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# GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS GAZETTE-JOURNAL

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021 VOL. LXXXIV, no. 11 NEW SERIES (USPS 220-560) GLOUCESTER, VA. 23061 | MATHEWS, VA. 23109 three sections 52 pages **75 CENTS**



CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

## Winter sports underway

In the VHSL's COVID-shortened seasons, the "winter" sports teams began play earlier this month. Above, Mathews High School defensive end Christopher Atwood (#72) closes in on West Point quarterback Gage Davis in Monday night's contest. At right, Gloucester High School senior Alec Daniel flashes a "thumbs up" as he ran an 18:22 during last week's cross country meet against Kecoughtan and Phoebus. For more on winter sports, see page 12A.



MELANY SLAUGHTER / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

## School board asks Herring to weigh in on sales tax use

BY TYLER BASS

The Gloucester County School Board voted Tuesday to contact Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring's office to review the legality of the use of sales tax proceeds as proposed in the county budget that County Administrator Brent Fedors unveiled earlier this month.

At issue is the use of the 1 percent sales tax increase that voters approved by referendum last November. In the proposed budget Fedors suggested that income from the sales tax be used to pay off debt for completed and

current projects.

School board members indicated they were under the belief that voters of Gloucester County approved a referendum to pay for future school projects. Multiple members of the school board including chair Robin Rice questioned the legality of this proposed use of the sales tax.

"Our concerns are around the legality of this move," said Rice, "and we would like to see an official legal opinion on this matter around the ethics of this move. This is not what we told voters what was going to be done

when we put this referendum on the ballot in November."

Proposing that the sales tax increase instead be used to pay for past projects caused several school board members to express their disappointment. School board member Troy Andersen said that it is an unethical use of the funds.

Supervisors' chairman Dr. Robert Orth spoke for the board stating that, as a majority, members were in support of the budget that Fedors had presented and that it was indeed legal despite

SEE GLOUCESTER BUDGET, PAGE 10A

## Cases plateau; state surpasses 10,000 deaths

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

Virginia surpassed 10,000 deaths attributed to COVID-19 during the past week as the country's daily new case count begins to plateau.

According to the Three Rivers Health District pandemic update, the United States has a current case rate of about 58,000 new cases per day over a seven-day rolling average. Virginia's daily new case rate is 1,300 over

a seven-day average and in the Three Rivers District, the daily new case rate has dropped to about 30.

Gloucester and Mathews each experienced one COVID-19 death this past week with totals of 46 and 12, respectively. Gloucester had a total of 40 new cases with two new hospitalizations this past week and Mathews experienced just two new cases this past week and no new hospitalizations.

As of Wednesday, there have been 13,624 vaccine doses administered in Gloucester with at least 8,254 people who have received at least one dose and 5,441 people who have been fully vaccinated.

In Mathews, there have been 4,131 doses administered with at least 2,483 people who have received at least one dose and 1,667 people who have been fully vaccinated.

## Vaccine clinic held at Newington Baptist

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

As the number of COVID-19 vaccines distributed throughout the U.S. continues to ramp up, clinics are being held with increasing frequency in the region.

On Friday, the Three Riv-

ers Health District held a clinic at Gloucester's Newington Baptist Church, using the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Compared to Pfizer and Moderna, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has a slightly lower efficacy rate. However, the J&J vaccine has proved to be effective in preventing serious COVID-19 infection as well as hospitalization and death attributed to the virus.

According to Cindy Williams, Vice President and Chief Pharmacy Officer at Riverside, the FDA was going to approve any COVID-19 vaccine that had at least a 50 percent efficacy rate. She also said that typical flu vaccines have about a 50 to 60 percent efficacy rate in any given year. "Take what vaccine you can get," said Williams.

She said the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was a couple of months behind the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines in research and clinical trials, which allowed the vaccine to be studied against different COVID-19 variants, like the South African variant.

According to Dr. Richard Williams, Three Rivers Health Director, Friday's clinic was

relatively small with about 250 doses available. The target group for the day was people ages 65 and older.

"We're getting through that list," said Williams.

There were several volunteers present at the clinic, many of whom are not medical personnel but just have an interest in helping.

"People are needed and I've got time," said volunteer Doug Adler who was in charge of sanitizing clipboards.

Williams said that the supply of all the vaccines is picking up and Pfizer and Moderna vaccine manufacturing is also increasing.

The biggest factor limiting these events is having enough space to observe people for 15-30 minutes after receiving the vaccine.

According to Williams this event is an example of one of the types of vaccine delivery systems because it was run by the health department. Another vaccine delivery system is pharmacies. Rite Aid, Walmart, Walgreens, CVS and Kroger will be able to get federal COVID-19 doses soon. Independent medical practices

SEE VACCINE CLINIC, PAGE 10A

## Hatton quickly became active community member

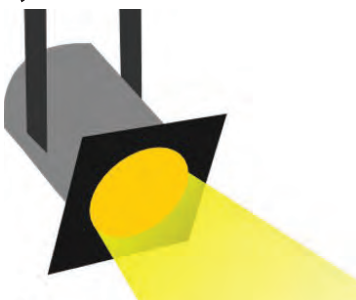
BY TYLER BASS

Bobbi Hatton first came to Mathews County in 2011 and knew it was where she wanted to be.

She and her husband Paul became full-time residents four years after that first visit. In the short time Hatton has lived in Mathews, she has firmly entrenched herself into the county's life and has become an active member in the community.

It may be easier to throw a dart at a map of the United States than have Hatton list all the places she's lived. When growing up, her family moved around because her father was member of the Air Force. She was born in L.A. but quickly moved around from upstate New York, then to Washington, D.C., before attending James Madison University.

Hatton continued to move around, eventually landing in Louisville, Kentucky, where she taught at an alternative



### Community Spotlight

*In this series, the Gazette-Journal shines the light on residents who are working to make this a better place.*

high school. She said that most people think of jail bars on the windows when they hear the term alternative high school, but it wasn't like that where she worked.

Hatton said she taught all subjects at the school, but favored history, government and English. Teaching at that school was rewarding for her. She said she really loved those kids, and still keeps in

SEE BOBBI HATTON, PAGE 10A



TYLER BASS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Bobbi Hatton is active in the Mathews County Historical Society, Fairfield Foundation, Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library and the Mathews County Visitor and Information Center.

### INSIDE THIS WEEK

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## Your Dream Home

This week's special section takes a look at residents who are working to turn houses into homes. See pages 1C-24C.

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Y M C K







## Clean Gloucester Weekend

Samantha Bannock, Chris McDonald, and Jaxon McDonald, from left, got a jump on Clean Gloucester Weekend, which is officially March 26-28. The "Under the Stars Farm" team collected 16 bags of litter, some of which was very dense near the farm's northern Gloucester County property. Plankatank Community League coordinator Laura Frick and her members have been busy. This month they have already gathered 44 bags of litter on Harcum and Dutton roads, and they're still going strong, according to Clean Community Coordinator Elisabeth Wilkins. There's still time to sign up your own team for Clean Gloucester Weekend; fill out the quick online form at: <http://tinyurl.com/CleanGloDay>.

## Ward to attend National American Legion College

Rick Ward of American Legion Post 75 in Gloucester has been selected to attend the National American Legion College at the National American Legion Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, in November.

Ward will be a member of the Class of 2020, which was rescheduled due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Class of 2021 will be held in December. Normally, one person from each state is chosen to attend but the Class of 2020 will only have 30 students because of current COVID-19 restrictions. Attendance at the college is an opportunity to receive detailed instruction on the American Legion and to study and process problem solving as part of a multifaceted curriculum.

Ward currently serves as the adjutant for Post 75 and is chairman of the Children and Youth Committee for the American Legion Department of Virginia.

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## Main Street residents, businesses encouraged to decorate for festival

Residences and businesses along Main Street are encouraged to decorate for the Gloucester Daffodil Festival weekend, with the Gloucester Daffodil Show awarding prizes in a number of categories.

Judging will be conducted on Saturday, March 27, with prizes awarded in the following categories: Best In-Ground Planting (residence and business), Best Container Planting (residence and business), Most Creative Design (residence and business), Best Decorated Door (residence and business) and Best Decorated Window (business). Lawn signs will highlight winners. Awards are donated by Hogge Real Estate and the Gloucester Daffodil Club

for the Best In-Ground Planting winners; Katey Legg and the Gloucester Chamber of Commerce for Best Container Planting; C2 Construction and Rave Design+Build for the Best Decorated Door; Amelita Thomas and Nancy Dwyer for Most Creative Design, and Basilsde Management for Best Decorated Window.

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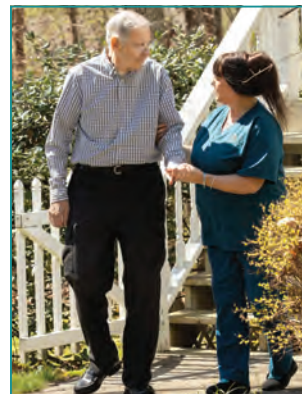
## Daffodil judging class next week

The American Daffodil Society will conduct the ADS Judges' School 2 at Brent and Becky's Bulbs, 7900 Daffodil Lane, Gloucester, next Thursday, March 25. This is part of a certification process for judging ADS-sanctioned shows.

