

Please send your suggestions and photos to us: homepage@gazettejournal.net; Home Page, PO Box 2060, Gloucester, Va., 23061; 693-3101; fax, 693-7844.

YOUR BEST PHOTOS



PHOTO BY BROWN STRIGLE, GLOUCESTER, VA

Kittens in a logpile

These three kittens find a safe haven in a rotted out piece of wood in northern Gloucester.

ACTS OF KINDNESS

Showing gratitude to those who have shared a helping hand

Community rallies around injured girl

On Aug. 21, Cobbs Creek residents Jason and Kim West's 12-year-old daughter, Maranda, jumped off their dock, severely breaking her leg and ankle, fracturing her tibia in two places, as well as her ankle. Maranda was sent to Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters in Norfolk and spent three days there. She has avoided surgery thus far and her mother said she is doing remarkably well.

This is only the beginning of the story, however. According to Mrs. West, the outpouring of concern for Maranda from various community members has been "amazing." West said Dr. Karen Ransone, a local pediatrician, was "absolutely wonderful," going "above and beyond" to help her daughter.

Meanwhile, she said Maranda's friends stuck by her daughter during the trauma. Neighbors Jim and Katherine Douglas rushed to their aid to get Maranda from the dock. Friend Jennifer Smith "eagerly stepped forward" to take care of the couple's other daughter, Gracie, Mrs. West said.

The caring continued, as nurses at Riverside Walter Reed Hospital "were so caring and spectacular to Maranda while she was waiting for transport" and churches added the girl to their prayer lists.

Mathews Baptist Church, among others, she said added Maranda to their prayer lists. "Of course it goes without saying that our families have been a blessing and for their love and support we are eternally grateful," Mrs. West said.

As for arrangements for Maranda's education, Mrs. West said Donna Power, the assistant schools superintendent in Mathews, arranged homebound schooling for her. "She was remarkable. Within 30 minutes, she called me back with a teacher, and all the information I needed." She said division superintendent David Holleran was also "magnificent." "Even though he wouldn't be returning to the office for three days, he called me that same afternoon to tell me not to worry; I could

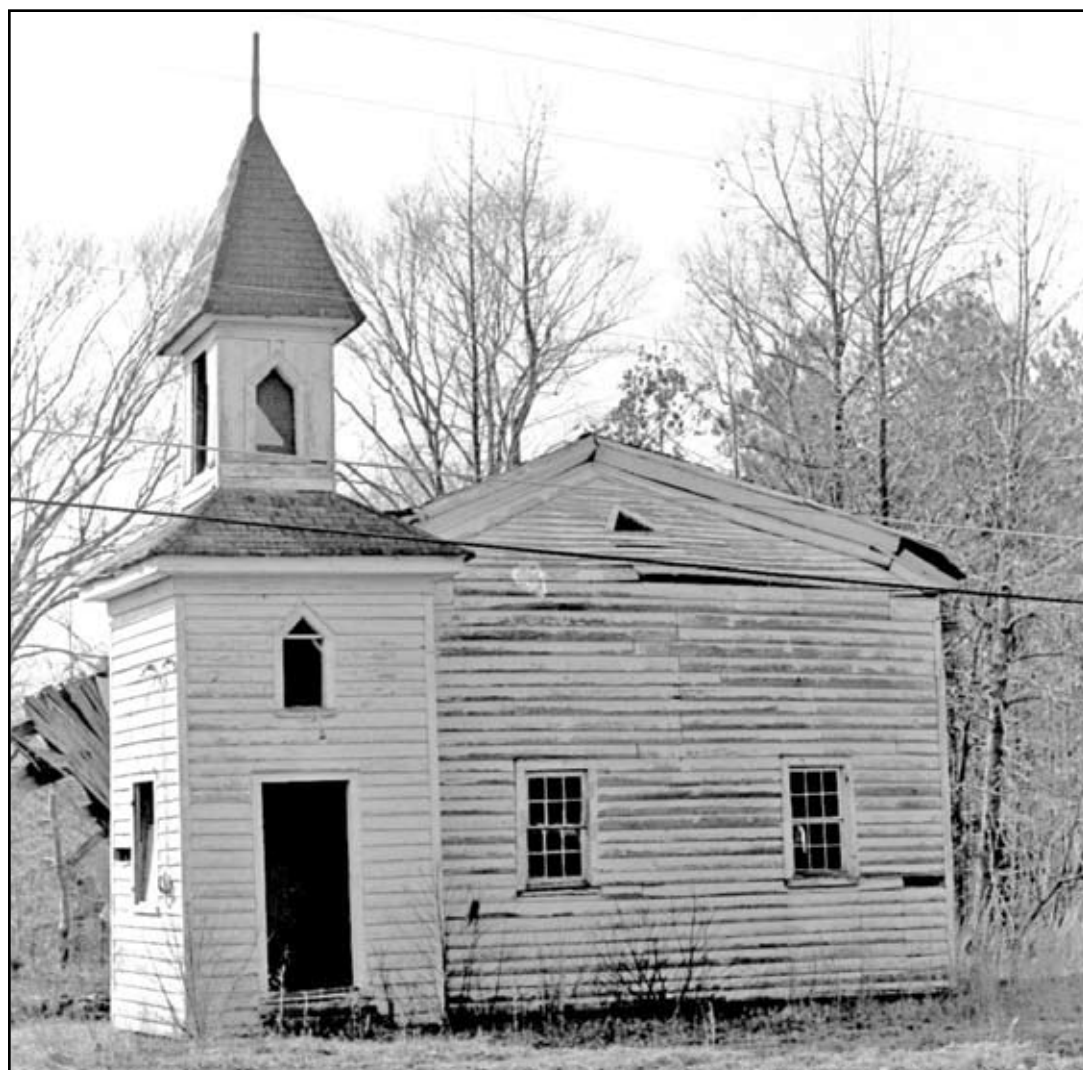
go ahead and take off to be with my daughter."

