

GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS GAZETTE-JOURNAL

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PHOTO BY AMY SMITH

Uncovering history

The archaeologists at the Fairfield Foundation have spent years uncovering the history of Mathews County, with a dig at a location in Port Haywood, completed in 2019. Work at the Hall site revealed a number of significant 17th and 18th century artifacts providing a glimpse into what life was like in the colonial era. The foundation's Gloucester Court House office, located in a restored Texaco service station, represents a more recent era of the region's history. Amy Smith recently took this striking photo of the building (along with her 2019 2SS Camaro convertible pulled up to the gas pumps). For more on the Mathews County dig, see story on page 10A.

Requests made to remove monument in Mathews

BY ELSA VERBYLA

The Mathews County Board of Supervisors received several requests Tuesday night to take down the Confederate monument that has stood on Mathews Court Green since 1912.

Online requests read to the board said the monument is divisive and a bitter reminder to the county's African-American population of the days of slavery and Jim Crow.

No action was taken or proposed at the meeting.

In other business, the board approved three zoning applications.

The board held its first in-person meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic began sweeping the nation in March. To allow for social distancing in a crowd, the meeting was held in the Mathews High School auditorium, with seats spread out, and packets of sanitizing cloths at each microphone so disinfection could take place between speakers. Masks

were required.

Board members and staff were spaced apart at tables on the stage.

The online comments were also new to the board meeting format, allowing people to express their opinions without risking exposure in a crowd. County administrator Mindy Conner said every comment received by Tuesday's cutoff at noon was read; more came in after the deadline, she said, and will be read at the next board meeting.

Confederate monument

Julia Forrest of Mathews said the monument "is a reminder to the African American population and other citizens of the enslavement, cruel oppression, exclusion/segregation, Jim Crow laws, and the wicked treatment of our ancestors by those who used Black people to enrich themselves ... The monuments and indeed the Confederate flags that stand as banners over this county are

SEE MATHEWS SUPERVISORS, PAGE 5A



ELSA VERBYLA / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

The Confederate monument has stood in Mathews since 1912. The Mathews Board of Supervisors received requests on Tuesday night to remove it. No action was taken.

Mathews School Board meets tonight

The Mathews County School Board will hold a special meeting at 6 o'clock tonight in the Harry M. Ward Auditorium at Mathews High School.

Thursday's meeting will include a public announcement of school reopening plans for the fall semester. Earlier this month, Schools Superintendent Nancy Welch sketched out preliminary plans for the fall opening, which included a hybrid model for the first few weeks with the possibility of going to entirely online instruction for middle and high school students after that.

During the July 21 meeting, she indicated that all is contingent upon the spread of the coronavirus in the county, the region and state.

Tonight's meeting will also include discussion of procedural considerations in setting up a school name advisory committee. Also at the July 21 meeting, a request had been made to consider changing the name of Lee-Jackson Elementary. School board chairman John Priest indicated at that time that the matter will be brought to a conclusion no later than Jan. 1, 2021.

The agenda for tonight's meeting includes no opportunities for public comment.

Gloucester to begin school year virtually

BY KIM ROBINS

The Gloucester County School Board voted 5-2 Tuesday night to conduct the first nine weeks of the 2020-2021 school year virtually. Board vice chairman Elisa Nelson and member Darren Post both objected.

The school division will begin offering online instruction for all students beginning Sept. 8. The board said it may start to phase in school openings for some students when there is a decrease in the COVID-19 transmission rate.

In other business, the board

voted 4-3 to hold its meetings electronically through August.

This would include its Aug. 6 retreat from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and its regular monthly meeting on Aug. 18 at 5:30 p.m. Board chairman Robin Rice and members Troy Andersen and Post objected.

2nd COVID-19 fatality listed in Gloucester; death was in May

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

A second COVID-19 death was listed for Gloucester County on Wednesday morning, but that is not when the person, a male in his 60s, died. According to Lisa Laurier, Population Health Manager for the Three Rivers Health District, the man's death occurred in May.

Laurier said that there is an ongoing review of deaths

that occur at the state level, and that a review of the Gloucester resident's vital records and death certificate had determined that the novel coronavirus was a contributing factor in his death. She said she had no further information she could share on the man.

The number of coronavirus cases in Gloucester and Mathews continued to trend upward this week, with 138

cases in Gloucester and 12 cases in Mathews as of Wednesday morning. These numbers were an increase of 26 new cases for Gloucester and three for Mathews.

The number of people hospitalized for the illness locally remained stable this week, with just one new hospitalization in Gloucester, for a total of 12, and two hospitaliza-

SEE COVID-19, PAGE 12A

State clamping down on Hampton Roads

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

The state is clamping down on Hampton Roads communities after a continued increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, intensive care unit hospitalizations, and emergency room visits there over the past several weeks.

This crackdown does not include Gloucester or Mathews counties, where numbers have increased but

the rate of positive cases remains low.

During a press briefing Tuesday, Gov. Ralph Northam said that the increase is largely due to increased socialization among young people, including for birthdays, backyard barbecues, and other celebrations, and he announced that a number of measures would be taken to address the problem.

The new measures, which

go into effect at midnight tonight, include prohibiting the on-site sale, consumption and possession of alcohol after 10 p.m. in any restaurant, dining establishment, food court, brewery, microbrewery, winery or tasting room. On top of that, he ordered that all such establishments close by midnight, and that indoor dining in them be lim-

SEE HAMPTON ROADS, PAGE 7A

Ware Academy to resume in-person classes

BY KIM ROBINS

Ware Academy is preparing to start the new school year with in-person classes on Aug. 10.

"We have a COVID mitigation plan in place. We will take the children's temperatures before they get out of the car in the morning and again at lunch. We have sneeze guards for tables and plenty of hand sanitizer," said Dawn Fleet, head of school for the private Gloucester academy which serves students from three years of age through eighth grade.

"We will be requiring masks in public areas, such as hallways. Right now they are optional in the classroom," said Fleet. She

SEE WARE ACADEMY, PAGE 12A



PHOTO BY LINDA TIOSSEM

Harvest time

The ordinary cycle of life still goes on, in spite of the pandemic, including tending to the crops in the field. Here, round bales of hay in a field near Ark on Monday present a familiar and picturesque scene in the light of the setting sun.



INSIDE THIS WEEK

Gloucester4A	Coming Events10A	Variety5B
Mathews5A	Schools11A-12A	Days Past6B
Gloucester Point6A	Sports13A-14A	Business7B
Editorial7A	Community News1B	Public Record8B
Arts8A	Church News3B-5B	Classifieds9B-12B

Are You Prepared?

In this week's special section, the Gazette-Journal considers hurricanes and other disasters, financial preparedness, getting ready for the school year and much more.

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Bay Aging expands services in Gloucester, thanks to county

"We really appreciate the leadership role Gloucester County has taken to support Bay Aging," the organization's president and CEO Kathy Vesley said, speaking about the partnership between the county and Bay Aging have entered to provide a variety of critical services to Gloucester residents during the pandemic.

The programs and services, which are available to eligible county residents effective immediately, include a rent and mortgage relief program, continuation of Bay Aging's popular Helping Neighbors hot meal delivery program, financial assistance for in-home personal care, and expanded Bay Transit bus service.

"COVID-19 has proven to be a formidable public health and economic crisis and these services will be a lifeline to many of our most vulnerable residents," Vesley said.

The rent and mortgage relief program is available to eligible residents who are facing eviction or foreclosure for non-payment due to a loss of income related to COVID-19. To qualify, applicants must be able to demonstrate a reduction of income by at least 25 percent directly due to COVID-19, have a lease or mortgage statement in their name, and have been current on their payments through March. The program requires landlord cooperation, homeowners to first seek forbearance options through their lending institution, and all applicants to be current on their local taxes.

Bay Aging created an easy-to-complete pre-application form on its website at www.BayAging.org. For those without internet access, information can be obtained by calling 804-758-2386 and selecting option 1.

Helping Neighbors

Bay Aging's Helping Neighbors hot meal delivery program is a continuation of an initiative started in late April

to provide free, twice weekly hot meals delivered by volunteers to the homes of county residents who are 60+ and are self-isolating during the pandemic. "Helping Neighbors is purchasing hot dinner meals lovingly prepared by local restaurants," Vesley said. "Our dedicated volunteers are delivering them on Mondays and Wednesdays in the early evenings." Interested participants, ages 60+, should call Bay Aging at 800-493-0238 to learn more about program eligibility.

Bay Aging has been providing home care services throughout the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula for decades. With Gloucester County's support, eligible caregivers who are struggling to find or afford in-home care for their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic may now be able to receive financial assistance for home care services. Qualified individuals must be 60 years of age or older with frailties or disabilities and at risk of institutional placement. Interested participants age 60+ should call Bay Aging at 800-493-0238 to learn more about Bay Aging's home care services and financial assistance opportunities.

Bay Transit

For many, Bay Aging's public transportation service, Bay Transit, is vital for getting to work, doctors' appointments, the grocery stores, pharmacies and more. Bay Transit has operated without interruption throughout the pandemic and will now offer an additional bus to get Gloucester County residents where they need to go while increasing safety protocols that keep riders safe while traveling. Gloucester has also authorized expanded hours on Bay Transit's popular flexible fixed-route services in the county. The Courthouse Circulator and Hive Express bus lines now operate eight hours a day, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit the Bay Transit website at www.BayTransit.org



Bay Transit buses are all equipped with plastic shields to protect drivers and passengers during the boarding and alighting process.



Shirley Wesley is a Helping Neighbors meals recipient, a program providing twice-weekly hot meals from area restaurants to seniors who are self-isolating during the pandemic.

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Supervisors to hold two hearings Tuesday

BY TYLER BASS

The Gloucester County Board of Supervisors will hold two public hearings—on a proposed one-year postponement of the county reassessment, and a tax exemption request from Gloucester Youth Baseball—when the board meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the T.C. Walker Education Center.

Both public hearings were requested during the board's July meeting. County Assessor Dan Thomas requested that board consider postponing the county's property reassessment, which is currently scheduled for 2022. He said that pushing the assessment to 2023 will allow his department to record adequate data on the real estate market in Gloucester.

Thomas cited several factors that would cause inaccurate results or strain on the staff. The outbreak of COVID-19 has had an impact on the housing market and may influence sales negatively, which would be reflected in the assessment. Thomas also listed that lack of staffing is a hurdle they would face with the 2022 date.

Gloucester Youth Baseball treasurer James House presented the request for a tax exemption. He said that the baseball fields don't have any large sources of income aside from field advertisements, and that gaining a tax exemption would help them afford needed field improvements. He cited the need for field lights as a costly improvement they are looking to add.

The meeting may be viewed on the county's website at gloucestervera.info/640/Meeting-Portal as well as Cox Channel 48.



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HRSD Mathews pump station online

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

The new HRSD sewage pump station on Main Street in Mathews went online last month, serving 180 residential connections and 120 business connections.

Leila Rice, director of communications for the Hampton Roads Sanitation District, said that some of the residential connections serve more than one residence, and that the district has ensured that the new station can accommodate future projected flows from every parcel within the sanitary district, based on the current zoning. In addition, she said, there is some room for expansion if the county were to decide to expand the sanitary district.

According to the project plan provided by Rice, the new station contains an upgraded computer system that allows for remotely gathering and analyzing data and providing operational control in real time.

Asked whether the new station would increase rates for customers, Rice said that regional wastewater rates



SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

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are assessed annually by the HRSD Commission, and that the commission chose not to increase rates for the current fiscal year, which began on July 1.

The new station replaces a vacuum pump station located off Buckley Hall Road on property adjacent to Hands Across Mathews. Rice said that station was built in 1969 and had

reached the end of its useful life. Preplanning for its replacement began in January 2016, and construction on the new station began last year.

While the old station will be demolished, said Rice, the property it is on will still be encumbered by vacuum lines and a force main.

3 applications on Mathews Wetlands Board agenda

BY TYLER BASS

The Mathews Wetlands Board will meet at 7 p.m. next Wednesday, Aug. 5, in the historic courthouse. Public hearings will be held on three applications.

Morris Bay Properties and Ray and Merrill Messina are requesting to construct a total of three breakwaters landward of mean low water. Two of the breakwaters will be 47 feet by 16 feet and the third will be 95 feet by 16 feet. The project will also have 418 cubic yards of sand backfill and plantings. This

project is along Stutts Creek. Jonathan Moody has requested the construction of 499 feet of riprap sill and 450 feet of riprap revetment. Moody also requested the construction of a 48-foot-long boat ramp. This project will be along the East River.

Neil D'Amato has requested to save an existing living shoreline along a portion of the Chesapeake Bay. The project will call for oyster bags to be installed behind existing reefs with sand backfill over the bags and for greases to be plants. Phragmites will be killed and the

area replanted with native marsh grasses. A "fleximat" berm will be installed at the back edge of the wetlands' jurisdiction with sand fill and more plantings.

All project applications are to be submitted for review to the Mathews County Wetlands Board at its office in the County Administration Building. The building is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Applications may also be submitted online at webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/habitat/index.php.



The Mathews Rotary Club's annual community service project this year was construction of a fence to protect Bayside in Bavyon from vandals. The property is owned by the Mathews Land Conservancy and is a popular stop on the Tour de Chesapeake. Among those working on the project were, from left, Andy Eubank, Ron Lambert, Jack White, Brian Russell, Karl Braun, Dick Hellier, Stan Allen and Chuck Dawson.

Mathews Rotary completes project at Bayside

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

The Mathews Rotary Club selects a community service project to perform each summer, with the organization's motto, "Service Above Self," as its driving force. This summer has been no different, in spite of sweltering temperatures.

Club member Tim Hill said that Chuck Dawson of the Mathews Land Conservancy contacted the club about a project at Bayside, located at the end of Route 14 in Bavyon. The Mathews Land Conservancy owns the property, and it's a popular stop for bicyclists during the annual Tour de Chesapeake. Dawson

told Hill that vandals were destroying the grounds around the gazebo, which overlooks New Point Lighthouse and the confluence of the Mobjack and Chesapeake bays, and that a fence was needed. He requested a vehicle gate that could be opened for maintenance and a pedestrian gate to allow access to cyclists and hikers.

The club decided to take on the task as its community service project for this year. During two half-Saturdays, and after much sweat and cold-water refreshment on 95 degree days, the club completed the project and provided the conservancy with a more secure retreat for all to enjoy.

"This was truly a club project," said Hill. He said that Jack White donated the vintage lumber and cut nails recycled from the dismantling of his pre-Civil War home so that the new fencing matched the reclaimed cypress already at Bayside.

Club members who "contributed mightily" to construction of the project were Andy Eubank, Ron Lambert, Jack White, Brian Russell, Karl Braun, Dick Hellier, Stan Allen and Chuck Dawson. Also, Tim Hill, Paul Vanden Bout, Frank Thomas, Dennis Baker, Bill Sterns, Danny Webster and Haskins Ramos.