Signup is through the Gloucester Daffodil Festival site, [www.daffodilfestivalva.org](http://www.daffodilfestivalva.org) or by contacting [gloucesterdaffodils@gmail.com](mailto:gloucesterdaffodils@gmail.com).



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Chef/Owner William Mitchell has cooked for restaurants all along the East Coast from New York City to Charleston. A Gloucester native, Chef William is proud to be back home representing the cuisine of Coastal Virginia.

At The Farmasea Resturaunt, safety comes first. Our tables are appropriately distanced and our HVAC system is brand new. We aim to bring a safe, family-friendly environment with delicious food that makes you proud to be a Virginian.

## Planning for Your Future

### How much does senior living cost and how do people pay for it?

You're the kind of person who plans ahead. You chose a home that fit your budget and helped the kids pay for college. Now is the time to start preparing for *your* future by choosing a senior living community. But how much will it cost?



The cost for senior living depends on the size suite you select as well as the amount of support you require. On average, this works out to be between \$3,500 - \$5,000 per month.

Families pay for senior living in a variety of ways. If you have invested in Long Term Care insurance, this is the time to reach out to your insurance provider and ask about qualifying for benefits. Many families sell the home and use part of the sale to pay for senior living. Finally, if you served in the military during wartime or had a spouse who

served, you may be eligible for senior living benefits:

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This benefit combined with social security payments and savings often covers the cost of senior living.

Ultimately, the formula of how senior living is paid works out to be different for every family. But just like any decision you make for the future, it is worth the time and effort to plan ahead, choose the right community, and design a plan that makes sense for you.

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## Grant to help with work on G.I. Historic District

Preservation Mathews, Inc., has been awarded a National Park Service grant to complete an architectural survey and produce the National Register of Historic Places nomination packet for the Gwynn's Island Historic District.

The Emergency Supplemental Historic Properties Fund grant will be administered by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Funding was made available to localities that were affected following Hurricanes Michael and Florence which impacted Mathews County in September and October of 2018.

There is no set amount for the grant at this point, according to Lori Jackson Black, one of the founding members of Preservation Mathews. "This was project-specific and will be put out to bid for a contractor," she said.

A reconnaissance-level architectural survey for the entirety of the Gwynn's Island Historic District, approximately 600 parcels, will encompass both historic and non-historic properties to build a full inventory for use in a National Register of Historic Places nomination form.

The architectural survey of the island will be used to

determine the extent of hurricane damage on the island and identify resources at risk from future storms. It is anticipated that this historic resource documentation effort will result in increased awareness about the location and significance of historic properties and support Preservation Mathews, Mathews County and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' long-range historic preservation planning, disaster mitigation and preparedness efforts.

Preservation Mathews and their partners from DHR will present a project update to

the Mathews County Board of Supervisors at its Tuesday regular meeting that will be conducted via the Zoom platform.

The mission of Preservation Mathews, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is to identify at-risk historic homes, structures, and properties within Mathews County, and to work with the community to preserve and/or restore them for future generations. More information about the group can be found at [www.preservationmathews.org](http://www.preservationmathews.org).



Dana Brown, president of the Mathews County Woman's Club, welcomes John Caramia, chairman of the Mathews Historical Museum board. Caramia spoke to the MCWC on March 8.

## Broadband board working with county's emergency services

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

The Mathews Broadband Advisory Board is working with the county's emergency services agencies to explore the possibility of expanding broadband in the county in conjunction with the agencies' efforts to create a regional public safety radio network.

Last month, Sheriff Donnie Lewis, and Rescue Squad President Chris Buchanan received approval from the Mathews Board of Supervisors to join with King and Queen County in creating the new network. Barrick told the board the cost would be \$1 million, and the board approved the request with instructions to begin searching for funding sources.

The system, as proposed by Harris Public Safety Communications, would be for Mathews to connect to King and Queen with a 5GB microwave backhaul connection, said broadband board consultant Jeff Beekhoo of Broadband Telecom Inc. during the broadband board's meeting on March 2.

This would require the purchase of equipment at a cost of possibly \$400,000. Beekhoo said that he had instead discussed with Harris the possibility of using a Segra fiber connection that runs from the Virginia State Police radio tower in Mathews to an operations center in King and Queen County at considerable cost savings.

Mathews County Emergency Services Coordinator Willie Love and Lewis, who virtu-



SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Jason Hamill, left, of H&S Development Group in Virginia Beach met with Mathews County emergency services personnel and broadband advisory board members on March 3 to discuss the possibility of building a communications tower at the Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad building at Hudgins. Shown with him, from left, are Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad board member Chris Hudgins, Mathews County Emergency Services Coordinator Willie Love, Mathews Fire Chief Ronnie Lewis, Mathews Broadband Advisory Board Chair Judy Rowe, Mathews Planning and Zoning Director Thomas Jenkins, and the county's broadband consultant, Jeff Beekhoo of Broadband Telecom Services.

ally attended the broadband board meeting, expressed approval of the suggestion. "Our radio system is antiquated, and we have to replace it," said Lewis. "Fiber is the gold standard—the fastest, safest, most reliable way."

Beekhoo said providing a fiber connection could mean that other localities would want to join the regional system, as well, which would provide additional cost savings.

Love emphasized that Harris is in charge of engineering

the new system, and that the sheriff is running point on the county's involvement, so the decision would be theirs to make. However, he added, a fiber system would give the county many more options and provide redundancy and reliability.

"It would be a better back-

haul at a lower cost," he said.

In other matters, broadband board members met with the owner of H&S Development group to discuss the possibility of building a communications tower at the Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad building at Hudgins.

## MCVIC looking for volunteers

The Mathews County Visitor and Information Center, located on Main Street in the building that once housed Sibley's Store, is currently open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

MCVIC is a volunteer-run organization. On a normal year, 35 volunteers run its daily operations seven days a week manning the "Made in Mathews" gift shop, and providing information and brochures about the county.

However, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the volunteer force has reduced to nearly a third of its size. "We are looking for new, energetic, and Mathews-loving individuals to help us run our day-to-day operations," Bobbi Hatton said.

Volunteers are asked to serve six hours each month, and will undergo training. If you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer, email Hatton at [bobbihatton@gmail.com](mailto:bobbihatton@gmail.com).

### Corrections

An article in last week's paper ("Two women examine exodus of black families from Gwynn's Island") stated that producer Allison Thomas, who is researching Gwynn's Island ancestry, is married to Gary Ross. That is incorrect. The two are no longer married. In addition, the article stated that around 200 black people lived on the island in 1916, but that number should have been 150. Finally, Mary Edwards did not live at Hudgins House in Cricket Hill. It was the residence of her son, William Houlder Hudgins.

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## Historical museum plan told to woman's club

John Caramia, chairman of the Mathews Historical Museum board, spoke March 8 to members of the Mathews County Woman's Club.

Caramia has worked in museums for over 35 years and has been chairman of the museum's board since 2018. The new museum is located at 200 Main Street in Mathews, and has undergone many iterations since it was built around 1936.

It started as a car dealership that also sold gas and oil, a bowling alley, a pool hall, a utilities building, a movie theater, VEPCO, a Bassett furniture store, Craftsman fabric shop, The Dilly Dally Emporium and then finally, in 2018 an anonymous donor made it possible to establish the building as the Mathews Historical Museum.

Caramia discussed rehabilitation that has been needed including cleaning out ditches, replacing wall studs, painting and HVAC repairs, along with regulating temperature and humidity, and ensuring safety and security.

This year the capital campaign will begin, despite the inability due to COVID-19 to hold the museum's May Faire, Caramia said. By the time the museum is finished, there will be a virtual museum inside the actual museum. The vision is to promote and preserve the cultural heritage of Mathews County including the impact of changing landscapes and how the Chesapeake Bay,

its rivers and marshlands have influenced those living in Mathews.

Materials that are culturally or aesthetically historical in nature will help to enhance education about Mathews County. So far, the museum has dealt with celebrating the history of Mathews, the 1950s, and the Military Wall of Remembrance, on which there are 900 images of military soldiers from the War of 1812 until the present day.

Next year, the May Faire focus will be on local watermen.

Gloucester-Mathews  
GAZETTE-JOURNAL  
P.O. Box 2060  
Gloucester, VA  
23061

A consolidation in 1937 of the Gloucester Gazette (1919) and the Mathews Journal (1904).

Published every Thursday at Gloucester, Virginia by Tidewater Newspapers, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Gloucester, Virginia. Postmaster: Please send change of addresses to: Gazette-Journal, P.O. Box 2060, Gloucester, VA 23061.

Subscriptions: \$24 per year, \$44 for two years, in Gloucester and Mathews Counties; \$30 per year, \$56 for two years elsewhere. Please allow two weeks for new subscriptions or change of address to begin. Telephone 804-693-3101 or 804-725-2191.

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## Picnic To Go

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## Ospreys return

Michael J. Cunningham sent this photo of the osprey nest at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, taken on March 10. Three days earlier, he said, the nesting site on the York River had been empty. The public can follow this year's breeding efforts of the osprey pair on the VIMS live online osprey camera, found at [vims.edu/bayinfo/ospreycam](https://vims.edu/bayinfo/ospreycam).

## Gloucester Wetlands Board approves 3 projects

BY TYLER BASS

The Gloucester County Wetlands Board unanimously approved three projects during its March 10 meeting.

