs and Cues, gift certificate.
- River Pools, pool opening.
- The Hope and Glory Inn, creek cruise aboard the Faded Glory, including beer, wine and snacks.
- Yours Truly Photography, family portrait session with a

- 16x20 print.
- The Sports Centre, gift certificate.
- Merle Norman Studios, airbrush tan and a facial hair/eyebrow threading.
- Sal's Pizza, a one-topping pizza.
- Rappahannock Florist, an accent tree and decorative pot.
- The Earth Store, gardening supplies.
- Kilmarnock Animal Hospital, a pet basket.
- Blue Water Seafood and Deli, gift certificate.
- The Bank of Lancaster, Franklin print.
- Linda Cales, hand-crafted wreath.
- Carried Away Cuisine, gourmet goodies.
- A grandmother of an SMA child, a handmade quilt.
- Sears of Kilmarnock, 192-piece tool set.
- Anonymous donor, queen-sized Christmas quilt, two pillow shams, bedskirt and three-piece goblet set.



Exhibit continues through March 29

Shortly after the Rappahannock Art League opened the Studio Gallery, 19 North Main Street, Kilmarnock, a group of 12 artists decided to get together to paint and critique their work. This Experimental Group has an exhibit at the gallery through March 29. From left are Linda Bruner, Nancy Reath, Jacquie Colligan, Sarah Soderlund, Marge Alderson, Mel Neale and Sue Ramsey. Other group members also exhibiting are Lella Lee Edwards, Naomi Myrick, Rose Nygaard and Joan Robinson.

Gas prices blast off in February

Gas prices ended February with the largest increase since July. The national average shot upwards 17 cents per gallon, up 5%, over the course of the month. February 28's national average price was \$3.45 per gallon.

In Virginia, the current average price for unleaded gasoline was \$3.25, a 9-cent increase for the month.

"Strong winter storms and weak demand have helped to keep gas prices lower this winter, but many drivers recently have noticed that it is starting to cost more to full up," said Georjeane Blumling of AAA Tidewater Virginia. "We are entering the more expensive time of the year for visiting the gas station, as prices rise primarily due to seasonal refinery maintenance."

Gas prices averaged \$3.34 per gallon in February, the cheapest monthly national average since 2011. By comparison, prices nationally averaged \$3.65 in February 2013, \$3.55 in February 2012 and \$3.17 in February 2011.

The price of domestic West Texas Intermediate crude oil has increased about \$5 per barrel for the month. Crude oil represents about two-thirds of the cost of gasoline, and producers generally pass along increased oil costs to consumers in the form of higher gas prices.

As part of North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA Tidewater Virginia provides its more than 325,000 members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services.

Banks said the Census of Agriculture "is a five-year snapshot that captures an image of the agricultural economy. In 2012, we saw high grain and oilseed prices and higher meat and dairy prices. But many areas of Virginia, as well as the nation, were experiencing drought" and were affected by other circumstances not captured by the census, such as severe weather and exchange rates.

That means that, while the latest census paints a good picture for Virginia agriculture, the battle for farm profitability never ends, said Banks.

"In 2014, grain prices are expected to trend lower, and cattlemen are trying to rebuild their herds after a couple years of drought and responding to higher beef prices. So farmers are always facing an ever-changing set of factors," he said.

Among general trends in the preliminary census report, the average age of a Virginia farmer crept up again, from 58 to 59. The number of Virginia farmers dropped from 47,383 in 2007 to 46,036 in 2012, and the number of female farmers declined from 7,846 in 2007 to 7,653 in 2012.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Job workshops

Upcoming Virginia Employment Commission workshops include Budgeting/Personal Finance at 3 p.m. on March 13; Interviewing Skills on March 18; Careers in Banking on March 19; and Customer Skills Workshop on March 25.

The workshops will be held at 10 a.m. at the VEC Workforce Center, 14243 Historyland Highway, Warsaw, unless otherwise noted.

Artisans tour

Virginia artisans interested in joining the 20th Artisans Studio Tour must apply by April 1. The free tour will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. November 8 and 9. The tour features Virginia's finest handmade craft professionals.

Visitors get an intimate and detailed look at the life of local artisans. Apply at artisanstudio-tour.com, or contact tour director Nancy Ross at director@artisanstudio-tour.com or 434-973-6846.

Home parade

The Lancaster by the Bay Chamber of Commerce seeks participation in the third annual Parade of Homes by the Bay on May 30 and 31. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on May 30, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 31.

The parade of homes will feature properties in various categories including stick built, modular, remodels, additions and interior/exterior designs. Vendors will be paired with presenters and will act as co-hosts of the homes. Vendors involved with home building, home improvement, decorating and landscaping are needed. Interested builders and vendors can contact Cindi Huey at 435-6092, or info@lancasterva.com.

Print marketing

The University of Mary Washington Small Business Development Center Warsaw office will offer a Print Marketing workshop from 1 to 3 p.m. March 18, at Rappahannock Community Col-



Windy Walden Samuel

Samuel named RGH employee for March 2014

Windy Walden Samuel has been selected as the Rappahannock General Hospital Employee of the Month for March 2014.

Samuel works in the RGH dietary department, and has been employed with RGH since August 1998.

The daughter of Betty and the late David Walden of Delta-ville, Samuel has two children, David Lee and Tiffany; a brother, Brandon; and six grandchildren, Davion, Kayleigh, Nevaeh, Destanie, Kaleb and Kamryn; as well as a special friend, Kevin.

A resident of Middlesex County, she is a member of the Middlesex County Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary. She enjoys gardening, selling Avon and spending time with her grandchildren.