Blood drive

A blood drive held July 21 at the Pikanatank Ruritan Club building in Hudgins resulted in the collection of 76 units, nine shy of the drive's goal of 85, according to Red Cross volunteer Nan Cross. A total of 81 potential donors took part. Ten were deferred and four were unable to complete their donations. Nine donors completed double red donations. First-time donors at the drive were David Rollins, Harry Colestock, Raymond Felton, Terry Wilson, Robert Jefferies and Dee Russell made their first donation in Mathews. Gallon pins were awarded to Ji Choi (one gallon), David Chrest (four gallons), Arlene Allen (five gallons), Alan Kinker (12 gallons), Gib Pulley (13 gallons) and Jim Drummond (17 gallons). Here, Red Cross phlebotomist Wanda Walker poses with donor Robert Jefferies and Alda Barnett, a volunteer from Mathews Chapel. The next Mathews blood drive will be held Sept. 15. For more information, visit www.redcrossblood.org.



Beware of unsolicited packages of seeds

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is asking Virginians to report to the agency if they received unsolicited packages containing seeds that appear to have originated from China.

The types of seeds in the packages are unknown at this time and may be invasive plant species, said Michael Wallace of VDACS. The packages were sent by mail and may have Chinese writing on them.

The state agency asked residents not to plant these seeds, but instead to report them to the state Office of Plant Industry Services through the ReportAPest@vdacs.virginia.gov email.

According to VDACS, invasive species "wreak havoc on the environment, displace



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VDACS PHOTOS

or destroy native plants and insects and severely damage crops. Taking steps to prevent their introduction is the most effective method of reducing both the risk of invasive species infestations and the

cost to control and mitigate those infestations."

People who report receiving the seeds are instructed either to send them to the agency, or if already planted, to destroy the plants, double-bag them, and put them in the trash.

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VDACS PHOTO

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Barbecue bragging rights

Scott's BBQ, winner of Virginia Living Magazine's BBQ Bracket Battle Championship in 2019, recently received another honor, when Del. Keith Hodges (R-Urbanna), at right, came to the Gloucester Point restaurant to surprise owner Gary Ward with a copy of Virginia General Assembly House Joint Resolution No. 243. Passed during its 2020 session, the resolution commends Scott's for its win, topping a list of more than 250 barbecue restaurants across the commonwealth to claim the title.

Third person arrested in connection with Gloucester Point murder

BY KIM ROBINS

A third person was arrested last week in connection with the May murder of a 20-year-old White Stone man in a Gloucester Point parking lot.

Gloucester deputies responded to the reports of gunshots at Colonial Point Apartments in the 7700 block of Colonial Point Lane at about 1 a.m. on May 15. There they found Hezekiah Fauntleroy, 20, of White Stone unconscious in the parking lot and responding medics determined he was deceased.

On July 22, Jennifer Anne Zuckerman, 18, of Hampton was arrested and charged with, on or about May 15, willfully, deliberately and with premeditation killing and murdering Fauntleroy in the first degree (as a principal in the second degree).

Zuckerman was also charged with the use of a firearm in commission of a felony (as a principal in

the second degree) and attempted robbery and was held without bond.

A second suspect, a 16-year-old of Hampton, was arrested on May 17 after turning himself in to the Hampton Police Department. He was charged with first-degree murder during the commission of a robbery, use of a firearm in commission of a felony, attempted robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery.

Another suspect in the case, Destin Dominique Moore, 24, of Hampton, was charged with first-degree murder (as a principal in the second degree), use of a firearm in commission of a felony (as a principal in the second degree), attempted robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery. Moore remained at large until he was apprehended in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, on June 8 and is awaiting extradition to Virginia.

Abingdon Ruritan Club awards scholarships

The Abingdon Ruritan Club recently announced its scholarship recipients, with three Gloucester High School graduates receiving money to continue their educations.

The club awarded its four-year \$4,000 renewal academic scholarship to Farren Winter. She will be attending Shenandoah University to major in Music Therapy.

The technical/vocational two-year \$2,000 renewal scholarship was awarded to Macey Berg. She will attend Rappahannock Community College to become an Ultrasound Technician.

A one-year non-renewable scholarship for \$700 was awarded to Kathryn Neikirk. She will be attending Vassar



Farren Winter



Macey Berg



Kathryn Neikirk

College to major in psychology. In addition to these three new scholarship awards, five

prior-year recipients attending various schools will be receiving their annual renewal disbursement of \$1,000 each.

The total Abingdon Ruritan Club scholarship funds awarded for the 2020-21 academic year was \$7,700.

Suspects charged in Maryus church vandalism

BY KIM ROBINS

The Gloucester Sheriff's Office has charged three adults and four juveniles in connection with vandalism that occurred last month at a closed church in Maryus.

The GSO said deputies responded to the vacant Church of God in the 2500 block of Maryus Road on June 16 for a trespassing in progress. Once on scene, deputies discovered that several individuals had gone inside the closed church, damaged property within and took a painting belonging to the church.

Arrest warrants were issued July 23 for three adults in connection with the incident. Shawna Marie Gwinn, 20, of Spring Branch Road in North was charged with, on or about June 16, stealing church painting of the Last Supper valued at \$500 or more and belonging to Maryus Church of God.

Gwinn was also charged with the misdemeanors of trespassing on posted prop-

erty, damaging property and four counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Also, Wade Zachary Powell Webb, 18, of North River Road in Cardinal was charged with, on or about June 16, stealing church painting of the Last Supper valued at \$500 or more and belonging to Maryus Church of God. Webb was additionally charged with the misdemeanors of trespassing on posted property, and damaging property.

An 18-year-old of Maple Street in Hayes was charged with the misdemeanors of trespassing on posted property and damaging property and was released on a summons.

On July 23, petitions were filed against three juveniles, one from Hudgins, one from North and one from Mathews, charging each with grand larceny, trespassing on posted property and damaging property. A fourth juvenile from Hayes was charged with trespassing on posted property and damaging property.

VIMS to hold webinar on climate change tonight

VIMS will host its July After Hours lecture from 7-8 tonight on climate change and sea level rise via Zoom.

Dr. Carl Hershner will take his audience through the driving factors of climate change and potential outcomes for the future, especially in the Chesapeake Bay region. Hershner will also discuss what roles the pandemic could play in worldwide climate change.

Registration is required for access to this online webinar. Visit events.wm.edu/event/view/vims/117948 to register.

Virtual Career Fair today for military

A Hampton Roads Virtual Career Fair for all members of the military, past and present, and their spouses and dependents, will be held from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. today. It is held by RecruitMilitary.

To register, visit <https://recruitmilitary.careerco.com/Fair/EventDetails>.

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ELSA VERBYLA / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

The Mathews County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday night at Mathews High School for the first in-person meeting since February. Spaced out and wearing masks as part of COVID-19 social distancing precautions, from left, are supervisors Paul Hudgins, Jackie Ingram, Amy Dubois, Michael Rowe and Melissa Mason. County administrator Mindy Conner is in the background.

MATHEWS SUPERVISORS: First in-person meeting

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

testaments to what those who supported the Confederacy thought of Black people.”

Meg Roberts of Diggs supported removal of the monument, and said “in the year 2020, Mathews County officially provides a prominent venue to literally look up to those who fought to keep our fellow humans in bondage ... Is Mathews County willing to continue officially endorsing this monument and its full history? If nothing changes, the monument will continue communicating the most obvious lesson.”

Lori Dusenberry of Port Haywood asked supervisors not to rush to endorse any resolution “to never remove or move the Confederate monument that stands in the courthouse,” stating she had heard that such a resolution might be offered Tuesday night. No such resolution was put forth.

Richard Churray of Port Haywood, in written comments, suggesting moving the monument to the Fort Non-sense Historical Park.

Charles Forrest of Mathews, who teaches at Mathews High School, recalled the limitations suggested to him, as an African American, as he grew up. “I remember being told that I couldn’t do or be certain things (that) I like so many of our Black natives had to go make a living somewhere else” where they found more opportunity and tolerance. “No one loses anything when we respect our fellow man,” he wrote. “It is hard for me to believe that in 2020 we are having the same issues as we had when I grew up. The statues must be removed as a gesture of goodwill and love for all the citizens of Mathews.”

Leslie and Wilnet Willis of Hudgins wrote, “We believe that the Confederate monument should be removed from the outside entrance of the courthouse building. The monument is a hurtful reminder of a time when African Americans were enslaved. We know that slavery was abolished in 1865. African Americans are no longer slaves and do not want to be reminded continuously of that era.”

On a related matter, a proposed name change of Lee-Jackson Elementary School now before the Mathews County School Board, Terry L. Brown of Port Haywood expressed her support for that change.

One in-person speaker, Capt. David Callis of Gwynn, spoke for preservation of the monument. “That monument

is for people who fought and families who suffered,” he said. “Black people and white people, everybody suffered at that time. Virginia had the right to secede, we legally seceded, and Abraham Lincoln invaded a foreign country and we fought to repel foreign invaders.”

Callis also stated the county needs to clarify who owns the land at one corner of the court green where the monument sits, stating that it was purchased by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and is therefore private property, not public.

The supervisors received all the public comments without making any of their own.

Zoning matters

Three zoning matters received unanimous approval.

Aviation: A requested amendment to the zoning ordinance, which had received a 6-0 recommendation against approval last week from the county planning commission, instead received 5-0 approval from the supervisors.

The amendment would allow private aviation facilities as a conditional use in the R-2 zoning district.

Planning and zoning director Thomas Jenkins said in this case a property owner on Gwynn’s Island is interested in building a private heliport, and a parade of witnesses said this would be an invaluable addition to the county’s infrastructure, especially in allowing medical evacuations.

Among the speakers was Debbie Buchanan of Gwynn, who suffered a stroke several years ago, who said air evacuation might have limited some damage from the incident. Her son, Chris Buchanan, a medic, was among the first to help her, and said conditions that day would not allow a medical flight unless it had been to a helipad equipped with lights and other safety equipment.

Jenkins noted that even with approving the amendment, each proposed facility must also receive separate zoning permission as a conditional use.

Two conditional use permits were granted unanimously: one to allow John Vigliotta to construct an oyster packaging facility of no more than 10,000 square feet at the site of an existing oyster hatchery at 150 Enterprise Lane in Foster. The parcel is located in White’s Neck in the county’s Mobjack section. The second CUP approved was for Kelly O’Toole to establish an event venue at The Shores of Cedar Point, located on the North River on Cedar Point Lane.

Both applications were approved with conditions that spell out some rules on operation.

In other business, the board:

—Named Carolyn Taylor of Hudgins to fill the unexpired term of Reed Lawson on the library’s Board of Trustees;

—Named Brian E. Russell of Hudgins to fill the unexpired term of Fulton Wood Jr. on the Mathews County Planning Commission; Paul Hudgins dissented, while Amy Dubois, Jackie Ingram, Melissa Mason and Michael Rowe cast “aye” votes in the 4-1 approval;

—Named Kathryn Tatterson as a parent representative to the county’s Community Policy and Management Team, and

—Heard from Planner Jenkins that 2021 revenue from the meals tax is lagging 61 percent from this period a year ago, due to restrictions imposed by the state during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the county’s capital improvement plan has been adjusted accordingly, as the meals tax is designated for improvements.

Mathews NAACP asks for immediate action on name change; exploring legal options

In a letter emailed to the Mathews County School Board on Wednesday, Mathews NAACP president Raymond Willis has asked the board to take immediate action to rename Lee-Jackson Elementary.

In the letter, he also indicates that the chapter is working with the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs and the law firm of Covington & Burling to explore possible legal action, should that become necessary.

The school board heard comments for and against

the name change at its July 21 meeting. During that meeting, school board chair John Priest indicated that the matter would be brought to a conclusion no later than Jan. 1, 2021. The school board will hold a special meeting tonight, where procedural considerations of a name change committee is one of the agenda items (see related story).

“Maintaining the Lee-Jackson name creates a hostile and unwelcoming education environment for Black children and their families,” Willis wrote in his letter to the school board, calling on the

school board to change the name before the start of the current school year.

“We are hopeful that the Mathews County School Board will do the right thing and act now to remove from our community this vestige of the war to preserve slavery,” Willis said. “The NAACP took legal action to change the names of Lee-Davis High School and Stonewall Jackson Middle School in Hanover County. Recently those names were changed by the county. There is no reason Mathews County cannot do the same.”

New tax software being installed in Gloucester offices

Gloucester’s Treasurer and Commissioner of the Revenue offices are in the process of implementing new tax and receipting software, the culmination of a multi-year effort, according to a release from Gloucester County.

As the transition is being made over the next couple weeks, customers may experience some delays in the processing of their tax payments as well as longer wait times as office staff work through the transition. Both offices may also experience some downtime of the system, but any downtime is expected to be minimal.

“Please be assured that internal processing delays (if experienced) will not result in the assessment of late fees or penalties,” the release stated.

Along with the new software, the Treasurer’s Office is implementing updated credit card and e-check interfaces with lower fees of transacting business associated with these services. The fee for using a credit card to pay statements will decrease from 3 percent to 2.5 percent. The fee for using e-checks will be eliminated entirely. Also, all

major credit cards will now be accepted at the Treasurer’s Office window as well as on-line for taxes, utilities and permit payments. The new credit card and e-check systems should be available within a few weeks.

The Treasurer and Commissioner of the Revenue also remind citizens that the Gloucester Board of Supervisors extended the time to pay 2020 first installment taxes until Aug. 14 without additional fees or interest.

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Lancaster museum open by appointment only

The Lancaster Virginia Historical Society Museum, Library and Gift Shop, which has been closed to the public since March 23 due to COVID-19 restrictions, has reopened, the society announced.

The museum is located at 8346 Mary Ball Road in Lancaster Court House, seven miles northwest of Kilmarnock.

“With a few modifications and limitations, we are very glad to be able to welcome visitors again,” said executive director Karen Hart. “Most importantly, everyone will need to make advance arrangements to visit and will be required to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth. We will offer disposable masks for a small donation, or people can purchase a cloth mask or clear plastic face shield for \$5 in our shop.”

As further precautions against the coronavirus, LVHS will limit admission to one person, couple or family at a time; enforce social distancing; increase cleaning of high-touch surfaces; minimize interaction between staff and visitors; and request that visitors self-assess their health before entering the site.

What else can happen?

Dare we even ask, as 2020 prepares to enter its eighth month, what else could happen to unbalance our national equilibrium?

We must ask; because offshore, a steady string of tropical disturbances is popping up in the Atlantic Ocean, already advanced deeply into the alphabet before the heart of the hurricane season is reached.

What else could happen, of course, is a hurricane strike. It's never likely, but it's always possible at this time of the year. Gloucester and Mathews have suffered too many direct hits over the decades to dismiss the threat lightly.

Because it seems we are on our own no matter what disturbance rocks our boat this year, we recommend that everyone prepare ahead of time for a storm. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management states "It can take several days or weeks for government services and assistance to reach you and your family depending on the severity of the disaster and your geographic location. An emergency kit is vital to sustaining your family after a disaster."

In other words, look after yourself.

The department recommends these basic ingredients of a home disaster kit:

—At least a three-day supply of water and non-perishable food; infant formula and diapers; pet food and supplies;

—Also, medications for at least one week, copies of prescriptions, backup supply of medical equipment and batteries, first aid kit and antibiotic ointment;

—Flashlight, batteries, multipurpose tool, extra clothing, sturdy shoes, blankets or sleeping bags;

—Emergency cash funds to sustain your family for several days.