The first request was from Jerrold Hutton of Red Bank Road, who sought authorization to install 190 LF Class A1 riprap revetment on filter fabric with buried toe. He also asked for it to be accessed by the existing gravel driveway.

The next request was from Edward Brown of Lillaston Lane, who sought permission to install 239 feet of stone revetment with associated tree removal and bank grading. There would also be 10 feet of quarry stone returned to an existing stone revetment. Site will be accessed from upland.

The last request came from Rodney and Carrie Barrack of Ray Brown Jr. Lane, who sought authorization to install 170 feet of quarry stone marsh toe with beach nourishment and sprigging. The site will be accessed from upland.

Following the meeting of the Wetlands Board, the members

reconvened as the Gloucester Chesapeake Bay Preservation and Erosion Commission to unanimously approve one request. That request was from Chad Strayer of Mobjack

Road, who sought to install a detached garage into the 100-foot buffer. The board required him to also install one planting unit and gutters.

## Spring events to be held at Yorktown

A number of spring events begin next month in Yorktown, beginning with a celebration of its unique history on Saturday, April 10.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. that day, the Watermen's Museum will take part in York County History Day.

The museum will hold a Chili Cookoff that day from noon until 3 p.m., with tickets selling for \$10 in advance and \$15 at the gate. Call 757-887-2641 for competition rules, entry forms and to purchase tickets.

Mobjack Bay Coffee Roasters is hosting a pair of Civil War walking tours, both led by historian J. Michael Moore, at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. The first takes a look at Yorktown during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign; in the second, Moore will focus on Union operations against Richmond and Confederate naval raiders, highlight inspirational stories of African Americans who sought freedom and display period photographs. Call 757-872-3020 for more details.

Yorktown Market Days also kicks off its regular season that day. The Go Green Market, in recognition of the month's Earth Day celebrations, runs from 8 a.m. to noon.

The museum plans a fundraising music event for Relay for Life from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. on Saturday, April 17, Tartans and Tie Dye Celebration; a \$10 donation is suggested.

The following weekend, April 24 and 25, is the Yorktown Pirate Invasion town-wide, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. both days. Explore a pirate encampment, view live blacksmith demonstrations, sing along with sea shanties, and watch cannon demonstrations. From 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 24, the weekly farmers' market will also take on a pirate theme.

For a complete list of spring happenings in Yorktown, check the online calendar at [www.visit-yorktown.org](https://www.visit-yorktown.org).

## Park news

### Machicomoco gets its first manager

BY TYLER BASS

Gloucester's Machicomoco State Park moved a step closer to opening to the public with the hiring of the park's manager, Terry Sims.

The state park, a 644-acre piece of land located off Timberneck Farm Road, is expected to welcome its first visitors sometime in the coming weeks.

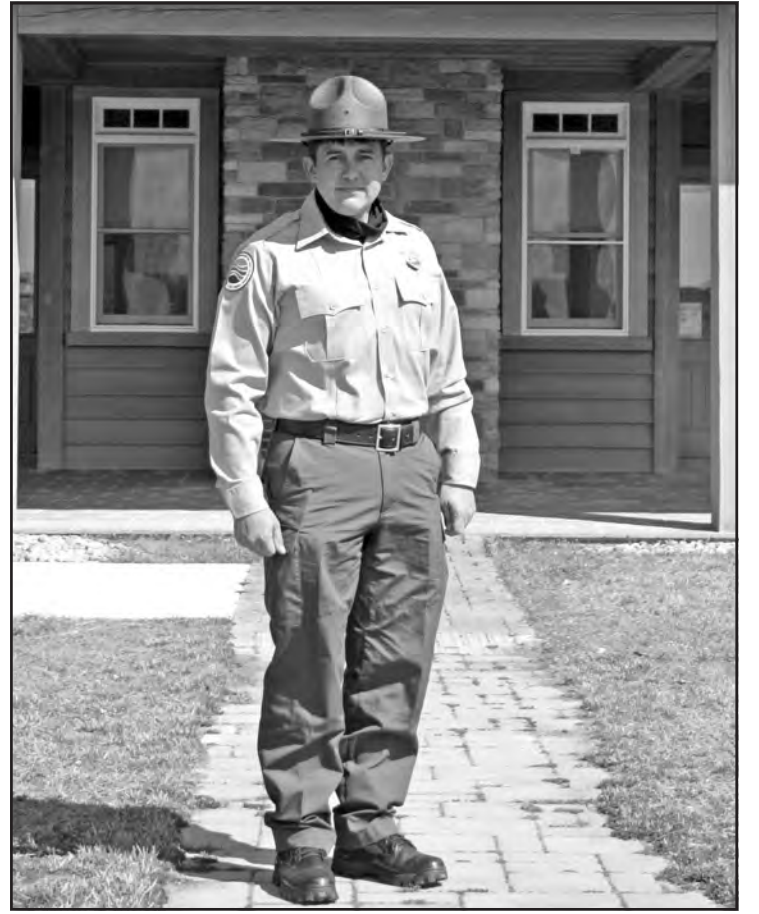
Sims has spent the last seven years working at Lake Casa Blanca International State Park in Laredo, Texas. Now he's hard at work preparing for the opening of this new park.

Sims said that when he joined the team at Lake Casa Blanca, he was working primarily in maintenance but quickly moved his way up, eventually becoming the park manager. He said that he tried to get his hands on all aspects of the park to be a well-rounded leader.

Sims said Machicomoco interested him because of its focus on Native American history. He has a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Texas at Tyler and spent a year working for a museum in Tyler.

The name of the park, "Machicomoco" means "special meeting place" in the Algonquian language. The park was created with help by local Native American tribes with the goal of educating park guests about Virginia tribes. Sims said he hopes to build on what the park already has in place.

Sims said one way he'll aid in the education of the park is by working with the local



TYLER BASS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Terry Sims is the first manager of Gloucester's soon-to-open Machicomoco State Park.

schools. In Texas, he said he would visit the different schools in the area to inform students on the park and his experience of working there.

There is excitement for Machicomoco to finally open, and Sims can understand that. He said that the park is essentially in the backyard of Gloucester residents, and offers a nearby escape from everyday life. He said that it's also a good spot for first-

time campers to learn how to camp close to home. He said he hopes that it encourages campers to travel to other parks in the state.

Though there is yet to be a date set on the park's opening, Sims is already thinking about future programming and events to hold at the park. However, he said the park is still in the hiring process and completing some final touches.

## NPS releases short film on Werowocomoco

The National Park Service recently released a short film on Werowocomoco, which is located on the north side of the York River in Gloucester. The video is titled "Werowocomoco: A Powhatan Place of Power," and provides an informative introduction to the historical site.

Members of the academic and descendent communities understand the importance of the site to the history of North America and the United States and to cultural traditions that are still strong to this day, a release said. Despite this, many Americans have never heard of Werowocomoco.

NPS encourages its partners and other interested parties to share the video to inform others about one of the most significant indigenous places on the East Coast.

Featured in the short documentary are voices of people that have been critical to the



PHOTO BY JOHN HENLEY

The National Park Service has recently released a video titled "Werowocomoco: A Powhatan Place of Power." Pictured is an aerial view of Werowocomoco, located on the north side of the York River in Gloucester.

site's recovery, protection, early planning and studying.

The roughly seven-minute-long video is accessible, with

closed captioning and audio description, at [www.nps.gov/cajo/planyourvisit/werowocomoco.htm](https://www.nps.gov/cajo/planyourvisit/werowocomoco.htm).

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# THE ARTS

## Arts on Main hosts Bergamot Quartet

BY TYLER BASS

Arts on Main is hosting New York City-based string quartet the Bergamot Quartet in Gloucester this month as part of its Artist in Residence program.

The Artist in Residence program brings artists of different fields to stay in Gloucester while they work. Since arriving, the quartet has been busy rehearsing and promoting their debut album, "Into the Brink."

The quartet is made up of violinist/composer Ledah Finck, violinists Sarah Thomas and Amy Tan, and cellist Irene Han. The four met during their graduate experience at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Currently, the members of the quartet are students at New York City's Mannes School of Music where they are the Student Resident String Quartet. The four said they study under the guidance of the Faculty Resident String Quartet and founders of the program, the JACK Quartet.

The Peabody Institute reached out to Mollie Stewart of Arts on Main and recommended the quartet as its Artists in Residence. Finck said that they didn't know what they were getting into but it has been a positive and productive experience so far.

The time they've had in Gloucester has been valuable, said the quartet. Han said that the waterfront view from



TYLER BASS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

The Bergamot Quartet performed a pop-up concert in front of the Gloucester Museum of History last Thursday. The quartet's members are, from left, Ledah Finck, Sarah Thomas, Amy Tan and Irene Han. The New York City-based musicians are in Gloucester thanks to a partnership with Arts on Main.

where they are staying can be distracting, but they've been able to get a lot of work done.

Finck said that on an average day the four spend up to five hours rehearsing together and at least one hour on their own. They have to make time for their course work as well.

The group has also spent a lot of time promoting their upcoming album, "Into the Brink," which is named after one of Finck's compositions.

To promote and raise mon-

ey for the album, the quartet is in the middle of their fundraising campaign, Bergafest. Bergafest has been filled with live-streamed concerts, listening parties, and interviews with composers of the pieces they perform on the album.

The quartet had the chance to perform in front of a live audience, something they haven't been able to do in some time. Through Arts on Main, the quartet played a pop-up concert last Thursday

in front of the Gloucester Museum of History.