Mrs. West said Maranda's school, Thomas Hunter, has been "superb" toward her. "They are so caring and truly concerned with her recovery. Her seventh grade teachers have done a great job providing work for Maranda's homebound schooling." She said Tina Northrup, Maranda's homebound instructor, has been very accommodating for the family's crazy schedule.

Finally, West said she is the third grade aide at Lee-Jackson Elementary School. "I have to say we are a family," Mrs. West said. "Our new principal Drew Greve has been so supportive; he has accommodated my teachers with an awesome aide, Reagan Thompson, to help them keep things running smoothly in my absence." She said the third grade teachers at Lee-Jackson are "wonderful." "They are so understanding and true friends."

WHO WHAT WHEN?

Can you help us identify and date this photo from our files?



Who knows?

This church stood on Route 17 between Gloucester Court House and Ark. It was long-abandoned and near collapse when this photograph was made in February 1990. What was its name? Its history? We would be glad to hear from any readers who remember something about the church; please call us at 693-3101.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

What are your interests, hobbies and passions?



SARAH RAMSEY / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Gloucester resident Bud Merritt has been collecting trains since he was a youngster. He received his first Lionel train set on his first Christmas in 1954.

Large collection of toy trains reflects nation's growth stages

BY SARAH RAMSEY

It is surprising that train whistles cannot be heard throughout the streets of Holly Springs subdivision in Gloucester from resident Bud Merritt's very large train collection. Bud has been collecting trains almost since birth, receiving his first Lionel train set on his first Christmas in 1954. Lionel-gauge model trains are Merritt's passion, but he has several different varieties of trains.

Lionel has a rich history behind its start in the early 1900s, which is one reason

why Merritt enjoys them so much. Merritt finds that Lionel trains "take you on a trip through the history of the United States. Anything going on in the U.S. is reflected in the different makes and models of the trains." From the times of simple living in the early 1900s to war times with missiles, bombers, and airplanes, Lionel reflects the different stages of growth the United States has been through, each with a high quality immaculate model. Even Merritt's oldest train from 1914 is still in great condition for being almost a century old.

Merritt considers his collection his retirement and jokes that when he does retire from owner of 3 Guys Auto in Hayes, he will be up in his "play room" playing with his trains. However, the trains are not only collectible but also an investment. Merritt said that the value of his trains and boxes are going up faster than his IRAs.

Merritt deeply enjoys his trains and accessories and has for many years. He says the trains "help keep him a big kid" and he looks forward to getting more and building more tracks and room for them.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Residents actively making for a better place to live, work and play

Nancy Lindgren

A fine cut diamond with radiance reflecting off its many facets—Nancy Lindgren—Mathews County resident and multipurpose person. Multipurpose in the sense that she has many purposes in and for her life. Nancy and her husband Milt were active in the Friends of the Library where they were instrumental in raising funds for the renovation of the Mathews Memorial Library. They were also both active in the Mathews Maritime Foundation.

Milt Lindgren died in August 2006 while sailing on the East River. Nancy continued with the Mathews Maritime Foundation as president and took on the daunting task of organizing the first Mathews Maritime Heritage Day held in September 2006. Since then the Maritime Heritage Day has become a classic celebration of the maritime history and culture of Mathews County.



Nancy Lindgren

Beside her duties as president of MMF, Nancy collects, organizes, and documents photographs for the annual maritime calendar, recruits speakers for the monthly lecture series, and mans the duty station of the Maritime Museum. Often, donor boats can be found docked at her pier awaiting new owners. Each May, cyclists on the

Tour de Chesapeake route can find her serving refreshments at the Horn Harbor rest stop.

Nancy also volunteers for Meals on Wheels and as a docent for the Mathews County Historical Society. Frequently, she can be found helping out at community blood drives. She is currently corresponding secretary for the Friends of the Library.

For fun, Nancy enjoys the camaraderie and exercise of LIPPS (The Ladies International Picnic and Paddling Society). Nancy enjoys her grandchildren's visits and the guest residents in her rental unit Lilleham.

Nancy Lindgren, with an attitude mixed with patience, determination and peacefulness, has connected with the community as a leader and volunteer. She shares her life and enthusiasm with many and continues to volunteer in numerous areas.

~Submitted by Janet Loyd

LOCAL HEROES

Extraordinary acts by local people, now and in the past

Deputy and Heimlich save a life

In the week of Aug. 24, 1995 Deputy Steve Giles was involved in saving a man's life at the McDonald's restaurant near Gloucester Court House. While visiting the restaurant with his wife and five-year-old daughter, Giles and his wife noticed a man in distress. The older gentleman was appar-

ently choking.

"I tried the Heimlich once and nothing happened, but I've never tried it on anyone before, just the dummies used in resuscitation training. The man became pale, broke out in a sweat, and his lips began to turn blue, so I decided to try again, with more force.

This time I pulled as hard as I could, there was a big burst of air from him and the food became dislodged," said Giles.

After the ordeal Giles and his wife made sure the man and his wife were all right. They never learned the man's name.

This page is for YOU!

The Gazette-Journal invites your submissions of community photos, heroes, ideas for places to visit and any other story that may highlight residents of Gloucester and Mathews. Please send your submissions to homepage@gazettejournal.net or call 693-3101.