In case evacuation is ordered, plan for funds to cover food, lodging, and pet shelter; and keep extra soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, antiseptic wipes and cleansers on hand.

Virginia's tax-free weekend starts at 12:10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 7 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9. Many of these items can be purchased tax-free during that period.

There's much more you can do to prepare. Visit data.gov/disasters or the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Keep an eye on the tropics, and remember the best policy is to assume we are all on our own. Especially during this awful year.

READERS WRITE

Symbols of hate

Editor, Gazette-Journal:
The Mathews Chapter of the NAACP stands with our sister, Kamilah Turner, in calling for the renaming of Lee-Jackson Elementary School. All across Virginia, the remnants of glorifying the Confederacy are disappearing. Mathews County must join in this march toward progress and reconciliation. To those who insist that racism does not exist in Mathews County, I must tell you that you are wrong. People of color and other minorities face racism in big and small ways every time we step outside our doors, every time we turn on our TVs, and log on to the internet. The dominant American culture is based on white supremacy, and Mathews is no exception to this truth.

For the residents of Mathews who have no desire to honor two Confederate generals, having their name on our elementary school is a daily message that our opinions do not matter.

The Confederate flags at two of the entrances to Mathews remind us that we are not welcome here. The Confederate statue and flags at the entrance to the historic courthouse give many people, especially those who are African American, pause about entering those county buildings. The presence of armed men around the statue at night is seen by many as a blatant threat.

We are at a pivotal moment in our country and our state. The NAACP urges all people of good conscience in Mathews, regardless of race, politics or creed, to join with your neighbors in ridding our county of these symbols of hate.

Raymond Willis
President, Mathews Chapter NAACP
North, Va.



slavery to meet the objectives of the past, the real issue becomes—should we name buildings and statues on public land and public schools to honor individuals who fought against the American ideals so clearly expressed in our Constitution and taught in our schools—“one Nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all”? I suggest that we should not. We cannot pick and choose our own version of history and claim to support American ideals. Private land and public places dedicated to history and education would be better places to learn about these men and their cause. Our choices will require good faith efforts from all involved in the months ahead. We are facing our own demons about justice for all, while creating the history our children will inherit.

Chris Bridge
Moon, Va.

resent the beliefs and values of the majority of Mathews residents, we are in deep trouble.

Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson waged war against the United States of America in order to maintain and expand the enslavement of the descendants of people kidnapped from their homes in Africa for the financial gain of White landowners, planters, and bankers. There are many lessons to learn from studying these men, but we must not continue to honor them.

School Board chairman John Priest wants to name a committee to study the matter. The members of school board, elected by the voters of Mathews, have the sole authority and responsibility to change the name of our elementary school, and they should do so now. They must not elude their duty by defaulting to some committee accountable to no one. And for heaven's sake people, wear your masks!

Sheila Crowley
Port Haywood, Va.

They fought for the institution that supported and continued to benefit from slavery. Nothing else you say of these men matter. We are judged by our choices, and both men dedicated themselves to their choices with their actions. They fought for secession, they fought for slavery. They took up arms against the United States. They were secessionists, they were traitors. That is how they should be remembered.

I needed to make my thoughts known. I hope the school board makes the right decision, I hope they realize that if a school should be named after figures of history it should be named after Americans who were loyal to the union and did the nation proud, not figures of Confederate treachery. I demand that the school board takes a stand and not bow down to the racist pressures and bigoted demands of various elements of Mathews County and change the name of the school and show that you are willing to take a step into the future and make it your present.

The choice is yours, make the correct one.

Jeri L. Evans
Former Mathews County resident
Gloucester, Va.

Facing our own demons

Editor, Gazette-Journal:
The Mathews County School Board met last week to discuss two major issues: renaming Lee-Jackson School, and reopening our schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope I speak for many in expressing my appreciation for the courage of those who serve on the school board during this difficult time.

Regarding reopening schools, there are no good choices. By considering the safety of children and teachers first, you will have done your best, and this has to be the priority for the school board now.

Regarding the renaming of Lee-Jackson School, I believe the issue is not whether Confederate flags and leaders are part of our heritage and history. Of course they are.

But our history also includes violent policies used against Native Americans to take their land and destroy their tribes. It includes the practice of slavery, which provided the economic infrastructure for Southern states' prosperity.

It includes violence against women who marched in support of the right to vote. It includes putting Japanese-American citizens in detention camps during World War II. It includes violence against black citizens who sought to have their children attend “white” schools.

This is all part of our history. It was acceptable in its time. But our opinions and laws have changed to reflect an understanding that these things were wrong.

The issue is not whether Confederate generals and soldiers were kind slave owners or brave in battle.

But the fact is, through force of arms, the Confederacy sought to sever the unity of our nation, and the legacy of the American Revolution and our Constitution. It sought to preserve the right, as stated in its own Constitution [Article IV Section 3(3)], for white people to own black slaves.

The issue is not heritage for the few. As we become aware of how much this country used violence and

Making all students feel welcome

Editor, Gazette-Journal:
As a retired public school educator and elementary school principal, I feel compelled to add my voice to the many Mathews County citizens who have voiced their concerns regarding the name of our one-and-only elementary school, Lee-Jackson Elementary School.

The arguments concerning history, and the often-pervasive views regarding change in Mathews County, do not seem to account for how the daily, often casual repetition of a school's name repeats the most violent parts of our history. Repeating the school's name, Lee-Jackson, with friends, family and neighbors risks becoming meaningless; their ubiquity negating the horrors that Black people and other people of color have experienced in this county/country.

It's time to honor those who made a positive difference in our community rather than honoring those who perpetuated white supremacy. While renaming Lee-Jackson is not a replacement for justice, it can be a part of it. It will make ALL students feel welcome as they enter their school.

Molly Broderson
North, Va.

'Mathews Unfiltered'

Editor, Gazette-Journal:
The July 21, 2020 meeting of the Mathews School Board should be dubbed “Mathews Unfiltered.”

First, despite being a public meeting, no one enforced the requirement that attendees wear face coverings or maintain six feet of social distancing. Not even the deputy sheriff present bothered to wear a mask.

Second, the public comment period concerning changing the name of our elementary school generated raw, unvarnished, unfiltered racism, such that I have never witnessed in my long life. If the people who spoke against the name change rep-

Lee-Jackson must be renamed

Editor, Gazette-Journal:
I never attended Lee-Jackson. By the time my family arrived I had missed Lee-Jackson. I would spend my remaining school years in Mathews schools. That's for background; I have no interest in sharing my thoughts on the school system as things change, people changed, and it matters not to the point of this letter.

I no longer live in Mathews but I still have family. They run a store called The Island Stop. I feel the need to make clear that they do not agree with my stance on this issue. I point this out to show that I still have a connection to Mathews County though I no longer reside there. I have no desire to move back as the environment and popular way of thinking there do not make me feel safe given my life situation. However, my comfort or opinions of Mathews County are not the point.

The point is that Lee-Jackson must be renamed. It's not a vendetta. Nor is it something I say out of spite or out of petty trivial needling of people because I don't gel with their views.

I take issue honoring the Confederacy when there is nothing about it which should be honored; and make no mistake, statues, and naming institutions and structures after figures of the Confederacy is exactly that. It should've been done away with in the late 20th century never mind the 21st. This isn't teaching history. This is commemorating secessionists and traitors.

You can point out neither sanctioned or endorsed slavery. You can point out their brilliance on the battlefield, you can talk about their respectability, none of that changes the facts of their actions. They speak loudly and live through history.

They took part in secession. They took part in taking arms up against the Union.

A school name that divisive should be replaced

Editor, Gazette-Journal:
Lee-Jackson School in Mathews needs a new name. If I had ever questioned that, last week's Mathews School Board meeting would have convinced me.

Oversized Confederate flags greeted me at the entrance to the high school parking lot, and in this county, those flags are used for intimidation. Inside the overcrowded, under-masked meeting, name-change opponents uttered cherry-picked historical factoids to draw a warped picture of an imagined kinder, gentler past, and even asserted that Kamilah Bambi Turner, the Black woman who presented a name-change petition signed by residents of both races, was herself racist. A school name that contentious and divisive is inappropriate and should be replaced.

Molly Hoffman
Gwynn, Va.

SEE READERS WRITE, PAGE 7A

Letters To The Editor

Letters to the Gazette-Journal on any subject of public interest are always welcome. The newspaper, however, cannot consider for publication a letter which does not carry the writer's signature and address. Letters should also not exceed 200 words. Writers will please include a telephone number where they can be reached during the day. The right is reserved to edit letters.

The Gazette-Journal will not accept letters to Readers Write which comment on articles published in other periodicals. Also, space limitations often prevent publication of thank-you letters.

POETIC REFLECTIONS

To the Unmasked Miscreant in the Grocery Store

BY GABBY GAIL GRIFFIN
HAYES, VA.

You stood in the middle of the aisle
Waving arms, exhorting your friend, and spewing bile.
I hear—"the day my country tells me I have to wear a mask is when I no longer stay."

To that I say:
Okay! (I hear cheers in the background).
Could you possibly leave today?

You continue on
(not that anyone is asking;
I just want the tabasco).

"It's a hoax," you say. "No worse than a bad cold or a case of the flu.
And—(dramatic pause for the coup de grace)
It only kills people over eighty-two."

Again I say—
Could you maybe leave today?

You are kind of creepy. You make people with grandmas weepy.
And I know you only parrot your favorite news channel,
Filled with blondes on their reporting panel.
Who like Miss E. Dickinson tell all the truth but tell it slant.
And give implicit permission to your unrepentant rant.

Your uncomfortable friend edges his cart to the checkout line;
I scurry to where the condiments shine
(like saving stars).

But YOU somehow slither into both our spaces and
smugly believe all is fine.
Could you really just leave this time?

GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS

GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Elsa Cooke Verbyla | Publisher
Charles E. Koenig | Editor

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READERS WRITE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6A)

Let's stop honoring slavery

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

I am Tidewater born, raised, educated and, according to my DAR mother, the descendant of a Confederate soldier who died at the Battle of Seven Pines. Affixed to a wall in our house in the 1960s was a framed picture of an angry armed Confederate looming above a caption that read something like "Forget? Hell, no!"

Even after I came to realize that the Civil War was fought not to protect some idealized notion of the southern way of life but for the purpose of preserving slavery and the economy based on it, I still cleaved to the notion that there must have been something noble, albeit misguided, motivating the leaders of the South.

But that was a long time ago, and as I grew up I began to understand not just the immorality at the heart of the Confederate cause, but how its perpetuation, especially by officially honoring southern leaders, continues to drive between Americans the very same wedge that separated North and South in 1861.

In Mathews County, let's start to stop honoring slavery in America by changing the name of Lee-Jackson.

**Kent Willis
Port Haywood, Va.**

Lee and Jackson were Virginia patriots

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

I am writing to express my opposition to the renaming of Lee-Jackson Elementary School. Several historical mistakes were made on Tuesday, July 21, which need to be addressed in considering the question.

Despite Mr. Payne's allegation, neither R.E. Lee nor T.J. Jackson owned a single slave. General Lee was never tried for treason. In fact, not one Confederate soldier or office holder was so tried. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Confederacy had a right to secede. Further, Lee was offered the command of all Union forces by Lincoln but refused and resigned because he "could not raise his sword against his native Virginia." Thomas Jackson was, at the time of secession, an artillery and mathematics instructor at VMI. As such, he was an officer in the Virginia militia. Therefore, his service on behalf of the Confederacy could not be treason.

The claim that slavery was the proximate cause of the War Between the States is utter nonsense! Lincoln repeatedly said that he had no intention of abolishing slavery as a candidate and a newly elected president. Consider this, the Confederacy was established in February of 1861. The Emancipation Proclamation, which only freed the slaves in the Confederacy, wasn't issued until January 1863. It was in fact an attempt by Lincoln, after two years of disastrous defeats, to foment a slave revolt. Slaves in the five slave states that stayed with the Union were not freed until Dec. 6, 1865 with the ratification of the 13th Amendment.

The Confederacy offered more opportunities for people of color than the Union. Two examples: 1.) P.G.T. Beauregard, known to his troops as "that little black Frenchman," was of mixed racial ancestry, and 2.) The last general officer to surrender was Brig. Gen. Stand Watie, C.S.A., who commanded the 1st and 2nd Cherokee Mounted Rifles. He was a full-blooded Cherokee. The Union never allowed minorities to serve as officers.

Lee and Jackson were not slavemasters or traitors. They were Virginia patriots who fought and, in the case of Jackson, died for their native commonwealth. Removing their names from the school dishonors not only those brave men, but everyone who has fought in an unpopular war.

**Capt. Mark A. Truscott, USMM
Formerly, Sgt., USMC
Onemo, Va.**

The other half

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

Last week, a writer asked, "What am I missing?" My answer is, the other half of his analysis of current events. Without question, there are destructive elements, people who willingly defy the rule of law within the many protest movements across the country. But, the majority of these protesters are there to peacefully demonstrate to elected officials their belief in the fact of systemic racism.

The racism I speak of doesn't have its origins simply in the highly visible confrontations with law enforcement, but rather in hundreds of years of second class and unequal treatment of people of color or, in some cases, those who stood up for them.

Last Thursday evening, PBS broadcast two programs on the life of John Lewis. Both films should be a required part of all middle school curricula.

I also disagree with the writer's view that our history has been the greatest experiment for the betterment of the common man. To me, that means all of us. Unfortunately, history shows that a sizable section of our population has not been included in that progress.

I cannot find the rationale that says the country wants to conform to a demented few or study the abolishment of both our history and institutions. It seems to me that the majority of us want to deconstruct the radical few and use our history to improve our institutions with the goals of social (racial, gender, ethnic, etc.), legal and economic equality for all.

I too am appalled and disgusted with that portion of the population that wants to foment chaos and maintain the white power environment. But I'm also confident that we can find those people who will lead us in the effort to achieve social harmony and equality for all.

**Michael Beavers
Port Haywood, Va.**

The good news about COVID can be missed

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

Your July 23 headline story by Sherry Hamilton, basically a good job of reporting, missed the good news in favor of ill-defined bad news. It opens with "COVID-19 cases continue to climb in Gloucester—going from 79 to 112 confirmed cases, a 41 percent increase following last week's 50 percent jump from 53 cases." It made a great headline.

Imagine how your readers would have felt if instead you'd opened with, deaths in Gloucester and Mathews were unchanged. The good news—nobody else died!

You quoted Dr. Richard Williams's observation that the increase reflects "enhanced community transmissions." It was an interesting observation, but not much more; because the good news was the vast majority of cases are walking out of treatment facilities with no further problem.

What we do know factually is (1) Total testing in Virginia for COVID-19 went up 17 percent to over 950,000 cases this week (2) That anyone who has COVID-19 antibodies is by medical definition a case (3) Those who don't aren't cases. In perspective then, we can expect to have more cases diagnosed. But being a case isn't a death sentence, nor even means you'll be sick.

Last week, I faced elective surgery. I was COVID-19 tested twice. Apparently I'm not a case, but I got bled and two days prior to surgery nose-swabbed anyway. My surgery had a 2 percent fatality factor that is a very real statistic, and I knew it. COVID-19 has a 2-3 percent fatality for those hospitalized with serious symptoms.