This Saturday, the Bergamot Quartet will play another concert in Gloucester at Arts on Main from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Seating is limited. To reserve seats, call Arts on Main 804-824-9464.

To find out more information about Bergafest go to bergamotquartet.com where you can find links to their fundraiser and videos of recorded performances.

## Spring Show underway at TAG Gallery

The Tappahannock Artists Guild's new Spring Show is underway at the gallery at 200 Prince Street. The show features artwork from TAG

members and guest artists, with special decorations provided by local teacher Joyce Crowne-Wilkins using bright art pieces created by her el-

ementary school students.

Consistent with COVID-19 restrictions, the gallery is only open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Beginning

in April, as restrictions ease, the gallery plans to also open from noon to 4 p.m. on Fridays.



### Lucky 757

Lucky 757, a rockabilly band out of Portsmouth, will perform Friday night at Flat Iron Crossroads in Gloucester. Doors open at 5 p.m., with the show running from 6:30 to 9:30. Lucky 757 came on the music scene in 2014 and was formed around father-and-son songwriting team Dan and Cory Spivey. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at [www.flatironcrossroads.com](http://www.flatironcrossroads.com).

## 'Paint Main Day' to be held June 12

The Gloucester Arts Festival committee will hold a "Paint Main Day" on Saturday, June 12.

Invited artists, along with other registered artists, will be all along Gloucester's Main Street painting on this day. There will be 20 invited artists from Florida, California and Wisconsin participating

in this event.

This year the event will be held outside and numbers will be monitored so all safety measures are met.

For more information, visit <https://gloucesterartsfestival.com>. You can also follow the Gloucester Arts Festival Facebook page or the @gloucesterartsfestival Instagram page.

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OPINION

Our famous women

A sure measure of fame comes when someone speaks your name and surrounding people don't ask, "Who?" Names of three famous women from Gloucester and Mathews immediately spring to mind, and they span four centuries: Pocahontas, Sally Tompkins, Irene Morgan. These are women of distinction and distinct achievement. They belong to the ages; they started here. Every one of us can think of a strong woman in our lives: mothers, teachers, nurses in the traditional roles, now expanded to every description of society. We had suffragettes, when women sought the right to vote; we had women in the Army during the world wars, serving as officers and lifesavers; we had women in state government and local government. Fortunately the time has passed when the Gazette-Journal reported on the "first woman" to do something: first woman registering to vote; first woman on a jury; first woman in a pulpit. Honor the trailblazers. They have helped to level the playing field for half of the population.

Adjust, don't double, the minimum wage

Yes, it is time to increase the minimum wage. The wage has sat at \$7.25 an hour since its last increase in 2009 from \$6.55. While it's time to give the lowest-paid a raise, we share the feeling of millions of Americans that \$15 as the new minimum would be too high. Looking at past increases in a chart from the U.S. Department of Labor, we see that following World War II, raises have been somewhat regular, with increases in 27 of the 64 years between 1945 and 2009, including several spans where America's minimum wage inched up annually. Since then, nothing. We hope that Congress can find some common ground for phased increases to levels that lift workers while not sinking small businesses. A rising tide can lift all boats, and the minimum wage is the thinnest of lifelines that we can throw to those struggling in stormy economic waters.

POETIC REFLECTIONS

God is my song

BY JOEL EMERSON, HAYES, VA.
 Music has been a soothing balm for my battle-weary soul, It brings a special healing we cannot find in gold. It flows just like a river, soars just like a bird, It inspires us to greater heights with its timeless reverb. Our heartbeat has a rhythm throughout our earthly stay, The rain and wind have their own tune, we hear along our way. God is my song, A Love oh so strong. It knocks me to my knees, makes me want Him to please, He's where we all belong; Jesus my Creator, is my song. Words of Life, Words of Christ, soaring like eagles high above the strife, The heartbeat of eternity beating in my chest, God is the melody, God is the start; He is my rest. Now God's the grand Conductor of His orchestra of creation, And we all have a part to make of a singing celebration. He's the song where we belong and we must remain in tune, For one day we'll sing at His throne and it will be real soon. So, sing of His Salvation, His Love the world He gave, There's no more joyful singer than who's free, but once a slave. God is my song, A Love oh so strong. It knocks me to my knees, makes me want Him to please, He's where we all belong; Jesus my Creator, is my song.

GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS  
**GAZETTE-JOURNAL**  
 Elsa Cooke Verbyla | Publisher  
 Charles E. Koenig | Editor  
 Published by  
 Tidewater Newspapers Inc.  
 Gloucester, VA 23061



READERS WRITE

The seeds of a literary genius

Editor, Gazette-Journal: I have just turned the last page of S.A. Cosby's "Blacktop Wasteland." It's a page turner of a novel of a life spent not as one would have desired, but one lived as if events were created out of the dealing of a deck of cards where the playing of each hand brings out the demons of a complex character created out of the damp clay of Mr. Cosby's creative imagination. S.A. Cosby has crafted a tale of love and passion in a backdrop of hardship and violent crime and has done so with an eloquence that belies the grittiness of the characters as well as their language and violent nature. The lead character, Beauregard "Bug" Montague, portrays the complexities of a soul conflicted with the demons of his past. While this rollicking good tale with its language of the street might shock the sensibilities of some, it is to the lovers of the Saturday afternoon matinee of yore entertainment in the truest sense of the word. A phrase from the novel comes to mind: "While they picking apples, I'm planting seeds." Mr. Cosby's "Blacktop Wasteland" is likely to be the seed that grows the tree to bear the fruit of his literary genius.

Andrew Maggard  
 Port Haywood, Va.

Happy birthday, American Legion

Editor, Gazette-Journal: Happy 102nd birthday to The American Legion! The American Legion was "born" on March 15, 1919 during a caucus of the American Expeditionary Force in Paris, France. It was chartered by Congress in September 1919. In 1921, the Legion's efforts created the U.S. Veterans Bureau; later to become Veterans Administration. In 1923, this church's "Flag Code" was drafted at the Legion's convention. In 1925, the Legion Baseball program was created and, since its inception, countless players have gone on to play in college and pro baseball with 81 players to date inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. The American Legion serves active duty and veteran service members, their families, and the communities they live in. There are Legion Posts across the nation and overseas. Legion membership is made up of proud service members who are still honored to serve their country. Last year, the Legion gave over 4.5 million hours and \$5 million in community service and placed over 2,500 veterans in jobs. In November 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary was created to give female family members the opportunity to do their part. The Auxiliary actively supports the Legion's mission. The Auxiliary now accepts all eligible family members, male and female. The Legion Family is completed by the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Riders. In Gloucester, the Post 75 family is here to serve. Come visit our beautiful Post Home at 5849 American Legion Way. We'll be happy to tell you about the Legion Family and how you can help or how you can rent the Post for your event. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. Call us at 804-654-4148 or visit us on Facebook. The American Legion Family is always looking to add family members, so come and see what we're all about.

Julie Coates, historian  
 American Legion Post 75  
 Gloucester, Va.

Wonder at Ware ArtWalk a success

Editor, Gazette-Journal: On behalf of the community of Ware Church, I would like to extend my appreciation to our community partners who made the inaugural Wonder at Ware ArtWalk a success. I would like to thank and recognize Gloucester County Schools (with Ellen Walter and Ashley Walker from Botetourt Elementary serving as liaisons), Arts on Main, Brent and Becky's Bulbs, and the Boy Scouts of America affiliates (Pack 175, Pack 133, Troop 111, Troop 1651, and Venture Crew 111) for their efforts. Their collective work, along with those who attended the ArtWalk, made this endeavor possible. Above all, the success of this community event goes to the families and educators who have persevered through one year of pandemic life. The students, their parents, and their teachers and administrators have done a phenomenal job finding ways to continue the work of education in this time. Well done: you have this church's gratitude and appreciation. It is our aspiration to continue celebrating artistic expression in Gloucester County youth—from elementary through high school. In preparation of our next ArtWalk (May 8), we would like to invite interested community support organizations to contact the church office so we might find a way to incorporate them into future events.

The Rev. Scott Parnell  
 Rector, Ware Episcopal Church  
 Gloucester, Va.

Buyer's remorse?

Editor, Gazette-Journal: The sell-out of the United States has begun in earnest by the Democrat/Socialists. Their allegiance to country and flag is seen as an impediment to their goals and agendas which is to take complete

control of our political system. In doing so, they will control our lives, free will, civil liberties, freedom of speech, religion and assembly. Our biggest loss will be our sacred asset, our sovereignty and a broken Constitution. Those who chose to vote against Donald Trump because they disliked him played into the hands of these "turncoats." As a result, we now have complete open borders to illegal aliens, cartels, smugglers and drug dealers. We, the people, have now become irrelevant in the scheme of things. The lust for power and craven ambitions of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's "hit squad" propelled Joe Biden into the presidency. They chose a weak and compromised former vice president as a figurehead hoping to have his vice president become the first-ever woman president. This feat is becoming more evident with the passage of time. The pseudo president is propped up by former Obama operatives who are continuing Obama's third term. This election was won by dubious and nefarious means and has put a permanent stain on our reputation of having fair and open elections. Sadly, we have elected someone who is not qualified to run our country. I credit him for uttering insults, jabs and barbs to his opponents like calling the Texas governor a Neanderthal. His homilies and folksy demeanor will not deter our enemies, but will only embolden them. The only man to reckon with any and all adversaries was our former president, Donald Trump. I lament his election loss. Those of you who voted for Joe Biden knew who he was, so the question of the day is do you have buyer's remorse for voting for "Uncle Joe?"