She enjoys working with her co-workers in dietary, and is thankful to RGH for this award, said Samuel.

lege Kilmarnock Center, 447 North Main Street, Kilmarnock

The fee is \$20. The registration deadline is March 14. Call Bonnie Haywood at 333-0286, or email bhaywood@umw.edu, or jcorprew@umw.edu.

Veterans

The Virginia Employment Commission will host a veterans' representative from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 13, 18, 20, 25 and 27 at the VEC Workforce Center at 14243 Historyland Highway in Warsaw. All veterans and their families are welcome to discuss employment assistance.

Vendor call

The Mary Ball Washington Museum, 8346 Mary Ball Road, Lancaster, seeks artists, crafters, antique dealers, shopkeepers, authors, museums and other vendors for sales, information and activity booths at the fourth annual Lancaster Court Day Arts, Crafts and History Festival April 12.

Fees are \$30 for a 10 x 10-foot space or \$50 for a 10 x 20-foot space. Nonprofit groups may request a fee waiver for information booths. Download the vendor application at mbwm.org, or contact history@mbwm.org, or 462-7280.

Vendors wanted

The Deltaville Community Association seeks quality, hand-made arts and crafts vendors for the Deltaville Seafood Festival on May 24. The fee for a 10-by-10-foot space is \$60. Booths are expected to be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proceeds go to the Deltaville Community Association and the Deltaville Community Center. For an application, contact Kris Scherer at 776-7117, or riversng@aol.com.

Veteran-certified

Southern States Cooperative recently was recognized by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, with a Bronze level certification as a part of the Virginia Values Veterans program.

Virginia Values Veterans trains and encourages Virginia employers to actively recruit, hire and retain returning veterans in their workforce. Southern States has pledged to increase their percentage of new hire veterans on an ongoing basis.

Northern Neck Insurance Company welcomes two to management team

Northern Neck Insurance Company president and chief executive officer Peter Cammarata recently announced the hiring of two new managers.

Carroll Wilson, a Chartered Property & Casualty Underwriter, has recently joined the management team as the underwriting manager.

Wilson joins the company with 20 years of experience in the insurance industry. He recently worked for Genworth Financial in product development specializing in long term care, life insurance and annuities.

Prior to Genworth, he worked for State Farm Insurance for 12 years as an underwriter and underwriting supervisor.

Bruce Brizzi recently joined the management team as a vice president. Brizzi comes to Northern Neck with broad experience in the insurance industry having worked with several national carriers and demonstrated success working with agents through the



Carroll Wilson



Bruce Brizzi

independent agency channel.

His most recent experience was in a sales and marketing capacity. He also has experience in the claims arena having managed two large multi-line claims centers. His well-rounded insurance background also includes several years of insurance training and education.

"We're excited to have Carroll and Bruce join the Northern Neck management team as they

together provide management and technical expertise in all areas of insurance operations as well as a collaborative spirit and enthusiasm for the business," said Cammarata.

The Northern Neck Insurance Company, now in its 119th year is the 11th largest writer of homeowner's insurance in Virginia and provides over \$17 billion in coverage to policyholders throughout the Commonwealth. The company is headquartered in Irvington and has an agency network of approximately 125 agents.

FEMA seeks experts for advisory council

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requests individuals interested in serving on the National Advisory Council (NAC) to apply for appointment.

The NAC is an advisory council established to ensure effective and ongoing coordination of federal preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters, reported Peter Herrick Jr.

The NAC advises the FEMA administrator on all aspects of emergency management while incorporating the whole community's input through appointed council members.

The NAC consists of up to 35 members, all of whom are experts and leaders in their respective fields. The members of the NAC are appointed by the administrator and are composed of federal, state, tribal, local, private sector and non-profit leaders and subject matter experts in a wide range of disciplines.

Appointments are for a three-year term, said Herrick. The NAC meets in person approximately two times a year.

The NAC will have one position open for applications and nominations in emergency management, emergency response, non-elected local government officials, elected tribal government leaders, health scientist, communications, infrastructure, standards settings and accrediting, and disabilities.

For details, visit FEMA.gov/National-Advisory-Council.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Quotes as of: Close on 3/10/14

AT&T	32.29
Altria (Philip Morris)	36.85
BB & T Corp.	39.04
Bay Banks VA	5.84
Ches Fin Shrs	18.05
CSX Corporation	28.81
Davenport Equity Fund	19.53
Davenport Value + Income Fund	14.71
Davenport Equity Opp Fund	16.04
Bank of America	17.38
Dominion Resources	68.10
Eastern VA Bank Shares	6.35
Exxon Mobil	94.88
IBM	187.98
MDLZ	35.20
Omega Protein	13.00
Sun Trust Banks	39.29
Union First Market Bankshares	26.19
Verizon	46.77
Wells Fargo	48.08

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

SIGN AND RIDE EVENT*

\$0

MONEY DOWN

\$0

DUE AT SIGNING

\$0

FIRST MONTH'S PAYMENT*

Taxes, title and license fees extra

2014 FOCUS

CASH DUE AT SIGNING IS AFTER \$1,000 RCL CASH

PLUS \$500 COMPETITIVE LEASE CONQUEST CASH

2014 FUSION

CASH DUE AT SIGNING IS AFTER \$1,000 RCL CASH

PLUS \$1,000 COMPETITIVE LEASE CONQUEST CASH

2014 ESCAPE

CASH DUE AT SIGNING IS AFTER \$1,200 RCL CASH

PLUS \$1,000 COMPETITIVE LEASE CONQUEST CASH

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1. Competitive Lease Conquest Cash, available to customers who currently lease a competitive (non-Ford Motor Company) vehicle or have terminated a competitive lease up to 30 days prior to new retail delivery. Lease termination not required. Not available with other private offers, lease renewal, owner loyalty or other conquest offers.