Now comes my interesting reported statistic. Since I apparently survived, at least so far, the doctors have put me in the win column! And not once did anyone but me bother to look up or discuss with me my chances of dying. After all it was elective.

But the popular news narrative on COVID-19 "is doom is upon us!" We need to get inside our homes, like the Passover Jews, and wear our masks on our faces because the COVID-19 Angel of Death is among us. We'd all be wearing sterile suits like in "Dr. No" if they could make enough.

(4) All of the folks who walk out of testing facilities, doctors' offices or hospitals diagnosed as cases with COVID-19 in their blood, 97 to 98 percent are not going to get sick nor die!

Check these numbers from the CDC for the flu. Of 35,520,883 people with symptomatic illness, 34,157 died.

(5) The raw truth is that like the flu virus, a relative few of us are going to die from COVID-19, or even the surgery I had. But we know it's going to happen, so we don't, didn't and won't expect that our personal number has come up.

The curve has flattened. But the same statistics apply, they never changed. We need to open up our economy, get out and revitalize our economy and our Nation. Open our churches, open our schools, open our government, open our businesses and show the world that Virginia again leads the Nation.

**Bill Husztek
Gloucester, Va.**

More complete picture needed for COVID-19

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

While I appreciate your presenting (July 23 edition) information on the effects of the COVID-19 virus, the information is incomplete. To gain a fuller understanding of the impact of the virus on citizens in Gloucester and surrounding counties, the data presented should include the number of patients who "beat it."

In addition to the number of cases (112) and new cases (33) presented, you should include the number of recovered patients. Is the number of total cases "active" or since recordkeeping began? If available, a demographic breakout by sex, age groupings (i.e., young, adult and senior) and ethnicity would present a more complete picture of the impact of this illness and help us better focus our efforts on those most affected.

**Doug Stinchum
Gloucester, Va.**

Not the Democrats of old

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

As the November election nears, we hear more and more about the views and values of our political parties and what they believe. That is very important to the voters as we look at how each plans to govern and the changes they want for this country.

What we see from the Democratic Party are drastic changes to how they formerly viewed the needs of this country and the changes they are currently advocating. What they are now advocating is being called Leftist by the media, their members of Congress, and candidates for elective office. I find this terribly misleading to the general public.

What they are currently advocating are predominantly socialist values and some which might be called communist. There is nothing wrong with holding those views, but I consider it wrong to run as traditional Democrats instead of what they truly are. Those who are closely tied to the Democratic Party may understand the drastic changes they want to make and are campaigning on. Those who don't follow politics very closely may vote Democrat thinking they are getting the Democrats of old, only to find out later they are in a new world.

Given the drastic changes in the Democratic Party, I recommend they run under a different banner so that the voting public will know who they are selecting. Traditional members of the Democratic Party could still run as Democrats.

**Bill Wright
Gloucester, Va.**

HAMPTON ROADS: Governor responds to spike

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

ited to 50 percent capacity.

In addition, Northam decreased the number of people allowed at both public and private in-person gatherings to no more than 50, down from the Phase III cap of 250 people.

The renewed limitations apply to the cities of Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Norfolk, Suffolk, Portsmouth, Hampton, Williamsburg, Newport News, Poquoson, James City County, and York County, where the percent of positive cases ranges from 9.9 percent to 18.6 percent. The Peninsula area had a positivity rate of just 3.4 percent one month ago, according to the governor's Executive Order 68, but that rate had increased to 8.7 percent by Tuesday. The rest of Virginia, said the governor, has an average positive rate of just 6 percent.

"The spread happens when too many people gather and are non-compliant—and selfish," said Northam. "Alcohol changes the judgment, and that's when the virus spreads. I will not hesitate to do what it takes to keep Virginians safe."

Northam spoke of a meeting he had earlier in the day with Dr. Deborah Birx, Coronavirus Response Coordina-

tor for the White House Coronavirus Task Force. He said that he had requested federal assistance to increase testing capacity and reduce test turnaround times. He said that Dr. Birx had been complimentary about the work being done in Virginia.

"I told her we see her and Dr. Fauci as the country's medical leaders," said Northam.

A press release from the governor's office said that the measures being put in place are in line with Birx's own recommendations to reduce indoor dining, restrict social gatherings, and increase the use of facial coverings.

In his introductory remarks, Northam said that the 87,000 diagnosed cases and the 2,000 deaths from COVID-19 cases in Virginia "represent real people and real lives."

"It's been a hard summer and a difficult year," he said, from the frustrations children feel about not being able to play sports and see their friends, to the people with loved ones in nursing homes they can't visit, to employees worried about working when they're not able to socially distance.

"I'm worried people are starting to lose hope," said Northam. "But there is a path out ... Do not be afraid. Let not yourself grow weary. We're all in this together."

The good news, he said, is

that vaccines are being developed and things are turning around in nursing homes, where only 1 percent are testing positive and 3,000 people have recovered. In addition, he said, Virginia has avoided the dramatic increases that have occurred in other parts of the country, and cases are stable in four out of five health regions in Virginia. In Northern Virginia, once the state's primary hot spot, the number of cases has dropped by two-thirds, said Northam, "because people are doing the right thing and following the guidelines."

The same holds true in northwest, southwest and central Virginia, said Northam, where the positivity rates for COVID-19 range from 5 percent to 7.1 percent.

On a personal level, people are helping and supporting each other by doing such things as donating to food banks, said Northam, and he spoke of a woman who has opened her home to five young children so they can have a place for distance learning.

"People sometimes feel helpless," he said. "But we have the power to turn this around. "Wear a mask. Keep your distance. Wash your hands. Stay at home. Avoid crowds. Check on your friends and neighbors."

Virginia moves ahead with second-round CARES Act distribution to localities

Gov. Ralph Northam announced Tuesday that the state will distribute \$664.6 million in federal COVID-19 relief funding to local governments in its second and final round of allocations.

These payments represent the remaining 50 percent of local allocations and do not include \$200.2 million that Fairfax County received directly from the federal government. The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) established the Coronavirus Relief Fund to provide money to states and eligible units of local government navigating the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this distribution, Gloucester County will receive \$3,258,469, while Mathews will get \$770,732, with distributions based on population.

Virginia received approximately \$3.1 billion as its share of the \$150 billion CRF. While the CARES Act does not require that states distribute funding to local governments with populations less than 500,000, Northam has directed these federal dollars to cities and counties of all sizes.

"Virginia was one of the first states to provide such a large share of its federal aid directly to local governments," said Northam. "We are committed to making sure localities of all sizes get the assistance they need to respond to COVID-19 and keep Virginians safe during these unprecedented times."

State Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne sent a memorandum to cities and counties in Virginia on May 12, outlining the distribution of the first round of allocations to local governments, totaling \$644.6 million. Once the second and final round of payments are disbursed, the governor will have distributed 100 percent of the local allocations Virginia received under the CARES Act, providing a total of \$1.3 billion to localities.

"Local governments are responsible for spending the money they receive, and we need them to step up and make sure that these federal dollars are going to the right places," said Layne. "Localities must be able to demonstrate to taxpayers that they are spending these funds wisely."

Similar to the first round, the second round of funding will be allotted proportionally based on population. Consequently, the second round of allocations will be equivalent to the amount each locality received in the

first round on June 1.

To receive the second allocation, localities must submit a new certification form and complete an online survey regarding the use of their CRF dollars. After these two documents are completed and submitted, the Department of Accounts will initiate the transfer of funds to the local treasurer. Localities can expect to receive the transfer from the State Comptroller within five business days following confirmation of receipt of the completed documents.

The CARES Act requires that CRF dollars only be used to cover costs that (1) are necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public

health emergency, (2) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the state or government; and (3) were incurred during the period of March 1 and Dec. 30, 2020.

Current federal rules prohibit state and local governments from using the CRF to replace lost revenues and address significant budget shortfalls. State and local government officials have requested that this restriction be lifted in future stimulus packages, or that additional federal funds are provided to address the loss of state and local revenue.

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**GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS
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THE ARTS

GHS history teacher completes 16th book

BY TYLER BASS

Gloucester High School history teacher and author Mike Cecere recently finished his 16th book just months after the publication of his 15th book. A colonial era enthusiast, Cecere wrote both books on prominent figures from the Revolutionary War.

The March 2020 release is titled "A Brave, Active, and Intrepid Soldier: Lieutenant Colonel Richard Campbell of the Virginia Continental Line." It is about a Virginian from what was known as Dunmore County in the Shenandoah region.

Cecere said that Campbell started his military career in the 8th Regiment, which was nicknamed the "German Unit" due to its high number of Germans. Campbell and the 8th regiment took part in the Battle of Charleston, said Cecere, and Campbell was made Commander of the Virginia forces during the subsequent Battle

of Eutaw Springs. During that battle Campbell was mortally wounded; his son was there for his death.

Cecere came across Campbell's story while conducting research for his 15th book, which was about General Peter Muhlenberg. Both books were written around the same time and sent out before the COVID-19 pandemic.

His research revealed that Muhlenberg was born in 1746 in Pennsylvania, the son of a Lutheran minister. He said that after the family moved to Philadelphia, Muhlenberg's father worried his son was taking up with the wrong crowds and sent him and his brothers to a school in Germany, where he apprenticed as a grocer.

Muhlenberg found his way out of Germany when a British regiment came to the town where he lived to recruit German soldiers, said Cecere. Muhlenberg saw his chance to get back home by becoming a

secretary in the British Army and was sent to the colonies.

Upon returning to America, Muhlenberg became a minister like his father, said Cecere. His career path led him in 1772 to Shenandoah, where he became a prominent figure in what was then Dunmore County (now Shenandoah County).

When the Revolutionary War began, Cecere said Muhlenberg was head of the county committee, which sent him to Williamsburg for a convention. He was chosen to be a leader in the war, and was given to nickname the "Fighting Parson," he said.

Cecere said that when Muhlenberg returned to Dunmore County, he gave a speech in his minister's robes and said that "there is a time of peace," then ripped off the robes revealing his military uniform and said, "and a time for war."

Muhlenberg played a key



TYLER BASS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Mike Cecere's new books tell about General Peter Muhlenberg and Lt. Col. Richard Campbell of the Continental Army.

role in the war, said Cecere. He served with Campbell in Charleston and joined forces led by George Washington, who made him a Brigadier

General. Notable battles Muhlenberg took part in included Valley Forge and Monmouth.

Cecere said he became in-

terested in Virginia history when he moved from Maine to Washington, D.C., where he attended a Revolutionary War reenactment. He would later join the 7th regiment, eventually becoming its leader. The Revolutionary War became his favorite topic to study, and he became engrossed in colonialism. He said that he and his wife even built their house in Williamsburg in the colonial style.

Cecere's love for the American Revolution and Virginia has inspired his many books. Since 2004, he's averaged about a book a year, and he hasn't decided to stop yet. He said that he enjoys telling the stories of people not everyone remembers, especially from the birth of our nation.

To learn more about the lives of Lt. Col. Campbell and General Muhlenberg, find Cecere's newest books on Amazon.com and at most major bookstores.

88 entries in this year's Art Speaks Exhibition

The Bay School Community Arts Center, Mathews, opened its eighth annual Art Speaks Juried Exhibition last Saturday, July 25. This year's show, a virtual exhibition due to the coronavirus pandemic, features 88 pieces of art representing 57 Virginia artists.

Juror and Judge Nicole McCormick Santiago judged the show online, awarding prizes totaling \$5,000. She chose Michele Fletcher's Fine Art Photography piece "Foggy Morning" to receive Best in Show, the Friends of Patty and Eric Rosenberg Award.

Three awards each were presented in two- and three-dimensional media.

Two-dimensional awards went to: First place, The Dorothy Gould Abare Award, honoring Linda Walker—Charlotte McAdams' acrylic

painting "Landscape 10"; Second place, honoring Martha Anne King—Maggie Gilman's digital photograph "Oaxaca Meat Hall"; Third place, in memory of Ellen Garfield—her oil painting "Time for Tea."

Three-Dimensional awards went to: First place, the Chris McCann Award, in memory of Wade Brooks—Elizabeth Krome's stoneware piece, "Gold Boat"; Second place, honoring Jeanne Spain—Katherine Maloney's stoneware piece "Urn"; Third place, in memory of Claire Jones—Sam Forrest's oak with linseed piece "Sex Dragon."

In addition to the Judge's awards, the show featured four awards of support. The Founder's Award, in honor of Kim Moore, selected by Bay School Founder Wendy Wells-Finn, was awarded to

Kathleen Noffsinger's oil and cold wax on cradled board "Flamingo Party"; The Arts on Main Award, sponsored by William and Roxanna Anderson and selected by Betsy Henderson, executive director of the Gloucester gallery, went to Katherine Maloney's stoneware piece "Symbiosis"; The Richmond Clayworks Award for Ceramic Excellence went to Shirley Gromen's porcelain piece "Laughing Gull Vase."

The Students' Choice 2-D Award, Celebrating Art in Education, co-sponsored by Janine and David Burns and Mathews area art teachers, was awarded to Bob Carlson for his acrylic piece, "Blue Dock 2," and The Students' Choice, 3-D Award, In Honor of Our Children, sponsored by Mac and Gay Butler, was



Michele Fletcher's Fine Art Photography piece "Foggy Morning" won Best in Show in the Bay School Community Arts Center eighth annual Art Speaks Juried Exhibition.

awarded to Russell Turnage for his porcelain piece, called

"Kelp Dance."

Five Awards of Merit were selected by the Judge. The artists and their pieces were: Karen Kingsley, acrylic, "Edna Earl"; Linda Marshall, oil on board, "A Friend"; Barbara Henning-Loomis, graphite and colored pencil, "Unbound"; Russell Turnage, porcelain, "Slow Swim"; and Johnny Hayes, acrylic, "Peaceful Valley."

In addition to the virtual exhibition, all works will be featured in a video slideshow and a printed program, both of which will be available in the Art Speaks Gallery during the show's run. The video and program will include comments made by the judge about the show and the winning pieces she selected.

The show can be viewed on the Bay School website (www.bayschool-arts.com) through Aug. 25.

Judge Nicole Santiago is the featured "Artist of the Month" for August. An exhibition of her work will open in the Art Speaks Gallery on July 31 and will run through August.

For more information about these parallel shows, contact the Bay School at 804-725-1278 or bayschool-arts@gmail.com.

The Bay School's Art Speaks Gallery has resumed normal operating hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Classes are currently being held on a limited basis with safety measures in place.

Arts on Main opens summer camp program

Arts on Main in Gloucester has opened its summer camp program this year, under physical distancing, a face-mask requirement and other safety protocols.

Each week campers from ages 9 to 12 will explore a different medium over a three-day period through a variety of crafts and projects, said

a press release. The classes are held from 9:30 a.m. to noon each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

In session one, from July 29-31, campers dive into the colorful world of paint, mixing colors and playing with acrylics on canvas.

Session two, from Aug. 5-7, involves campers work-

ing with fibers of all kinds, learning to sew a variety of stitches that will be used to create stuffed emojis and creatures.

In session three, from Aug. 12-14, participants will create three dimensional masterpieces with papier-mâché, learning to construct, cover and color their cre-

ations with paint.

Classes are \$50 for a three-day session, and participants may register for one session or all sessions. Each session is limited to 10 campers. Campers must wear face masks.