Christine Georges  
 Gloucester Point, Va.

Apples and oranges

Editor, Gazette-Journal: James Young ("Applies to both sides," March 11 Readers Write) is right: People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. Nor should they compare apples to oranges. So comparing his accusations of inappropriate Democratic behavior to just about anything Donald Trump did or said while in office makes a poor argument.

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.

Katie Thompson  
 Hayes, Va.



READERS' SPECIAL

BY BOB RUEGSEGGER

William Wesley Payne's earthly remains have rested in peace in the Shiloh Baptist Churchyard in Westmoreland County since 1954. An impressive stone marker engraved with his name currently marks his grave site.

Directly across Great House Road from the church cemetery is the entrance to Stratford Hall, the ancestral home of the Lees of Virginia, including Philip Ludwell Lee, Lighthorse Harry Lee, Richard Henry Lee, and Robert Edward Lee. The Lees lived at Stratford Hall for generations before debt forced them from their estate. Their political legacy to Virginia and to the nation needs little, if any, introduction.

William Wesley Payne and his ancestors in the Payne family are almost totally unheralded compared to the Lees who once possessed the sprawling property.

Few records of the enslaved African-American community at Stratford Hall still exist. Court records and Lee family documents provide the major-

ity of what is known regarding the historic property's slave community. None of the documents offer surnames. Only one African-American family—the Payne family—has been distinguished as once having been connected to Stratford's enslaved population.

On a knoll northwest of the Great House at Stratford Hall overlooking the Potomac River, the Wesley Payne cabin stands as a heartfelt tribute to William Wesley Payne and generations of his ancestors and descendants. The modest structure was built as a memorial to Wesley Payne for his decades of faithful service at Stratford Hall.

The name Payne may have originated with the Paynes who dwelled and are interred near Leedstown, a thriving port in colonial days, where 115 patriots met in 1766 to sign the Leedstown Resolves, a document that embodied the principles later embraced in the Declaration of Independence.

It is also feasible that the Paynes might be descendants of the slave West who was



BOB RUEGSEGGER PHOTO

This cabin was built at Stratford Hall as a memorial to William Wesley Payne, who spent his life working there.

documented in Philip Ludwell Lee's estate inventory in 1782.

William Payne (1833-1927), the first Payne on record at Stratford Hall, was born as a slave on the plantation where he worked before and after the Civil War. He labored as a butler and a house servant for Elizabeth Storke. William married Hannah Jackson from

Pope's Creek Plantation.

Their union produced William Wesley Payne who grew up at Stratford Hall while Elizabeth Storke owned the property. When Storke died (1879) the Stuart family inherited the plantation.

After Wesley Payne married Louisa Mary Johnson in 1901, she was employed as the cook

for the Stuarts. The Paynes' first home was in an outbuilding northeast of the manor house. They had ten children.

Wesley Payne, with the exception of four years following his wife's death, spent his entire life working at Stratford Hall.

After the Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation bought Stratford Hall from the Stuarts, Wesley Payne gave energetic kitchen interpretations to visitors.

When May Field Lanier, president of the Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation, offered Wesley Payne his choice of a monument to mark his birth site at Stratford Hall, he chose to have a log cabin built on a rise near the Great House. Following Wesley Payne's description, a log structure similar to the cabin in which he was born was constructed to his specifications in 1941 on the site he selected.

This rectangular structure was built of logs and the shingles are wooden. It has a single door and two windows with shutters but no glass. It has an upscale wooden plank floor rather than the typi-

cal compacted dirt floor. The fireplace has a stick and mud chimney designed to break away from the outer wall in case of a chimney fire. The furnishings are meager, and include a bedstead, plank table, and rough bench.

Wesley and Hannah Payne's son, Ulysses Sylvester "Joe" Payne, followed in his mother and father's footsteps. Joe Payne, a World War II veteran, worked at Stratford Hall for 53 years. He began working for Stratford's first resident superintendent, General B.F. Cheatham, and was the head gardener at the historic site.

While the names of Payne family members are certainly not as widely recognized as those of the familiar Lees they are no less a part of Stratford Hall's history. Generations of Payne family members have "deep roots" at Stratford Hall. Periodically, the Payne family has gathered at Stratford Hall for a reunion. A reunion program in 2011 offered music, slave tales, and tours of the Great House and, of course, the Uncle Wes Cabin.

THE BOOKWORM

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

BY PAULINA BREN; C.2021, SIMON & SCHUSTER; \$27.00; 336 PAGES

Did you just fall into the lap of luxury?

It might've seemed so. The bed was much nicer than yours, with a comforter like cotton candy. The carpet was sink-to-your-ankles thick. The bathroom, wow, and the view outside the window almost made you speechless. A room like that can make a vacation better. In "The Barbizon" by Paulina Bren, it could make a career.

When construction began on Manhattan's Barbizon Hotel for Women in 1927, America was flush with possibility. World War I was over, prosperity was attainable, and the Nineteenth Amendment had recently been ratified, which had "poked holes in earlier

arguments for why" young, single women would eschew careers. And so, the Barbizon was built specifically as a residential hotel for proper young (white) ladies to live while they spread their wings. No men allowed, basic rooms were \$12 per week, maid service and amenities included.

Being affiliated with the Barbizon from its beginning, the Katherine Gibbs Secretarial School housed its students at the hotel but once the Depression ended, the hotel's average boarder had changed. "Katie Gibbs" students still lived in the Barbizons—with a housemother and a strict curfew—but other mid-to-late-1930s guests were just as likely to be models for a growing ad industry. Some ten years later, advertising, clothing, beauty, "Mademoi-

selle" magazine, and the Barbizon all became linked through an annual Guest Editor contest, which brought 14 (later, 20) of the country's most intelligent young women to New York each summer, and housed them in the iconic hotel. This, and the introductions to influential artists, writers, editors, and actors, opened eyes and changed lives until the program ended in 1979.

Despite the glamour that had lived at the Barbizon, though not everything glittered. Black women weren't allowed at the hotel until 1956. Quietly, the Barbizon was the site of several suicides. A growing Women's Movement began to make the hotel seem outdated. And yet, when the building was sold, and sold again,

some of its longest residents refused to leave...

So you say that you love to read biographies. Generals, actors, scientists, politicians, add this to your list. "The Barbizon" is a biography of a hotel.

And yet, a building is nothing but materials, so author Paulina Bren weaves concrete and glass with confidence and glitz, and Carols and Gaels. She opens her tale in a just-right manner, with money and a deliciously outrageous woman, proceeding then through decades of American fads and ideals, stretching from Dust Bowl to disco.

Admittedly, that pop culture is fun, but the women who lived at the Barbizon and their tales are the reasons d'etre here and so, with

a dash of drama and a bit of period gossip, Bren shows readers the world through the tender eyes of 30 years' worth of 20-somethings. For anyone who recalls life at that age, such recollections are sweetly nostalgic, made better by frustrating, funny, heartbreaking updates that truly set this book apart.

They make it irresistibly readable, too. They'll make you want to lap "The Barbizon" up.

\*\*\*

Take a wider trip to The Big Apple by reading "New York, New York, New York: Four Decades of Success, Excess, and Transformation" by Thomas Dyja. It's a look at New York City after the 1970s: the clean-up, the politics, the terrorist attack, the city's renaissance, and the



look of the city you love.

'Come Fly the World: The Jet-Age Story of the Women of Pan Am'

BY JULIA COOKE; C.2021, HMH BOOKS; \$28.00; 288 PAGES

Table trays in the upright position.

You aren't getting off the tarmac until that happens. Also, pay attention: there are lights down the aisle along the floor, and exits above each wing. Masks will drop down, in case of loss of oxygen; put your mask on before assisting others. In "Come Fly the World" by Julia Cooke, you're in for a trip back in time.

Lynne Totten had a biology degree, but she saw the future and it wasn't good.

It was the mid-1960s and women with a degree like hers

might work as an assistant or a teacher, but never as someone in charge of a laboratory. As a voracious newspaper reader, though, Lynne eventually realized that there was "a whole world out there" that she could explore and get paid for it. She set aside biology and became a stewardess.

Karen Walker was an experienced traveler when she signed up to work at Pan Am at the advanced age of 26, which was at the top of the age-limit for stewardesses; they also had height limits and regular weigh-ins, regulation hair styles, and mandatory attendance at make-up classes in stewardess school

in Miami. Foremost, stewardesses at Pan Am and most other airlines then were required to be unmarried.

Hazel Bowie of Mankato, Minnesota, took advantage of new airline rules: as a Black woman, Pan Am's reach for diversity fit her career goals. Clare Christiansen had volunteered for duty on a shuttle service to and from Vietnam that Pan Am offered through the U.S. Government; such assignments were another step on a carefully-planned career ladder. Torild "Tori" Werner, who grew up in Oslo, Norway, likewise set her sights on management but first, she also volunteered for similar

shuttle duty for U.S. soldiers arriving in and departing from Vietnam.

And in the spring of 1975, three of these women went to Vietnam for one final time...