For more information, call 804-824-9464 or visit gloucesterarts.org.

Good Shot Judy to perform Saturday in Deltaville

Good Shot Judy will present a special performance at 6 p.m. Saturday as part of the Groovin' in the Park series at the Deltaville Maritime Museum, 267 Jackson Creek Road, Deltaville.

The Honeywind Bluegrass Boys will open the concert at 5 p.m. Gates open at 4.

Following COVID-19 Phase 3 restrictions, tickets to the event are limited, with a "special performance" ticket

required for the show, said a press release.

Good Shot Judy delivers classic vocals with a Big Band sound and recreates the nightclub entertainment feel of Las Vegas during the era of Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin, said the release, adding that the group is equally adept at delivering classic ballads and cocktail music. The Honeywind Bluegrass Boys has a hard-driv-

ing bluegrass sound, said the release.

This year's Groovin' in the Park concerts will be all-ticket events, with tickets sold not only for entry but also for food and beverages,

said the release. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the gate. Children 12 and under are free.

For more information, visit www.deltavillemuseum.com.

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For further information, please call The Moose Family Center at (804) 693-3899

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RUSSELL BUXTON BROWN SR.



Russell Buxton Brown Sr., "Buxie," age 80, of Hayes, died at his home on Friday, July 24, 2020. Buxie was a lifelong waterman, and was preceded in death by his parents, Mintree and Estelle Brown; siblings, Alice Hicks, Joyce Jenkins, Walton Brown, and Mary Seigler. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Jean Brown; three children, Russell B. Brown Jr. (Tracey), Robert Christopher Brown, Angela Marie Smith (Michael); eight grandchildren, and a brother, Mintree Brown (Rachel). The family received friends Tuesday, July 28, 2020, from 6-7:30 p.m. at Hogg Funeral Home. A graveside service conducted by the Rev. Bill West was held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 29, 2020, in Gloucester Point Cemetery.

Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home.

WALDEN DECATUR CARMINE JR.



Walden D. Carmine Jr., 70 years of age, of Hayes, passed on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at Riverside Regional Medical Center.

Known to his friends as Donny, he was born on March 28, 1950 to the late Walden and Katherine Carmine of Gloucester, and was the oldest of seven children. He was a member of Gloucester Point Baptist Church, graduated Gloucester High School in 1968 and attended Virginia Polytechnical Institute (Virginia Tech).

Donny started his career working for VEPCO in Richmond, Yorktown Power Station, and Surry Nuclear Power Station. He traveled all over the world, working in the field of Electrical Control Systems. He retired as Senior Electrical Controls Engineer for Varec Incorporated of Atlanta, Georgia.

He enjoyed traveling, researching genealogy, history, working on computers and helping his family. He was a beloved uncle and always enjoyed participating in the lives of his nieces and nephews. He had a fond love for animals and helping people in need. He helped his friends in addition to his family. He was known for his deep conversation and the ability to research many topics. He was always handy giving advice and fixing things. He will be deeply missed by his friends, family, and all that knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Walden D. Carmine Sr. and Katherine A. Carmine, and brother, Robert W. Carmine.

He is survived by his brothers and sisters, Jerry Carmine (Janice), Penny Reynolds, Betsy Berger (Robb), John Carmine, and Steven Carmine; his nieces and nephews, Ashley McGhee (Nathan), Jillian Carmine, Lauren Finstad (Jordan), Kristen Berger, Matthew Carmine, and Samuel Carmine; and his great-niece and -nephew, Grace Finstad and William McGhee.

Interment will be in Rosewell Memorial Garden Cemetery. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, services will be private for the safety of family and friends. Arrangements under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home.

In Donny's memory, contributions may be given to Gloucester Point Baptist Church, P.O. Box 305, Gloucester Point, Va. 23062.

KENNETH LEE CUMBERLAND



Kenneth Lee Cumberland, 78, passed away on Thursday, July 23, 2020, at Riverside Convalescent Center-Mathews. Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents, William and Margaret Cumberland; brother, William (Buzzy) Cumberland; sister, Gladys Cook, and brother-in-law, Virgie English.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie George; sister, Helen English; nephews, Jerry Cumberland (Messina), Willy Cumberland (Liz), Louie Cook (Peggie) and Wayne

English (Linda); nieces, Susie Wasilewski (Joe), Elaine Chrisley (Marvin), Starla Stoessie, and Terry Overton, and numerous great-nieces and -nephews.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, July 29 at 1 p.m. at Faulkner Funeral Homes, Foster-Faulkner Chapel, Mathews. A graveside service will be held on Thursday, July 30 at 1 p.m. in Stonewall Memory Gardens, 12004 Lee Hwy., Manassas, Virginia 20109. In lieu of flowers it is requested that donations be given to Westville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 831, 105 Main Street, Mathews, Va. 23109. Please be advised that current state-mandated guidelines will apply to all in attendance, including social distancing and appropriate face covering. We sincerely appreciate your understanding.

CHRISTIAN HANSON GIBSON

Christian Hanson Gibson, 43, Yorktown, died Friday, July 24, 2020, in Mary Immaculate Hospital, Newport News.

He was born in Newport News, and worked in construction.

He was preceded in death by his father, Yoman Gibson. Survivors include his wife, Jennessa Lynn Gibson; mother, Sandra Leedy Gibson Conney, and siblings, Kimberly Leedy, Debra Jenner, Samantha Harmon, Russell Gibson, Michael Gibson, and Erik Gibson.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the American Liver Foundation.

Andrews Funeral Home & Crematory, Gloucester, is in charge of arrangements.

CARD OF THANKS

HUDGINS--We would like to thank everyone for all acts of kindness shown to us at the passing of Gerald.

May God bless you.

Rosemary, Brenda, Gerald and Tommy

LISA LYNN GANNON DAVENPORT



Lisa Lynn Gannon Davenport, age 57, of Gloucester Point, passed away peacefully on July 16, 2020, after a short illness. Lisa was a probation officer for District 5 Probation and Parole. She loved her work, had great concern for her clients, and always hoped to positively impact their lives. She was eager to learn and took every opportunity to train and grow in her job. Her Associate's Degree was from Rappahannock Community College and her B.S. from ODU. Lisa loved life, her family, her church family, and

her heavenly father. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Gloucester Ward. One of Lisa's greatest joys was traveling, and she particularly enjoyed her recent trip to Italy and an earlier trip to Alaska. Lisa had a great sense of humor and enjoyed poking fun at her mom, dad, and best friend, Mary. She was a very bright light in her parents' home, and her presence will be sorely missed. She was preceded in death by her father, Bobby Wayne Gannon; stepsister, Teresa Valfre; stepbrother, Jared Grow; companion-best friend, and love of her life, David Schlickelman. Lisa is survived by her mother, Gail Grow; stepfather, Richard Grow; brother, Vance Gannon; stepbrother, Calvin Grow and wife Lynn; nieces, Niki Gannon Hartzell, Annie Linton, Laura Roque; nephews, Scott, Matthew, Tyler, and Jacob Grow; two great-nieces, Kaylee and Karlee, as well as her best friend who lives in Texas, Mary Brown. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In memory of Lisa, contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 900, Arlington, Va. 22202.

Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home.

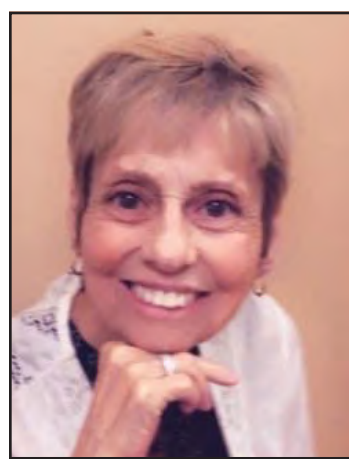
JIMMY LEE HOGGE

Jimmy Lee Hogge, age 73, of Hayes, passed away on July 22, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was an avid golfer who loved hitting the links with all his golfing buddies (Mike, Ray, Herb, Pitt and others). Through the years, he played in various tournaments which he truly enjoyed. He also loved being on the water and fishing, his second passion. Jimmy also loved raising a big garden, so he could share with family and friends. He retired from NWS Yorktown after 39 years of service as an ordnance supervisor.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edith and Steve Hogge of Glass. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Angela (Angie) Hogge; two children, Jimmy Lee Jr. and Nancy Lynn; three siblings, Robert Hogge, Sylvia Marcum of Gloucester, and JoAnne Weimar of Florida.

A special thank-you to Riverside Hospice (Susan and Joel). In lieu of flowers, please donate to American Cancer Society, 4240 Park Place Court, Glen Allen, Va. 23060. A memorial service will be held at Andrews Funeral Home & Crematory on Saturday, Aug. 1 at 1 p.m.

BRENDA JENKINS



Brenda Jenkins, 71, of Gloucester, passed away peacefully July 21, 2020 at her residence. She loved life and fought for it through a lifetime of illnesses. Throughout her life, she was a homemaker. Brenda had a great love for cooking and crocheting blankets. She made friends with everyone and loved being with her family and friends. Brenda was always strong and had a great love for God and her faith.

Brenda was born on March 12, 1949 in Fredericksburg to the late Mary Margaret (Hill)

and Wilson Otis Atwell Sr. She is survived by her daughter, Theresa, wife of Emit Stover of Gloucester; grandson, Paul Watlet (Jonna); great-grandsons, Iziah and Aiden, and many nieces and nephews. Brenda was also surrounded by her caring and loving sisters-in-law, Carolyn and Betty, throughout her life.

The family would like to thank Riverside Hospice for the care they have shown, in particular, her nurse Suzanne and aide Ethel. Brenda now has her red dress on, waiting in heaven. After battling a long life of illnesses, she is now no longer in pain for the first time.

A memorial service was held at 3 p.m. at Andrews Funeral Home, Inc., on Monday, July 27, with the Rev. Calvin Griffin conducting.

STEVEN 'TODD' MEADE



Steven "Todd" Meade was born on April 12, 1963. Todd passed peacefully into arms of the Lord on July 27, 2020. He was a brother to Eric C. Meade and Loren D. Pearce. Todd was a 35-year employee at the Newport News Shipbuilding and had resided in Gloucester for the last 43 years. He leaves behind a broken heart of family and close friends who will remember the gift that we've lost.

Todd was born to Ronald A. Meade and Sandra P. Meade. They are all gone

now, but their memories are alive in our hearts. Now Todd is enjoying company in paradise. His family and friends will struggle with the loss of our wonderful brother, cousin, uncle and friend. He brought us a sense of humor and a smile that will be greatly missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date to be announced in the coming weeks. It will be held at his home located at 5577 York Haven Lane, Gloucester, Va. 23061.

Andrews Funeral Home & Crematory, Gloucester, is in charge of arrangements.

MARTHA ANNE KING



Martha Anne King (Smith), 73, of Hallieford, passed away, Saturday, July 18, 2020, after a warrior's battle with cancer. She was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on Aug. 17, 1946 to the late Bradford and June Smith. Martha Anne is survived by her loving husband of 50 years, Terence Michael King; two daughters, Tracey (married to Eric Barrett) and Virginia (married to Chris Leggett); four grandchildren, Ryan, Josh, Brennan and Elizabeth June, and her brother,

Hilton "Butch" Smith and sister-in-law, Judy.

Martha Anne grew up in Alexandria, graduating top of her class from Groveton High School in 1964. She attended Lynchburg College on a swim and dive scholarship, graduating with honors in 1968 as an English major. Following graduation, she was offered a programming position with IBM. Not only did she take the offer, she negotiated her own salary, which was quite an accomplishment for a woman in the late 1960s.

Her position at IBM took her to New Jersey where through her brother, Butch, she met her future husband, Terry. The couple fell in love after their first date to the NYC Playboy Club. They married on November 28, 1969. Martha Anne's career took them back to the D.C. area in the early '70s, where she worked in the federal contracting field, ultimately retiring from Oracle in 2007.

In 1974, Martha Anne requested maternity leave prior to the arrival of her first daughter, Tracey. This was denied; however, her beloved boss held her position open until the new mother was able to return to her job. Seeing this inequity, Martha Anne worked to institute a maternity leave policy in the company. Three years later at the birth of her second daughter, Ginny, she was one of the many beneficiaries of this policy.

In 1979, Martha Anne and Terry began their endeavor as their girls' biggest fans on the sideline of a soccer field, in the bleachers of a field hockey tournament, enjoying a school talent show, editing graduation speeches, or producing the world's best elementary school haunted house (with the best witch costume ever), and volunteering countless hours with the PTA and other organizations. Martha Anne and Terry helped spearhead the campaign in Fairfax County to establish affordable after school childcare, which resulted in the SACC program, benefitting thousands of Fairfax County families today.

Martha Anne's enthusiasm for excellence and thirst for education propelled her into retirement when she and Terry came to the Rivah full-time. Terry's diagnosis with Parkinson's disease placed MAK into a new role: caregiver. Fulfilling her oath to support each other in sickness and health, MAK worked tirelessly with the VA to ensure Terry would receive his full entitlement, which would provide for his care for the rest of his life.

During these retirement years in Mathews, MAK discovered her true self, undergoing a metamorphosis into an accomplished writer and visual artist. The women and men at the Chesapeake Bay Writer's Guild, National League of American Pen Women, Bay School Community Arts Center, Rappahannock Art League, Kingston Parish, her cherished "Booked for Lunch" Club, and "Soup Group" inspired Martha Anne to continue her explorations in literature, art and life.

Her written works were published and heard at open mics. Her love of painting took her to Italy and other exotic locations. She exhibited her art work in galleries across Virginia, entered and won art shows, and never stopped learning her craft. She leaves behind an extensive portfolio of "to be finished" pieces.

MAK was overjoyed to become "Grandma" with the birth of her four grandchildren, each embodying strengths of their beloved grandmother.

Throughout MAK's life, she used her power and intelligence to make this world a better place. Her friends and family describe MAK as an inspiration, joyful, spirited, strong, and intelligent. Her strength, determination, and love of life continued throughout her life, never wavering while she waged war against her cancer for two and a half years. MAK's "Nymph Army" of friends and relatives held her up when she could not. When treatments failed and no other options arose, save for Riverside Hospice, she chose to surrender peacefully in her beloved River house, within the gallery of her beautiful works, with her adoring daughters by her side.

A private memorial service will be held at Christ Church Kingston Parish.

A virtual memorial service will be posted at Faulkner Funeral Homes, <https://www.faulknerfuneralhcs.com/obituaries>.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Bay School Community Arts Center (<https://www.bayschool-arts.com/> 279 Main Street, Mathews, Va. 23109, 804-725-1278).

Faulkner Funeral Homes, Foster-Faulkner Chapel, Mathews, is assisting the family.

JESSE FRANKLIN SCOTT SR.



Jesse Franklin Scott Sr. of Saluda, gently closed his loving eyes on Thursday, July 23, 2020, at Riverside Walter Reed Hospital, Gloucester. He was born Dec. 3, 1935 in Middlesex County. He was the son of the late Lucy E. Scott and Temple Banks Jr.

Jesse served as a Deacon at Immanuel Baptist Church, Saluda, until his illness. He was a retiree of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock, and was an active member of the Bethlehem Star Masonic Lodge in Saluda.

He was married to the late Virgie E. Norman. From that union, four children were born: Gloria Ann, Jesse Franklin, Charles Eric and Jeffery Alban. He also had a daughter, Karen Redmond. On Dec. 1, 2002, he was remarried to Dorothy Latimore. They were happily married for 17 years until his death.

Jesse was preceded in death by his son, Charles E. Scott.

He will be remembered by his wife, Dorothy Scott; two daughters, Gloria Paige (Charlie) of Gloucester and Karen Redmond of West Point; two sons, Jesse F. Scott Jr. of Richmond and Jeffery A. Scott of Middlesex; eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

The public viewing will be 3-7 p.m. Friday, July 31, 2020, at J.K. Redmond Funeral Home. A private service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home, followed by the interment in Immanuel Baptist Church Cemetery, Saluda. Friends may view the service by Zoom; dial in 929-436-2866, Zoom ID 8081603895, password 683968. The public is welcome to join the family at the cemetery.

Archaeological dig provides glimpse of Mathews colonial life

BY TYLER BASS

Conrad Hall, author of "A Select History of Mathews County, Virginia: 17th, 18th & 19th Centuries and The Family of Ann and Robert Hall," knew that he could trace his family to Mathews County.

However, the Norfolk resident wasn't sure where in Mathews his ancestors lived, so he reached out to the Fairfield Foundation three years ago to see if they could help locate his forebears' home.

Together, they found land in Port Haywood, and that discovery in turn led to an excavation of 17th and 18th century artifacts. Dr. David Brown, co-director of the Fairfield Foundation, said that Hall is an amateur map expert and had immersed himself in old county records to try to locate his family's former land.

Hall himself found that land in Port Haywood, and the Fairfield Foundation was able to narrow where they believe the home was located. The land now belongs to the Shields family, who allowed the Fairfield Foundation to dig holes in their front yard for three years.

Brown said that LeAnne Shields was very encouraging and enthusiastic during the dig. A former history teacher at Mathews High School, Shields felt it serendipitous that the dig would take place in her front yard. She was glad that she had a part in the historical dig and in the history of Mathews, and that the three years felt like a matter of weeks.

"I wanted to be an archaeologist when I was little, and to have that in my front yard was surreal," said Shields. Though she didn't get to do any digging, Shields said that she was often beside the holes looking at what was being discovered. "Archaeology is like a big game of battleship," said Brown. He explained that when looking for artifacts, they just dig a hole and hope. At this site, they hit the "battleship" on the first try.

Brown said that part of ar-



TYLER BASS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

This arrowhead was found at the Hall dig site. The Fairfield Foundation dated the projectile point to have been made between 8000 and 6000 B.C.E.

chaeology is knowing what to look for. Hall knew that his family owned the land from the 1700s to the early 1800s, so the foundation knew to look for artifacts from that time frame.

They immediately found pieces of tobacco pipes and delftware that fit the bill. Brown said that they knew without a shadow of a doubt that they were in the right spot.

The goal was to find the location of the house. They searched for structural remains, or evidence of a foundation. If one test hole comes up with any of this evidence, said Brown, they then look for the home in a rectangular grid.

Two challenges were presented to the archaeologists in their hunt for the house. The first, Brown said, was that the artifacts were leading them to the Shields drain field. The second was that almost no one has done digging in Mathews.

"Our excavation is probably the biggest excavation in the county," said Brown. He said the lack of digging in the county meant that they didn't know if the architecture was "exceptional." They could have been looking for a different kind of structure all together.

Though they did find evidence of a small cellar, Brown said that they were unable to locate the house. What the archaeologists did find were

artifacts of everyday life that gave them and Hall an idea of how his ancestors lived.

Brown said that one of the more interesting finds was a collection of Dutch pipes, tobacco pipes. On one of the pipes is the word "Gouda," which is a port city in Holland.

He said that Mathews was an outward-looking community that had commerce through trade with other locales, and that not everyone made their living on the water. Since the dig site was far from any waterways, the foundation concluded that the Hall family likely made their living as merchants and had connections with Dutch traders, which would explain the pipes.

Other artifacts of everyday life found over the three years of digging, as well, included buttons and belt buckles. Brown said that sometimes the smallest of finds can be



TYLER BASS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

This cut Spanish coin from 1733 was fashioned into a pendant by its former owner. Dr. David Brown said that these types of pendants were made to signify a date that likely happened in the same year the coin was made. Brown said that coins were cut to make change for transactions.

the most significant to the history of the location. One small find was a coin cut in half that was fashioned to be worn as a necklace. Brown said the coin likely shared a date with an important moment for the Hall family, such as a wedding or birth.

Shields said that her favorite artifact was a small brass thimble that likely was owned by a young girl. She said that she would put it on her pinky and think about the girl and how she lived.

She said that she taught her kids that history is the legacy of those before us, and the legacy most people leave is of their normal, everyday life. The thimble is a part of the girl's and Mathews County's legacy.

The excavation ended in 2019. The artifacts found at the site are being given to Colonial Williamsburg to be part of an exhibit in the coming years. The items may find their way back to Mathews one day, though, said Brown, thanks to an agreement that Mathews has the right to display the artifacts.



TYLER BASS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

These delftware fragments were likely made and hand-painted between the late 17th and 18th century.

COMING EVENTS

For listings, call 804-693-3101 or email info@gazettejournal.net

PUBLIC CALENDAR

MONDAY

COMMUNITY POLICY TEAM: The Mathews County Community Policy Management Team will meet at 11 a.m. Monday in the Human Services Building on Church Street.

Gloucester County Resource Council will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 5, in the Gloucester Library community room, Main Street Center.

WETLANDS: The Mathews County Wetlands Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 5, in the historic courthouse on Court Street.

TUESDAY

SUPERVISORS: The Gloucester Board of Supervisors will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the T.C. Walker Education Center.

NEXT THURSDAY

PLANNING COMMISSION: The Gloucester County Planning Commission will meet at 7 p.m. next Thursday, Aug. 6, at the T.C. Walker Education Center.

WEDNESDAY

RESOURCE COUNCIL: The

COMMUNITY GROUPS

THURSDAY

BOOK MOBILE: The Mathews Memorial Library Youth Book Mobile will make stops at the following three locations today: Bethel United Methodist Church, 10-10:30 a.m.; Port Haywood Post Office, 10:45-11:15 a.m.; and Beulah United Methodist Church, 11:30 a.m. to noon. The program is for

young readers throughout the community.

SATURDAY

MICRO TRIATHLON: The final event in the Virginia Tidewater Trailrunners Mathews Micro Triathlon Series will start at 8 a.m. Saturday at Williams Wharf in Mathews. The cost to participate is \$22. For more information, visit vttrailrunners.com.

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PERSONAL PROPERTY: 04 Ford Focus (86k), 10 Original Paintings by German artist Keupp, Framed LE Prints, 50 Hummels, 25 Buddhist Wood, Brass, Bronze Artifacts, Statues, German Carved Wood Figures, 100s items from World Travels, 93 pcs Rosenthal China, Vases, Dresden Porcelain, European Crystal, Pottery, Crystal Stemware, Mid-Century Danish, German Furn, Grandfather Oak Case Clock, German Cuckoo Clock, Painted Chest, Oak Slant-front Desk, Oak Display/China Cabinet, Carved Bear Lamps, Office Furn, 20 Oriental Rugs, German Linens, 60s-70s Barbie Dolls, Accessories. 25 Pcs Gold, Diamond Gemstone Jewelry, Necklace w/Pear Emerald (w/Appraisal), Diamonds, Opal Ring (w/Appr), Watches, Sterling Silver Jewelry, Gold \$1 Coin, 100 pcs Vintage/Boxed Costume Jewelry, Jewelry Boxes. Ham Radio Equip, Scuba Equip, 2 Sets Golf Clubs, Still sorting!

See Websites for Photos and Updates

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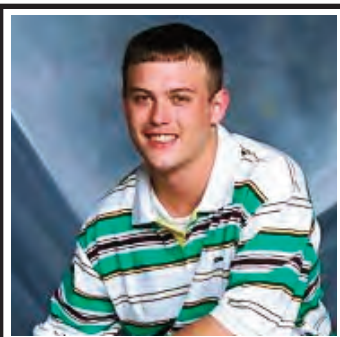
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Your memories are treasured within our hearts especially when your birthday is here. Memories of those lovely days remain forever. We remember how much you loved your birthday. It was always so special to you we remember you with fondest thoughts. You were ever so wonderful. You were the one in a million, and you'll always be precious and unforgettable to us. For all that you were, and for all that you did, you remain very special indeed we are grateful for the times we had together. We'll cherish our memories of you forever.

Love and Miss You
Dad & Mom
Jennifer & Tommy
Granddaddy



In Loving Memory of
George A. "Drew" Tillage

Jan. 3, 1968-July 27, 2011
Sometimes we smile
We know you are near.
It's not enough
you are not here.
You left with love
when you flew away
And a piece of us
Went with you that day.
The years roll by
We are not the same.
But in our hearts
You will remain.

We love and miss you every day!
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Route 17 at Route 216 Intersection Improvements Gloucester County Notice of Willingness

A Notice of Willingness about the proposed improvements at the intersection of Route 17 (George Washington Memorial Highway) and Route 216 (Guinea Road) in Gloucester County is being offered.

This safety improvement project at the intersection of Route 17 and Route 216 will repurpose the existing shared through/left lane on Route 216 (Guinea Road), east of Route 17, to provide a dedicated westbound left turn lane and a dedicated through lane. This will be accomplished by reconstructing the existing median to the south and modifying the traffic signal phasing for efficiency. Additionally, access management improvements will be implemented along Route 17 south of the intersection at several locations. These improvements may include modifying or closing some commercial entrances.

Review the project information at VDOT's Fredericksburg District Office located at 87 Deacon Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22405, 540-899-4288 or TDD/TTY 711. You can also review the project information at VDOT's Saluda Residency located at 1027 General Puller Highway, Saluda, VA 23149, 804-758-2321. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Mr. Curtis Holloway, Project Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation, 87 Deacon Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22405 on or prior to **Thursday, August 13, 2020**. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time, and place of the hearing will be posted.

A notice of willingness for the project was previously posted and a design public hearing was held on February 24, 2020. VDOT is repeating the notice of willingness and will accept public comments previously submitted as well as new comments on the proposed design. This notice of willingness and associated comments will supersede previous efforts due to procedural requirements. Documents from the design public hearing are available online at www.VirginiaDOT.org under "Projects and Studies" and "Fredericksburg District."

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are included in the National Environmental Policy Act documentation.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager at 540-899-4288 or TDD/TTY 711.

State Project: 0017-036-617, P101
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85 from Gloucester, 29 from Mathews among RCC grads

A total of 620 people—including 85 from Gloucester and 29 from Mathews—were awarded associate's degrees and certificates from Rappahannock Community College as part of that institution's 2020 graduation.

Gloucester grads

The following Gloucester students received Associate of Arts and Sciences degrees:

Alyssa Dominique Askew (Arts and Sciences, Magna Cum Laude), Alexis K. Belcher (Psychology/Social Work, Magna Cum Laude), Ava Virginia Bohon-Atkinson (Arts and Sciences, Magna Cum Laude), Tyler Noah Brown (Pre-Engineering, Magna Cum Laude), Sara Colleen Craig (Arts and Sciences, Summa Cum Laude), Deanna Lee DiSpirito (Arts and Sciences, Cum Laude), Robert S. Eisler (Health-STEM, Magna Cum Laude), Elisha Renee Evans (Criminal Justice, Summa Cum Laude), Thomas Meyer Evans (Pre-Engineering), Caela Brooke Gilsinan (Arts and Sciences, Magna Cum Laude), Benjamin George Joseph Green (Business Administration, Cum Laude), Jacqueline C. Harris (Arts and Sciences, Magna Cum Laude), Jason N. Hunter (Arts and Sciences, Cum Laude), Kendall Ann Keel (Criminal Justice), Ariana Virginia Kerns (Arts and Sciences), Deborah L. Kirkland (Psychology/Social Work, Magna Cum Laude), Douglas Kodl (Arts and Sciences), Jessie Marie Madison (Teacher Education PreK-8, Magna Cum Laude), Nathan Anderson Marsh (Arts and Sciences), Timmie Antonio Matthews Jr. (Arts and Sciences), Kailyn Maynor (Business Administration), Sandra Ann Mickelborough (Business Administration, Cum Laude), Delilah Rae Nelson (Business Administration), Alyssa Onarza (Arts and Sciences), Ashley Marie Pierno (Health-STEM, Cum Laude), Olivia Augusta Pohorence (Business Administration, Magna Cum Laude), Steven William Pointer (Arts and Sciences, Summa Cum Laude), Salome P. Quintanilla (Teacher Education PreK-8, Summa Cum Laude), Anna Robins (Health-STEM, Magna Cum Laude), Whitney Martina Robins (Arts and Sciences, Summa Cum Laude), Alyssa A. Saylor (Arts and Sciences), Erin Elizabeth Schnurr (Arts and Sciences, Magna Cum Laude), Morgan Nicole Slavnik (Arts and Sciences, Summa Cum Laude), Brittney

Jean Splitt (Arts and Sciences, Cum Laude), Patrick O'Rielly Stone (Arts and Sciences, Summa Cum Laude), Madison Sykes (Arts and Sciences, Cum Laude), Alexander George Teller (Health-STEM), Matthew Leigh Thayer (Sustainable Science, Magna Cum Laude), Brittany Underwood-Hardin (Arts and Sciences), Licia Billie Ann Washington (Arts and Sciences, Cum Laude), Luke Anthony Waters (Arts and Sciences, Magna Cum Laude), Kaleigh Rane White (Arts and Sciences, Magna Cum Laude), Brian Keith Whitley (Arts and Sciences) and Danielle Jaimes Woodard (Criminal Justice, Cum Laude).

Gloucester students receiving Associate of Applied Science degrees in Nursing were:

Mackenzie Nickole Bass, Melissa Kathryn Bredlau, Hieu Van Cao, Kaitlyn Diane Carr (Cum Laude), Andrew Ray Clark, Olivia Marie Cross, Shelby Lyn Dablemont, Liliana Domenech, Jamie Lynn Eisenhauer, Lisa M. Gibson (Cum Laude), Aspasia L. Greene, Marjorie Mary Hobbs (Magna Cum Laude), Emma Madeline Malise, Tammy Sue Marshall, Megan Olivia McMahon, Emily Marie Parks-Carter, Susan R. Spencer (Magna Cum Laude), Tiffany Nicole Taylor and Ashley Blake Warren (Cum Laude).

Andrew Christian Willoughby (Business Management, Magna Cum Laude) and Oliver Winston Ulsaker (General Engineering Technology, Magna Cum Laude) of Gloucester also received Associate of Applied Science degrees.