If you separate "Come Fly the World" into two different camps—which may be difficult, since the book as a whole is pretty excellent—you'll see that there really are two parts to it: the story of five women at Pan Am, and the story of women in the 1960s.

On one hand, author Julia Cooke tells the tales of Lynne, Karen, Clare, Tori, and Hazel, why they decided to become stewardesses (a word that fits the timeframe) and what

their experiences were on the job. In addition to those anecdotes, most of Cooke's subjects seized adventure and cheap off-duty travel, which also gives this book a hint of travelogue but with less romance and more practicality. Then there's the trip back to the years 1965 to 1975, the crazy music; the wild clothes; and the lawsuits brought to give women the right to get a credit card, hold a job while married, and to work while pregnant.

Be aware that there's no Coffee, Tea, or Me? in this book; instead, it's Mad Men meets a glass ceiling, and destroys it. So, grab "Come Fly the World"



and buckle in.

'The Black Civil War Soldier: A Visual History of Conflict and Citizenship'

BY DEBORAH WILLIS; C.2021, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS; \$35.00; 256 PAGES

'Blood and Germs: The Civil War Battle Against Wounds and Disease'

BY GAIL JARROW; C.2020, CALKINS CREEK; \$18.99; 176 PAGES

It's come to this: someone's looking for a fight and that's exactly what they're about to get. There will be a winner. It won't be fun: there'll be a loser, and probably some bruises. But at least you'll be able to open those fists and shake hands when it's over—unlike, perhaps, the people inside these two great books...

When the Civil War began, says author Deborah Willis, most "...enslaved blacks and

servants were united in their opinion—they associated war with emancipation." They hung onto every bit of news about Abraham Lincoln and news from the battlefield, they were eager to know what Lincoln would do next, and in "The Black Civil War Soldier," you'll get to meet some of those people and learn their stories.

You'll also get to see them, in portraits and snapshots taken on and off the field, in Black hospitals, homes, and asylums. These are the kinds of pictures that make you want to linger, taking in details of what was obviously someone's best dress, or someone's best and bravest face. Look at the pictures and read personal letters home, diary entries, and thoughts; words, says Willis, of absent loved

ones, fear and confusion, frustration on the part of both soldier and commander, "dignity and pride... achievement and self-confidence..." and valor. You'll also learn about the daily lives of Black soldiers during the war, and what happened in the years after war's end. Together, this narrative and the photographs make an astounding book that show an often-little-told human side of the War Between the States.

When there's war, of course, you'll see action on the field but the fight can also go on far behind the lines, as you'll see in "Blood and Germs" by Gail Jarrow.

In this very heavily-illustrated book, young readers will get an authentic look at what, other than bullets, bayonets, and cannonballs, might've killed a Civil War

soldier. These things—gangrene, scurvy, tuberculosis, typhus, and other horrible maladies or injuries—are examined and explained in context of the times in which they affected American on and off the battlefield; many of those maladies, after all, are rare in today's world and may be unfamiliar to young readers. Through letters and stomach-churning old-time cures, Jarrow also tells of the roles women played in nursing and ministering to the wounded and afflicted, how they stopped blood loss, saved legs and arms, ended pain, and kept away disease and death.

Older teens and adults, especially those who are history buffs, are the perfect audience for "The Black Civil War Soldier," although later-



middle-schoolers shouldn't have any problem reading or understanding the book and may enjoy it. "Blood and Germs" is great for kids ages 10 and up and adults, though parents of particularly sensitive kids should beware that

some of the photos can really be quite gruesome. In both cases, the stories inside these books make them great additions to anyone's library, and good things to get your fists around.





Katherine Newman is manager of Bay Transit's New Freedom program, which offers low-cost transportation for seniors and those with disabilities on the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck

## New Freedom transportation program in high demand

The New Freedom Mobility Management program, which provides low-cost transportation to seniors and individuals with disabilities, is finding itself in high demand these days, according to a release from Bay Transit, which offers the program to residents on the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck.

A growing population of area residents that are 60 years old or older, as well as individuals with chronic illnesses, has contributed to increased demand for these critical transportation services, the release stated.

New Freedom allows residents to attend medical appointments, shop, work and attend social and recreational events, even for travel outside of Bay Transit's service area and/or service hours. Participants pay a nominal fee for each round trip. For round trips of 50 miles or less, there is a \$5 fare. For round trip journeys greater than 50 miles the fare is \$10.

"We even provide free transportation for anyone that needs to accompany the rider to assist them in and out of the vehicle or with their appointment," said Katherine Newman, the New Freedom program manager.

Newman has been managing Bay Transit's New Freedom program since 2013 and is a passionate advocate for program participants. New Freedom is funded through a Federal Transit Administration grant to serve all 12 counties in Bay Transit's service area. Because these federal funds are limited, program participation is limited to not more than two round-trip rides per month. A partnership with the MedCarry Volunteer Transportation program supplements New Freedom to help address additional demand.

"Individuals of any age with disabilities qualify to participate in New Freedom whether they have a short-term disability such as a broken leg or they are rehabilitating after surgery," Newman said. "Those with long-term disabilities, mental health disabilities, with mobility issues or chronic health issues are also eligible to participate."

About 90 percent of New Freedom trips are outside of Bay Transit's service area to typical destinations such as the VA Medical Centers in Richmond and Hampton, regional hospitals in Newport News and for medical services in Fredericksburg, Richmond, Williamsburg and

Norfolk.

"We ask people to contact the New Freedom office at least three business days before their scheduled appointment," she said. "Because of increased demand for New Freedom service, I always urge people to call us as soon as their appointment is made to give us as much time as possible to get their journey scheduled."

"If New Freedom cannot provide transportation at the time of your appointment, we'll make every effort to find another means of transportation for you," Newman added. "We have partnerships with seven local private transportation companies and the human services agencies in the area, so we'll do everything possible to find you a ride. The drivers provide curb-to-curb service and typically wait for you through the entire appointment."

Bay Transit currently employs three drivers dedicated to the New Freedom program, but more drivers are needed. "We need drivers for the West Point, New Kent and Charles City areas immediately," Newman noted. "We also need MedCarry volunteer drivers throughout the entire twelve county service area. Like all volunteering opportunities available through Bay Aging, being a MedCarry volunteer is incredibly rewarding. We do provide the MedCarry volunteer drivers with a modest mileage reimbursement, but the biggest reward is cultivating relationships with the riders, some of whom are transportation disadvantaged and really count on us to get them to their medical appointments."

"The New Freedom program provides transportation for a variety of purposes, not just for medical appointments," Newman noted. "During COVID-19, our focus has been on essential trips such as medical appointments, grocery and prescription fulfillment. Throughout the years we've transported individuals to family reunions, funerals, worship services, visits with family and friends outside Bay Transit's traditional service area, and much more."

For more information about Bay Transit's New Freedom program, to inquire about driving for Bay Transit, or volunteering to be a MedCarry driver, contact Newman at 804-824-2546 or [knewman@bayaging.org](mailto:knewman@bayaging.org).

Bay Transit is a service of Bay Aging.

BY CAITLIN DONNELLY  
GMHS COMMUNICATIONS AND  
DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Spring is finally here! We cannot wait for longer days and more of the sun's rays. With the change of season, our thoughts turn to Easter celebrations, spring cleaning and home improvement projects.

Before you embark on seasonal chores or outdoor festivities, take note of potential springtime hazards for your four-legged family members.

Easter is April 4 this year, so be sure to keep lilies and candy in check! Chocolate goodies are toxic to cats and dogs, and lilies can be fatal if ingested by cats. Cats love to chew on colorful plastic grass found in Easter baskets, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, and dehydration.

While live bunnies, chicks and other baby animals are adorable, resist the urge to buy them. These cute babies grow up fast, require specialized care, and are often surrendered to the shelter after the holiday. Stick with a stuffed pet instead!

Many pet parents welcome the breezy days of spring by opening their windows. Unfortunately, they also unknowingly put their pets at risk, especially cats who are more likely to jump or fall through unscreened windows. Be sure to install sturdy screens in all your windows.

While dogs love to feel the wind on their faces, allowing them to ride in the beds of trucks or stick their heads out of car windows is dangerous. Flying debris or insects can cause inner ear or eye injuries and lung infections. Abrupt stops can cause major injury, or worse. Pets riding in cars should always be secured in a crate or wearing a seat-belt harness designed just for them.

Spring cleaning is a tradition in many households. Be sure to keep cleaners and chemicals out of your pets' reach. Almost all cleaning products may be harmful for our furry loved ones. The key to using them safely is to follow label directions for proper use and storage. Be cautious of physical hazards, including nails, staples, insulation, blades and power tools. It is best to confine your pet to a designated room during home improvement projects.

Like people, pets can be allergic to foods, dust, plants and pollens. Allergic reactions in dogs and cats can cause itching, minor sniffing and sneezing, or life-threatening anaphylactic shock to insect bites and stings. If you suspect your pet has an allergy, visit your veterinarian as soon as possible. April showers bring May flowers, and an onslaught of bugs. Make sure your pet is on year-round heartworm preventive medication, as well as a flea and tick control program.