Gloucester students receiving certificates were:

Cori R. Banach (General Education), Justin Matthew Burgess (Career Studies Certificate, STEM at Work), Justin Tyler Carpenter (Career Studies Certificate, Basic Network and Cybersecurity), Jessica Dawn Carter (Career Studies Certificate, Pre-Nursing), Austin Nicholas Coates (General Education), Kayla Coates (Career Studies Certificate, Phlebotomy), Grayce Tamondong Garrett (Career Studies Certificate, Pre-Practical Nursing), Gabrielle Nicole Hogge (Career Studies Certificate, Pre-Nursing), Jenilee Megan Ice (Career Studies Certificate, Phlebotomy), Landon James Khoury (Career Studies Certificate, Culinary Arts), Joshua Allen Lake (Career Studies Certificate, STEM at Work), Alyssa Jeannine Meadows (Career Studies Certificate, Pre-Nursing), Briana Natalia Pollard (Career Studies Certificate,

STEM at Work), Tracy Joy Sawyer (Career Studies Certificate, Pre-Nursing), Allison Taylor (Career Studies Certificate, Pre-Nursing), Josey Tomlinson (General Education), Christina Joy Tuculet (Career Studies Certificate, Nurse Aide), Jodi A. Valcourt (Career Studies Certificate, EMS-EMT Paramedic II), Stephanie Lynn Whitt (General Education) and Ainsley Margaret Yard (General Education).

Mathews grads

The following Mathews students received Associate of Arts and Sciences degrees:

Todd Christopher Britt (Arts and Sciences, Cum Laude), Jaime Nicole Collins (Teacher Education PreK-8), Natasha Renee Fields (Psychology/Social Work), Morgan Rae Hudgins (Business Administration), Benjamin Locker (Arts and Sciences, Summa Cum Laude), Isaiah Cordell Maultsby (Arts and Sciences), Glinnie M. Minton (Psychology/Social Work), Paris Igraine Nelson (Arts and Sciences, Cum Laude), Caitlyn Jade Painter (Teacher Education PreK-8), Matthew Isaac Shields (Arts and Sciences, Magna Cum Laude), Madison Brooke South (Arts and Sciences, Cum Laude) and Candice Nichol Yohnk (Health-STEM, Summa Cum Laude).

Mathews students receiving Associate of Applied Science degrees in Nursing were:

Crystal Johanne Clark, Kayla Nicole Robins, Amber Elizabeth Jackson, Grace Blair Mason, Christina M. McManus (Cum Laude), Leslie M. Myles, Christen Furcron Paine, Lauren Nichole Reed (Cum Laude), Cassidy Lynn White and Emma Morgan Wood.

Mathews students receiving certificates were:

Megan Brooke Balderson (Career Studies Certificate, Pre-Nursing), Kristen Faith Frank (Career Studies Certificate, STEM at Work), Tiffany Nicole Hogge (Law Enforcement), Jessie Lane Mills (Career Studies Certificate, STEM at Work), Matthew Kenneth Taylor (Career Studies Certificate, STEM at Work), Katherine Mackenzie Tunstall (Practical Nursing) and Jennifer Taylor Wells (Career Studies Certificate, STEM at Work). Graduation honors listed were Cum Laude (with honor, 3.2 cumulative GPA), Magna Cum Laude (with high honor, 3.5 cumulative GPA) and Summa Cum Laude (with highest honor, 3.8 cumulative GPA).



Mathews High School student Jordan Hunley and Lee-Jackson Elementary School student Abigail Macias both chose a nautical theme for their winning artwork in the VSBA Eastern Region Art Contest, with Hunley drawing a workboat and Macias depicting a lighthouse.

Two Mathews students win VSBA Art Contest

Abigail Macias, a student at Lee-Jackson Elementary School, and Mathews High School student Jordan Hunley were two of the three top winners in the 2020 Virginia School Boards Association Eastern Regional Art Contest.

Gloucester County had three students place in the competition, with Bethel Elementary School's Kaylynn Stokes taking second in the elementary school level, Olivia Nelson of Peasley Middle School taking

third among middle schoolers and Olivia Case of Gloucester High School finishing second in the high school competition.

In addition to Macias and Hunley, the other first-place winner was Keira Jean Bradsky of King George, who won in the middle school category.

The VSBA Regional Art Contest was started in 1989 to promote the artistic talents of Virginia's public school students. For each of the

nine VSBA regions, a winner is chosen for the elementary, middle and high school levels. The winning art is framed and displayed in the offices of the VSBA in Charlottesville and the Richmond offices of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The Mathews County School Board will recognize the county's two winners at its Sept. 15 meeting.

Salvation Army puts out the call for school supplies

Whether school ends up being held in person or virtually this fall, or a combination of the two, the fact remains that students will still need pencils, paper and other supplies to get their work done—and the Salvation Army has put out the call for donations.

Nicole Watson, case manager for the Salvation Army's Gloucester service center, has provided a list of items needed. They include: black Sharpie markers, boxes of tissues, calculators, color markers, color pencils, composi-

tion books, crayons, dry erase marker, folders with pockets and folders with pockets and prongs, glue sticks and liquid, hand sanitizer, highlighters, 3"x5" index cards, mechanical pencils, notebook paper, #2 pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, black/blue/red pens, 3-ring binders, rulers, scissors, Scotch tape, spiral notebooks, supply boxes and empty book bags.

Cash donations are also appreciated, she said. The supplies may be dropped off by Monday, Aug. 24, at the

Gloucester Service Center location, 7059 Linda Circle, Hayes.

"I know that school may be virtual or possibly in-person, yet we don't want any child to go without supplies for the upcoming school year," Watson said.

For more information, contact Watson at Nicole.Watson@uss.salvationarmy.org or Maria Post at Antonia.post@uss.salvationarmy.org or call the office at 804-642-3960.



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PHOTO BY DEBORAH BONE

'Beauty Through the Rust'

The Achilles Elementary School Warriors Club built a thriving business over the past two years, selling holiday grams, school supplies, novelty toys and candy to earn money for the school. With its success, the club recently made a \$1,000 donation to "Beauty Through the Rust," a small, nonprofit, all-volunteer local animal rescue. Pictured are, from left, Achilles principal Katina Keener, club sponsor Bobbie Drexler, Beauty Through the Rust vice president Chili Childress and Achilles assistant principal Mary Beth Preas.

COVID-19: May death added to Gloucester fatalities

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A) tions in Mathews, a number that has remained the same for over two months. There have been no deaths from the virus in Mathews.

The number of cases increased in Middlesex this week, as well, with four new cases, for a total of 25. Two people in the county have been hospitalized for the illness, and one person has died.

Across the Three Rivers Health District, there were 59 additional cases this week, for a total of 956 as of Wednesday morning. Sixty-six people have been hospitalized for the illness in the 10-county district, and 15 people have died, with three of those deaths occurring during the past week.

Statewide, the number of cases increased during the past week by 7,600, for

a total on Wednesday morning of 87,993 cases. Hospitalizations rose from 7,351 last week to 7,738 this week, or an increase of 387, and there were 74 additional deaths, for a total number statewide of 2,125.

Thus far, 1,073,463 COVID-19 PCR tests have been conducted in Virginia, 122,289 of them during the past week. Three Rivers Health District has conducted 17,486 tests, with 1,778 of them conducted during the past week. Statewide, the rate of positive tests as of Wednesday morning was 7.1 percent statewide and just 4.2 percent in the Three Rivers Health District.

According to the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, there were 1,350 people in hospitals across Virginia on Wednesday morning who were either positive for COVID-19 or suspected of

having the illness but were awaiting the results of their tests. Of those hospitalized, 276 were in the ICU and 155 were on ventilators.

Thus far, 11,650 hospital patients with confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been treated in hospitals and discharged.

The total number of ventilators on-hand in hospitals as of Wednesday morning was 3,043, according to the VHHA, and 668 of those were in use. There were 3,647 inpatient hospital beds available across the state on Wednesday morning, with 3,695 beds added under Executive Order 51.

ICU occupancy statewide was 79 percent on Wednesday morning, according to the website, but an additional 908 surge beds reduced the occupancy rate to 53 percent.

WARE ACADEMY: Back in classrooms Aug. 10

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A) said the school has also purchased an atomizer so when the children are out for recess their classrooms can be sanitized. "We can spray every single surface in a minute and it is supposed to kill the virus," she added.

Fleet reported Ware's enrollment was up to 143 students this week, with some slots still open for fourth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades. The remaining grades are currently closed. "We do have some open slots, but I want the numbers to remain manageable," she said.

Online learning was an option for Ware parents this fall and Fleet said only four children have been opted out of returning to the classroom. She also said any students or families that travel will be asked to quarantine before returning to school.

Fleet said Ware teachers were also asked to voice any concerns they had about returning to the class-

room but that they all wanted to come back to school.

"We want to offer this to our parents because I think in-person learning is important and so is the social and emotional well-being of our students," Fleet said. "But if we have to, my teachers are ready to go online again in a minute's notice."

"We're also not allowing any adults [other than teachers] or non-enrolled children in the building for now," Fleet said, including parents. "That's going to be a learning curve for our families; many like to visit classrooms or have lunch with their children now and then."

"It's going to be a community effort," Fleet said of returning to school. "We're really a tight-knit community at Ware, so I think everyone will do their part to make it work and to make it work well."

Ware Academy shut down with the governor's orders in March and remained closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. The school offered a small summer pro-

gram in June, with only nine children to each teacher, and Fleet said it provided an opportunity to test protocols that will be in place for the 2020-2021 school year.

Fleet said it was fairly simple for Ware's teachers to move to online instruction in the spring and that teachers met with children daily as they finished out the 2019-2020 school year.

"The children did very well. Those in grades three through eight were still graded and the students were expected to complete their work. For those without adequate internet access, we provided alternatives," she said.

The school employed Google Meets for contact with students. Grades one and two used SeeSaw for online learning while students in grades three and up used Google Classroom. Those online formats will be used again this year as needed. "We'll also set up accounts for everyone so parents can have access," she added.

Those interested in home schooling need to file by Aug. 15

BY KIM ROBINS

Parents interested in educating their children at home independently of Gloucester County Public Schools have a number of curricula and programs to choose from, but they need to file a notice of their intent to home school with the school system by Aug. 15.

In order to provide home instruction, you must qualify in one of four ways. You must possess a high school diploma or higher degree, possess a current Virginia teacher's license, provide a curriculum or program of study as part of your home instruction program, or give evidence that you are able to provide your child with an adequate education.

Your notice of intent to provide home instruction to

your child must include your home instructor qualification. You must also include a curriculum description for each child, which could just be a list of subjects.

Each year by Aug. 1, you must provide the school system with an evaluation showing that your child has achieved an adequate level of education growth and progress.

The evaluation can be from a nationally-normed standardized achievement test, a report card or transcript from the distance learning program of home-education correspondence course; or an evaluation letter from a licensed teacher or a person with a master's degree or higher in an academic discipline who knows about the child's academic progress.

If your child's evaluation

does not show adequate progress, it may be possible to continue homeschooling if you write a remediation plan and the school system accepts it.

If your child does not show adequate progress after another year, who will have to stop home instruction. If you believe the school system has given you a wrong decision, you have 30 days to appeal.

For more information regarding home schooling in Virginia, visit the Home Educators Association of Virginia website at heav.org or the Home School Legal Defense Association at hsllda.org.

For local support and guidance, you can visit the Facebook pages for Home-schoolers of Gloucester, Virginia or Middle Peninsula Homeschool Association.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Brooke Alexys Haley graduated from Gloucester High School this past June with honors and is a member of the school's W.E.B. DuBois Honor Society. She earned straight As this past year and has earned mostly straight As throughout her school career. Haley was born prematurely at 25 weeks and six days and only weighed 1 pound, 9.4 ounces at birth. She stayed in the NICU at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, for three months before going home on oxygen and weighing just over five pounds. She was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, retinopathy of prematurity, asthma and severe food allergies. She also experienced brain bleeds and developmental delays. She has been in physical, occupational and speech therapy all her life. Haley began attending school the week she turned three years old at Lehua Elementary School in Pearl City, Hawaii. She has attended many schools in Virginia and Florida over the years. "She's always wanting to help somebody who needs help," said her mother, Terrie Haley.




Brooke Alexys Haley

Samantha Ostrom, granddaughter of Lynda and Morey Alexander of Cobbs Creek, recently graduated summa cum laude with a Master's in Education from Mary Washington University. She has accepted a teaching position at Woodbridge Senior High School in Woodbridge.



Samantha Ostrom



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VHSL announces its plan for 2020-2021

Virginia school sports won't kick off in the fall, but the VHSL has preserved its fall, winter and spring seasons in a condensed format—at least for the time being.

In a special meeting Monday, the Virginia High School League Executive Committee voted 34-1 to move forward with its Model 3 in its reopening of sports and activities for the 2020-2021 school year.

Model 3 delays all VHSL sports and activities until Dec. 14 and adopts the Condensed Interscholastic Plan that basically flips the fall and winter seasons. This model leaves all sports in the season where they are currently aligned.

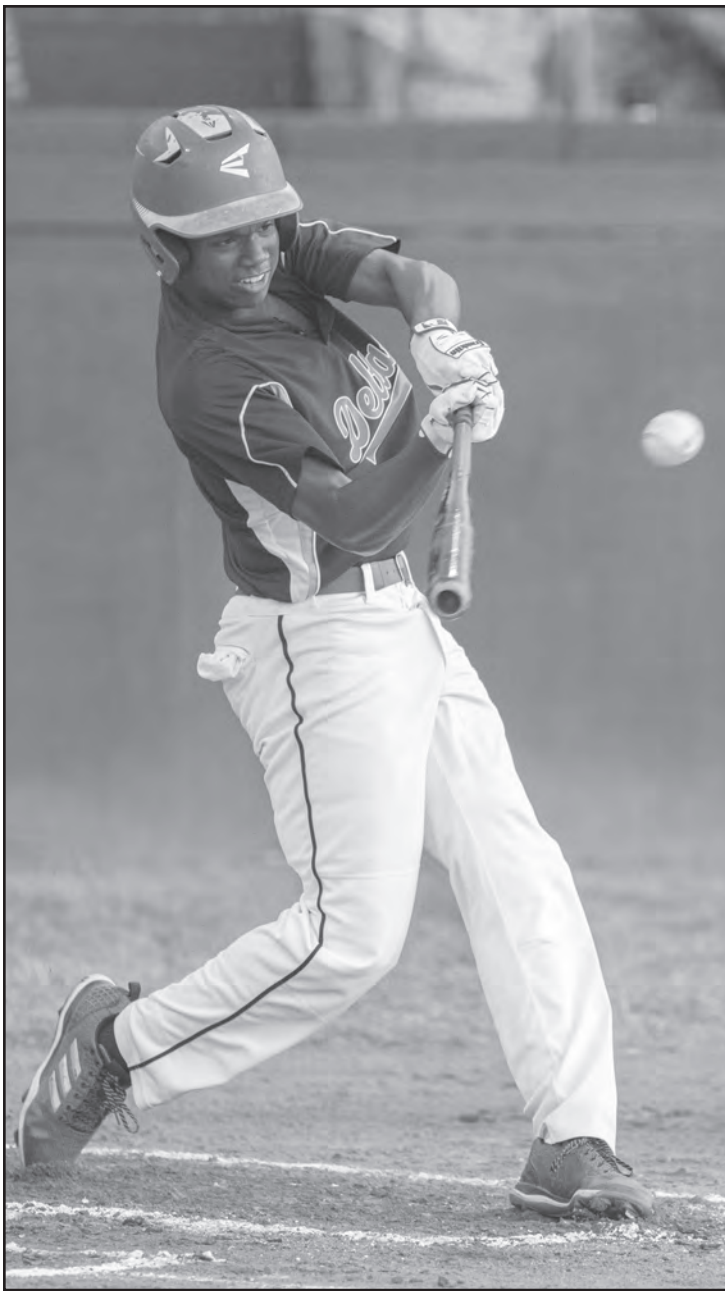
In Model 3, the winter season (basketball, indoor track, gymnastics, swim/dive and wrestling) will be held from Dec. 14 to Feb. 20, with Dec. 28 the first contest date.

Under the condensed plan, the fall season (football, field hockey, cross country, volleyball, cheer and golf) will follow, running from Feb. 15 to May 1. The first contest date for the fall season would be March 1.

The spring season (baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, track and field and lacrosse) will run from April 12 to June 26, with the first games to be held on April 26.

Other models that were under consideration would have been to leave all sports in their current season, with "high-risk" sports like football, volleyball, field hockey and soccer not to be played; or switching the fall and spring seasons, also eliminating high-risk sports from the schedule.

"We all understand the physical and mental health benefits of getting our students back to a level of participation," said VHSL executive director Dr. John W. "Billy" Haun. "The Condensed Interscholastic Plan leaves open



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN BLUE

Tyler West, at left, smacks a two-run double in Saturday night's win. West went 3-for-3 at the plate, with two doubles and a three-run home run tallying seven RBIs. West is leading the Richmond NABA league leaderboard in several statistical categories, including hits (22) and RBIs (22), and is tied for the most doubles (six) and home runs (two). At right, Justin Hale hurls a pitch in his win against the Richmond Avalanche on Saturday night.

Deltas sweep weekend series

BY STEPHEN BLUE

The Deltaville Deltas avenged an early season loss to the Mechanicsville Hawks and rolled past the Richmond Avalanche in a pair of home games last weekend, returning to winning form.

Deltaville came back from a six-run deficit to defeat Mechanicsville, 15-6, on Friday night, and turned around to defeat the Richmond, 16-4, on Saturday. Deltaville's

away game against the Richmond Brewers on Wednesday was canceled due to field conditions from storms the previous night.

With the wins, Deltaville moves to 9-2 overall, and 7-1 in league play. They remain in an effective three-way tie for first with Team Woody and the Richmond Smokies, each of whom have just one loss.

Deltaville returns to action tonight in a critical showdown with the Smokies in a game that will shape the playoff seeding. That game begins at 7 o'clock at Dorey Park in Richmond. On Saturday, the Deltas will play host to the Richmond Dodgers in a 7:30 p.m. game at Deltaville Ballpark.

Deltas 15, Mechanicsville 6

Things got off to a rocky start for the Deltas on Friday night, as they took the field to avenge an early season defeat at the hands of the Mechanicsville Hawks. The visiting team came out swinging and put the Deltas on their heels.

Mechanicsville took an early 1-0 lead in the first inning, and extended the lead to 2-0 with a solo home run in the second. Another Hawks home

run capped a four-run fourth inning rally that put Deltaville down, 6-0.

Deltaville started to find their groove in the fifth, with Tyler West reaching on a lead-off hit and scoring on a Devin Sisson two-run home run that cut the deficit to four.

In the sixth, Deltaville got into the Hawks bullpen, and went on to send 15 batters to the plate, scoring 12 runs off three different pitchers. Jahleel Sewer capped the rally with a towering grand slam home run.

Sewer led the Deltas offense with a pair of hits and five RBIs. Nicky Wohleking picked up the pitching win in relief of starter Cole Stamm. Wohleking struck out seven in 3 2/3 innings.

Deltas 16, Richmond 4

Deltaville scored early and often, led by a three-hit, seven-RBI performance from Tyler West, as the Deltas defeated the Richmond Avalanche on Saturday night.

West got the action started in the 1st inning, sparking a scoring rally with a two-run double. Another RBI double from Colby Roberts and a sacrifice fly from Tyler Wood

capped a six-run inning, and the Deltas were off to the races.

The Avalanche fought back on offense, scoring a solo home run in the second, and scored again in the third and fourth innings by taking advantage of a couple of Deltas defensive miscues. However, the Deltaville offense kept swinging, racking up 17 hits. West smacked another RBI double in the second, and a series of back-to-back hits from Roberts, Tyler Bratton, Ryan Pastirik and Chris Blake was capped by sacrifice hits from T. Wood and Jay Moore to extend the Deltas lead to 11-2. A three-run home run from West in the fourth distanced the Deltas even farther.

Justin Hale was Deltaville's winning pitcher, allowing just one earned run in the first four innings. Jason Wood struck out five of the 10 batters he faced in three innings of relief work to close the game.

West was joined by Pastirik and Alexander Crittenden to lead the Deltas offense with three hits each.

SPORTS SHORTS

Travel softball team adding 12U squad

The Bay Thunder travel softball program is expanding, adding a 12U team this fall and next spring. Tryouts will be determined in the next two weeks. The team is open to girls up to 12 years old from all of the surrounding counties. For more information, contact J.J. Ashberry at 804-843-4096.

PRLGA winners named

Winners of the Piankatank River Ladies Golf Association's July 23 play day (Individual Net) at the Hartfield course were:

First flight—Martha Wiggs (first place, 72), Nancy Pannell (second place, 73) and Gloria Matthews (third place, 75). Second flight—Lisa Lavery (first place, 67), Chong Hudgins (second place, 73) and Karen Gorin (third place, 76).

WEATHER

These readings were compiled at the Buchanan Weather Station at Gwynn.

DATE	MAX	MIN	Prec.	Wind
7/21	93	73	1.05	22wsw
7/22	94	72	.28	29w
7/23	96	72	.17	26s
7/24	88	74	.27	10sw
7/25	90	71	.02	13wnw
7/26	95	73	0	14s
7/27	95	76	0	10sw

Summary

A mix of sunny and stormy conditions is expected through the weekend by the National Weather Service, Wakefield. High today, 93; Friday, 87; Saturday and Sunday, low 90s.

Governor's Cup regatta this weekend at WRYC

The 56th Virginia Governor's Cup and the 2020 Opti Regatta will be held Saturday and Sunday at the Ware River Yacht Club. The regatta will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing and by the event's sailing instructions.

All classes are invited to participate. Some of the anticipated One Design classes of three or more boats are Sunfish, Albacore, Hampton OD, Buccaneer, Laser, Laser Radial, Mobjack, Mutineer and 420.

Classes with fewer than three participating boats will be grouped with other such classes and race under the Portsmouth handicap system.

A skippers' meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Saturday and with the first race signal set for noon. On Sunday, the first race signal is set for 10 a.m. with awards to be announced immediately after the last race.

Regatta associated event will all be held outside. The VA Blue Crab Co. food truck is expected to be onsite to offer lunches and dinners for sale on Saturday and lunch on Sunday. No breakfast will be provided.

Registration is \$40 for single crew classes and \$60 for all two or more crewed. Online registration is mandatory. Go to www.wryc.org, click on sailing, then click on racing and the registration is available at the bottom of the page.

Trophies will be awarded to the top three finishers of all registered classes with three or more boats. The Governor's Cup trophy is awarded to the winner of the one design class with the largest number of qualified starts in the regatta.

The Congressman's Cup trophy is awarded for sportsmanship throughout the regatta weekend and the Chamber of Commerce Cup is awarded to the top participating skipper younger than 18 years of age.

This is a Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association sanctioned event and the event chairman is Clayton James. For more information call James at 757-941-5150.

SEE VHSL, PAGE 14A

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Cole Wheeler, Mandy Moran, Sandra Baer and Zoe Sawyer, from left, enjoy flat water on the river.

Mobjack Rowing Association adjusts to pandemic

COVID-19 has certainly changed the world and required a lot of new ways of doing things. The 2020 rowers for Mobjack and Mathews crew were no different, enduring the disappointment of no spring racing season.

Coach Tim Ulsaker wound up checking out ergometers to those who needed one and optional spring training continued at home with on-

line workouts. As Virginia entered Phase 2, combined with guidelines from U.S. Rowing, Mobjack started on-water singles training.

Trials were held on June 1-2 and then regular training commenced June 8 for a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday summer schedule. The 27' Singles, the spacious 16' x 120' docks at Williams Wharf and the uncongested welcoming East River waters

all lent themselves well to social distancing and COVID-19 compliance, Ulsaker said.

Eleven participants have been coming regularly to morning and evening sessions throughout the summer.

Both Ulsaker and fellow coach Katelyn James have been impressed with the progress their rowers have made this summer. "The single is a very demanding boat, and gives

instant feedback when your technique is incorrect," Ulsaker said. "We have seen everyone improve and are thankful we have a safe open venue at Williams Wharf to give our youth a healthy source of exercise and self-improvement. A number of city rowing programs we have raced against are struggling to provide the quality and safety of the programs we are enjoying at Williams Wharf."

Anglers catching citation-sized fish

Fishing this year is producing plenty of large fish that have qualified for citations in the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament. Recently registered citations for area residents reported in the July 22 online vasaltwaterjournal.com include the following:

Cobia, Jacob Kent of Gloucester, 64-pound, 15-ounce fish caught July 11 in Chesapeake Bay;

Pompano, Alan Hall of Gloucester, 2-pound, 4-ounce fish caught June 26 in Ware River while trolling;

Red drum (release), William A. Horsley of Gloucester, 47" fish caught on crab June 26 in the Rappahannock River; Jared Miller of Gloucester, 52" fish caught June 26 on a lure on the Eastern Shore side of the bay;

Sheepshead, Tyler Wallace of Hayes, 25" fish caught and released July 12 at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel; William A. Horsley of Gloucester, 14-pound, 6-ounce fish caught on crab in the bay;

Spadefish, Carter Paige Flippin of Gloucester, 8-pound, 14-ounce fish caught June 21 at the third island of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel;

Spanish mackerel, Brock Larson of Mathews, 4-pound, 8-ounce, 29" fish caught July 5 while trolling in the bay; Richard R. Hahn III of Cobbs Creek, 27.5" fish caught and released June 28 in the bay;

Speckled trout, William Flippin of Bena caught a 5-pound, 1-ounce fish on July 4 at New Point while casting lures; Aaron Flippin of Hayes caught a 5-pound, 6-ounce fish at New Point on July 1 using lures.

Two area anglers also received citations for offshore catches.

Brian Hammond of West Point caught an 11-pound, 12-ounce bluefin tilefish on June 30 in Norfolk Canyon; and,

Ronald Gardner of Hayes caught and released a white marlin on June 22 at Norfolk Canyon.

Micro Triathlon series concludes Saturday

Virginia Tidewater Trailrunners will have a special treat at its next Micro Triathlon: local country rock band Edison & Co. will perform live post-event.

The race begins at 8 a.m. (rather than the usual 8:30 a.m.) this Saturday at Williams Wharf in Mathews. The first event will be a quarter-mile swim, followed by an eight-mile bike ride and a two-mile run. Due to social distance guidelines, no race-day sign-up is available. The transition area will open at 7:30 a.m.

Awards will be presented, since this is the last event of the four-event series. They include fastest overall fin-

isher and fastest swimmer, cyclist, runner, and transitioner—a combined time for all four events. The overall winner is ineligible for other awards.

Anyone who has completed all four races will receive a MMTS hoodie sweatshirt (Mathews Micro Tri Series). They will also be available for purchase for \$35.

Participants must be at least 14 years old. Parental consent is required for anyone 14-17 years old.

The event will be held rain or shine (except for thunderstorms).

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/837602563353456/.



Edison & Co. will perform live at the close of this Saturday's Virginia Tidewater Trailrunners Micro Triathlon at Williams Wharf in Mathews.

LOCAL TIDES		
Mobjack Bay, East River Entrance		
	HIGH	LOW
Thursday	5:56 a.m.	12:01 a.m.
7/30	6:35 p.m.	11:59 p.m.
Friday	6:57 a.m.	1:02 a.m.
7/31	7:32 p.m.	12:58 p.m.
Saturday	7:53 a.m.	1:57 a.m.
8/1	8:25 p.m.	1:54 p.m.
Sunday	8:44 a.m.	2:47 a.m.
8/2	9:14 p.m.	2:46 p.m.
Monday	9:31 a.m.	3:33 a.m.
8/3	9:58 p.m.	3:34 p.m.
Tuesday	10:15 a.m.	4:15 a.m.
8/4	10:40 p.m.	4:19 p.m.
Wednesday	10:57 a.m.	4:55 a.m.
8/5	11:20 p.m.	5:03 p.m.

Tide adjustments at other points:

York River, Tue Marsh Light—Subtract 5 minutes.
 York River, Yorktown—Add 5 minutes.
 York River, Allmondsville—Add 1 hour, 5 minutes.
 York River, Entrance to Perrin River—Add 1 minute.
 Brown's Bay—Subtract 7 minutes.
 S.W. Branch Severn River—Add 4 minutes.
 Ware River—Subtract 4 minutes.
 North River—Subtract 4 minutes.
 New Point Comfort—Subtract 1 minute.
 Piankatank River, Cherry Point—Add 1 hour.
 Piankatank River, Dixie—Add 1 hour, 33 minutes.
 Urbanna—Add 2 hours, 50 minutes.

THE SUN THIS WEEK		
	Sunrise	Sunset
7/30	6:09 a.m.	8:13 p.m.
7/31	6:10 a.m.	8:13 p.m.
8/1	6:11 a.m.	8:12 p.m.
8/2	6:12 a.m.	8:11 p.m.
8/3	6:13 a.m.	8:10 p.m.
8/4	6:14 a.m.	8:09 p.m.
8/5	6:14 a.m.	8:08 p.m.

THE MOON THIS WEEK		
	Moonrise	Moonsset
7/30	5:07 p.m.	2:12 a.m.
7/31	6:09 p.m.	2:59 a.m.
8/1	7:05 p.m.	3:53 a.m.
8/2	7:54 p.m.	4:52 a.m.
8/3	8:36 p.m.	5:54 a.m.
8/4	9:11 p.m.	6:56 a.m.
8/5	9:42 p.m.	7:57 a.m.

AUGUST MOON PHASES

Full moon	8/3
Last quarter	8/11
New moon	8/18
First quarter	8/25



PHOTO BY LINDA TOSSEM

Pickleball

Pickleball is a paddleboard sport combining elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. Those looking for a place to play this sport need look no further than Gloucester. Gary O'Neil, shown here with his wife, Darcy, received permission from Gloucester High School to tape pickleball lines on one of the school's tennis courts. He is trying to spread the word that there's now a pickleball court in town, and he is available to teach people the rules and show them the basics of the game. His ultimate goal is to get enough people interested so that there's a league in Gloucester. For more information on playing pickleball or taking part in a league, call O'Neil at 757-810-8031. Those interested should leave a message for him.

VHSL

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13A)

the opportunity to play all sports in all three seasons if Virginia moves beyond Phase III and/or Phase III guidelines are revised and High Risk Activities are allowed.

"This plan also allows schools the opportunity to open the year and get school started and deal with issues such as schedules, academic plans, transportation, dealing with possible outbreaks of COVID in the school," he said.

"The VHSL will continue to work closely with the best available information and directives provided by the Governor, the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Education," Haun said.

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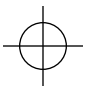
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