Warmer weather means more trips to the park, longer walks and more chances for your pet to wander off! Make sure your pet has a microchip for identification and wears a tag imprinted with your home address,



It's the PURR-FECT time to SUBSCRIBE to the GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS GAZETTE-JOURNAL 804-693-3101

## PETS

### Beware of springtime hazards for your four-legged friends



"Zeke" enjoys his time outside in the springtime. But the season also presents possible dangers for four-legged friends like him.

cell phone and any other contact information. If your pet is lost, call your local animal control office and GMHS to file a missing pet report.

#### Fundraiser set up for GCSO K9 vehicle

A GoFundMe campaign is underway to raise money to help get a new, larger vehicle to transport the Gloucester County Sheriff's Office K9 officer and his two dogs.


"The current vehicle is getting close to the end of its duty cycle and is in dire need of replacement," Diane Jones wrote on the fundraiser page, which she created last week. The page can be found at <https://gofundme.com/i/help-support-the-gloucester-county-k9s>.

"The Gloucester County Sheriff's Office has two K9s riding in one vehicle," she wrote. "This specialty unit carries not only the handler and the dogs, but all the equipment necessary for their daily mission." The goal set for this fundraiser is \$60,000.

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# OBITUARIES

## NICHOLAS AARON ALLEN

Nicholas Aaron Allen, 42, of Gloucester, a drywall installer, died unexpectedly at his home on March 14, 2021. Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home, Gloucester Point.

## CERA HEINIG BAUMBACH



Cera Heinig Baumbach, 89, of Solomons, Maryland, died March 9, 2021. She was born in Nyack, New York. She graduated in 1948 from Botetourt High School, Gloucester, and attended the Pan American Business College in Richmond. Mrs. Baumbach worked for 25 years in civil service at Patuxent River Naval Air Station and served in an administrative role to many commanding officers during her tenure.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George Bingham Heinig and Gladys Stalter Heinig; husband, Richard; son, Richard Jr.; sister, Beverly Stark, and brother, George Heinig Jr.

Survivors include her children, Jeffrey Baumbach, Michael Baumbach, Jane Macone, and two grandchildren.

A livestreamed memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Calvert Hospice (<https://calverthospice.org>) or mail to P.O. Box 838, 238 Merrimac Court, Prince Frederick, Md. 20678.

Condolences to the family may be made at [www.brinsfield-funeral.com](http://www.brinsfield-funeral.com).

## BRENT ARTHUR FOWLKES



Brent Arthur Fowlkes, 33, of Colorado City, Texas, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Thursday, March 11, 2021, after a courageous fight with brain cancer. The family will receive friends from 5-7 p.m., Friday, March 19, 2021, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, March 20, 2021, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park. All are

welcome to attend and celebrate Brent's life.

Brent was born on July 1, 1987 in Williamsburg, Va., to Mindy Vinson McNaughton. He married Ashley Martin, the love of his life, on May 18, 2019. After moving to Colorado City, Brent owned and operated Premier Sandhills, a waterfowl guide service. Brent was able to do what he loved for a living and share his passion for hunting with hundreds of hunters that had the honor to share the blind with him.

Brent was accomplished at HVAC and often helped anyone in need no matter the time of day with their heating and cooling systems. He was a devoted father who loved his baby girl and never got tired of talking about her or her mother to anyone that would listen. All Brent wanted out of life was to be a father and God blessed him and Ashley with the most precious baby girl that is a perfect combination of the two of them.

Brent is survived by his wife, Ashley, and daughter, Bridget; brother, Zack Young and Caroline; in-laws, Danny and Kim Martin; sister-in-law, Shayla Vaughn and Jennings; sister-in-law, Brylee Martin; grandfather, Frank Vinson and Jo; grandmother, Helen Metcalf, and siblings, Hannah Fowlkes, Jeremiah Fowlkes, and Lurhesa Walls, along with numerous cousins, aunts, and uncles.

He was preceded in death by grandmother, Barbara Vinson; mother, Mindy McNaughton, and brother, Jeffery Fowlkes.

Memorials can be made to Forsan Baptist Church at P.O. Drawer 736, Forsan, Texas 79733.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences may be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

## EVELYN EVE HALL



Evelyn Eve Hall, age 73, of Gloucester, died peacefully at her home on March 13, 2021. She was preceded in death by her husband, James B. Hall Sr.; her parents, Thomas and Margaret Green, and siblings, Thomas and Mary. Her survivors are her children, Terri (Johnny) and James (Carole); siblings, Wayne, Linda, Shirley; three grandchildren; one great-grandson, and loving canine companion, "Kahn." The family received friends on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, from 6-7:30 p.m. at Hogg Funeral Home, 3098 George Washington Memorial Hwy., Hayes, Va. 23072. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, masks are required for entry, and social distancing is mandatory. A graveside service, conducted by Pastor Richard Whiteheart, will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at Gloucester Point Cemetery. Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home.

## LEE A. HENSHAW



Lee A. Henshaw, 82, of Gloucester and Cleveland, Ohio, passed away on March 14, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Vida (Bradac) Henshaw. He is survived by daughter, Toni (Mike) Bennett; his girlfriend, Joan; brother, Clifford (Katie) Henshaw; grandchildren, Griffin, Carl, and Sonia, and great-grandchildren, Konstance and Damen.

Private family services will take place at a later date.

In memory of our loved one, we would prefer that you plant a tree, if you so desire.

## JEFFREY WAYNE HOCKADAY



Jeffrey Wayne Hockaday, 32, of Gloucester, Va., passed away on Feb. 5, 2021. He was born on March 31, 1988 in Newport News, Va. He was a self-employed carpenter and was an amazing musician playing the bass guitar and was the life of the party. His smile would always brighten the room. He was preceded in death by his brother, Thomas Keith Berghuis; his grandfather, Dr. Jacob Berghuis, and on his father's side, Harold Hockaday Sr. and Margie Hockaday. Survived by his parents, Donald and Jill Elizabeth Hockaday; grandparents, Betty and Jean Chabert; sister, Rachael Nicole Berghuis; brother, Donald Ray Hockaday, and nieces, Lidia Rae Haskins and Alexia Nicole Adams.

A memorial service is being planned at a later date. Andrews Funeral Home & Crematory, Gloucester, is in charge of arrangements.

## DAVID ROGER LILLY

David Roger Lilly, 84, of Gloucester, Va., passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, following a lengthy illness, surrounded by his loving family, caregiver, Anne Meiggs, and special cat, Faron, who watched over him faithfully. He was a native of Mathews and was the son of the late Willie Maywood and Minnie Ashberry Lilly. He retired from the U.S. Coast Guard as chief electrician, having served 20 years; he also retired from the Yorktown Naval Weapons Station after 20 years of service. He was a faithful member of Singleton United Methodist Church where he served in many capacities and was a member of the United Methodist Men.

One of the many joys in his life was that of sharing his love for music and playing the guitar and fiddle with his family, friends and surrounding communities. Family and friends will always cherish the musical memories that were made in the family home, which he built and where he was able to utilize his love for woodworking.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Carol Ann Dukes, and grandson, Daniel Lilly. He is survived by his loving wife, Gloria Ann Hibble Lilly; son, Robert Lilly; daughter, Gale Lilly Kane (Kent); sister, Ann Lilly Hilke; grandchildren, Christy Lilly Shepherd (Ed), Cameron Goldberg (Allison), Brent Cannon (Mindy) and Justin Cannon; great-grandchildren, Abigail, Nolan, Keira, and Lilly Ann.

The family would like to extend their special thanks to caregivers, Anne and Carl, as well as a special thanks to the Riverside Walter Reed Hospice, especially to Lori, Gina, and Sue. Visitation will be on Saturday, March 20, 2021, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Andrews Funeral Home, Gloucester. Due to COVID-19, visitation will be followed by a limited capacity service following social distancing and mask guidelines. Memorial donations may be made to either Singleton United Methodist Church or to Gloucester Volunteer Fire and Rescue. Andrews Funeral Home & Crematory is in charge of arrangements.

## NANCY LEE MOORE



Nancy Lee Moore, 75, Gloucester, passed away on Friday, March 12, 2021. Nancy was born in Kansas and was a lifelong Peninsula resident. She graduated from Warwick High School Class of 1962. Nancy and her late husband Ronald were owners of Ronnie's Landscaping and Hauling until his retirement in 2008. She was a member of White Marsh Baptist Church and was attending Lebanon Christian Church. She was a member of the Red Hat ladies' club and local Baptist Woman's association.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Ronald Preston Moore; a sister, Suzanne Norris, and a son-in-law, Randy Hall. She is survived by her children, Cathie Harlan (Pete), Thomas Moore (Sandy), and Kelly Hall; brothers, Larry Cardwell (Marie) and Michael Cardwell; a sister, Lois Graham (Ronald); six grandchildren, Emalee, Kyle, Mandee, Aaron, Tyler, and Gillian, and six great-grandchildren, Lilly, Carter, Grace, Logan, Vincent and Max; brother-in-law, Richard Aubrey Moore Jr. (Marcel).

The family will receive friends on Saturday, March 21, 2021, from 12-1 p.m. in Amory Funeral Home. Masks are required and social distancing will be mandatory. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, a private service for the family will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the funeral home, with burial to follow in Peninsula Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to the Parkinson Disease Foundation, Donation Processing, The Michael J. Fox Foundation, P.O. Box 5014, Hagerstown, Md. 21741-5014.

## IDA JEANETTE STERLING MORGAN (JAN)



Ida Jeanette Sterling Morgan (Jan), 63, of Hayes, Va., was born on Dec. 21, 1957 and left us suddenly on March 3, 2021.

She is survived by her loving son, Tony C. Morgan (fiancée Melanie); grandchildren, Savannah Anderson and Cody Morgan, and great-grandson, Cash Morgan. She is also survived her loving mother, Esther Green Dawson; brothers, Mark Coates and Roger Coates, (Linda); sisters, Cathie Brown, Angela Jones, and Maria Tanner, as well as her loving extended family. She was preceded in death by her

father, Glen Sterling, and was loved by all of the Sterling and Green family.

Her amazing smile and warm, loving heart will be greatly missed by all that knew her. Andrews Funeral Home & Crematory, Gloucester, Va. is in charge of arrangements.

## WILSON CAREY NOBLES JR.



Wilson Carey Nobles Jr., 73, of Mathews, formerly of Highland Springs, passed away on March 9, 2021. He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilson C. Nobles Sr. and Nancy T. Nobles. He is survived by his son, Hunter Nobles; those dear in his life, Della S. Nobles and Nancy T. Harper ("NAT"); his brother, David Nobles (Liz), and sisters, Jane Allen (Larry) and Linda Schafer (John). Wilson graduated from Virginia Tech (Virginia Polytechnic Institute) in 1969 with

a Bachelor of Science degree. He served his country in the U.S. Army during Vietnam. He put his degree to work for Dominion Power (VEPCO) and retired after 42 years. He was an avid outdoorsman, spending his formative years on the water catching speckled trout. In fact, it is unlikely you will find a picture of him without a fish in hand or a boat nearby. He loved cooking, and would often spend a whole day preparing his catch. He was a fishing legend, a smart-ass, a friend and, most importantly, a father, who will be missed. The family will receive friends on Friday, March 19, 2021, 6-8 p.m. at Nelsen Funeral Home & Crematory, 4650 S. Laburnum Avenue, Richmond, Va. 23230. A celebration of Wilson's life will be determined at a later date when we can all gather again. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, Md. 21403. Online condolences may be made at [www.nelsen-richmond.com](http://www.nelsen-richmond.com).

## NANCY RENO

Nancy Reno of Hudgins, died Saturday, March 13, 2021. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time. Faulkner Funeral Homes, Foster-Faulkner Chapel, Mathews, is assisting the family.

## BENJAMIN F. SEAWELL III



The Lord has called another one of His children home. On March 12, 2021, Benjamin F. Seawell III, also known as Ben and Benny, departed this life to enter into the arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Ben was born on July 20, 1949 in Hampton, Virginia; however, he lived the majority of his life in Gloucester County. He proudly served his country as a Marine during the Vietnam Conflict. He later became one of the best meat cutters and meat managers for Safeway, Food Lion, Farm Fresh and finally retiring from the Fort Eustis Commissary. Ben enjoyed

playing golf, establishing the first Gloucester High School golf club, bowling, winning several bowling tournaments, horses, winning several quarter horse barrel races, playing poker, fishing out on his boat and drinking his beer. He was preceded in death by his parents, Louise M. and Benjamin F. Seawell Jr.

Ben leaves behind to cherish his memory the loves of his life, wife, Rosa (Rosalie); son, Travis; daughters, Tracy and Stacey; devoted siblings, Dorothy, and Thomas; stepdaughters, Jennifer and Stephanie and their families; along with grandchildren; several nephews; nieces; great-nephews; nieces; several sisters, and brothers-in-law, and many devoted friends. Ben will be greatly missed by a lot of special people in his life as he never met a stranger. The family will receive friends on Friday, March 19, 2021, from 6-7:30 p.m. at Hogg Funeral Home. Inurnment will be held at a later date. Due to COVID-19, masks are required for entry and social distancing is mandatory. In memory of our loved one, please consider contributions to the Abingdon Fire and Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 9, Bena, Va. 23018. We are grateful for the care Ben received from Pat Riddett and Riverside Walter Reed Hospice. Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home.

## SHAWN PATRICK SMITH

Shawn Patrick Smith, 37, of Hayes, died at his home on Monday, March 8, 2021. He was a construction worker.

Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home, Gloucester Point.

## WILLIAM C. WILSON SR.

William C. Wilson Sr., 79, of Gloucester, died Friday, March 12, 2021.

Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home, Gloucester Point.

Read all about it in the

GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS

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# COMING EVENTS

## THURSDAY

**SOCIAL SERVICES:** The Gloucester Social Services Board will meet virtually at 7:30 this morning.

**MCRC:** The Mathews County Resources Council will meet virtually at 9:15 a.m. today with log-in starting at 9:05. Tiffany Gordon, director of Mathews Social Services, will present a program, "Poverty in Mathews County," following a family of four and a senior citizen trying to make ends meet. For login information, call 804-210-9169.

## FRIDAY

**DAR:** Cricket Hill Chapter, NSDAR, will meet at 2 p.m. Friday via Zoom. For information, call Colanne Bunting at 804-725-3407 or Elizabeth Roane at 804- 695-7612. For information about DAR, visit [www.crickethill.vadar.org](http://www.crickethill.vadar.org).

## IN MEMORIAM

*In memory of*  
**Deacon S. Wendell Paige**  
 July 7, 1941~March 18, 2018  
 Gone but not forgotten.  
 The Paige, Olivis & Lemon Family

*In memory of*  
**Virginia Ann Steele**  
 March 13, 1939~March 9, 2020  
 "Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her work bring her praise at the city gate."  
 Proverbs 31:33 NIV  
 Love and miss you every day.  
 The family

## TUESDAY

**SUPERVISORS:** The Mathews County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday virtually via the Zoom platform. The meeting can be accessed online at [www.mathewscountyva.gov](http://www.mathewscountyva.gov) by clicking on the Meeting Portal link, or can be viewed on Facebook. The board will also meet at 1 p.m. next Thursday, March 25 virtually to hold a work session on the 2021-2022 budget and accompanying tax rates.

**BZA:** The Gloucester Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday via electronic means.

## WEDNESDAY

**SUPERVISORS:** The Gloucester Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings in regards to the county budget at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, at Gloucester High School.

Notice is hereby given that the contents of the following rental spaces will be offered at auction for non-payment of rent.  
**CASH ONLY!**  
**MARK'S MINI STORAGE**  
**2384 Hayes Rd., Hayes**  
**Sat, March 27 • 9:30 a.m.**  
**804-642-5300**  
 D93 D. Morris  
 B74 T. Harris  
 D3 D. Harris  
*Cash Payments Only, and facility has the right to refuse any bid.*

## CARD OF THANKS

The family of **Robert Brooks Sr. (Brooksie)** would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of love shown to us during his illness and since his passing. Special thanks to Mathews Riverside Convalescent Center and The Garden at Warwick Forest in Newport News, Va. The family

**Estate Tag Sale**  
*The Late Philip and Martha Morton Estate*  
**Friday - Saturday, March 19-20 - 9AM**  
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## BOBBI HATTON

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

touch with some of them.

Hatton found her way to Mathews in 2011 when she and her husband knew they were getting ready to retire and that they wanted to be in Virginia. She said her children lived in the D.C. area and she wanted to be close. She said they took a spring break to find some potential landing spots.

The couple began their search for a home in Richmond and in Harrisonburg, places Hatton had lived before. She said one day her daughter-in-law showed her a listing for a place in Mathews, which they soon checked out. When they drove through Main Street the first time, she said they just knew that they had to live there. She says it was really that quick. They bought the house in 2011, and moved in full-time in 2015.

After coming to Mathews, Hatton found retirement very fulfilling. She attended a talk by Martha McCartney, author of "Mathews County: Lost Landscapes and Untold Stories." The event was sponsored by the Mathews Historical Society. It wasn't long until she was on the historical society's board and later served as president.

Hatton then joined the Fairfield Foundation in 2016. She said that the foundation was conducting a dig in Mathews, and she wanted to see for herself what they were doing. She said what was a small visit turned into her spending the whole day there, fascinated. Currently, she serves as vice president of the board.

Hatton has fully embraced her adopted home by involving herself in other activities, as well. Along with the Fairfield Foundation and the Historical Society, Hatton stays busy as a member of the Friends of the Library and volunteers at the Mathews County Visitor and Information Center.

"Paul and I love calling our unique community home," she said. "We'd choose a small town like ours over any of the big cities we've also called home."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Readers' suggestions for the Spotlight are welcome. Please call 804-693-3101 or email [editor@gazettejournal.net](mailto:editor@gazettejournal.net).

## Preparations underway for MHS baseball

Spring is almost here, and the familiar crack of the bat will soon be heard.

The first official practices for the Mathews High School baseball program, both varsity and JV, begin on Monday, April 12 at the Mathews Parks and Recreation field adjoining MHS, with the season beginning on Monday, April 26, against Northumberland.

Any student in grades 8-12 interested in trying out for MHS baseball is asked to contact varsity head coach Al DeWitt or JV head coach Wes Griffith as soon as possible.

They can be reached at [adewitt@mathews.k12.va.us](mailto:adewitt@mathews.k12.va.us), [wgriffith@mathews.k12.va.us](mailto:wgriffith@mathews.k12.va.us) or 804-725-3702, ext. 1124.

A Zoom spring sports meeting for parents and players will held at the end of the month; details will be announced soon.



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MELANY SLAUGHTER / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

The Three Rivers Health District held a COVID-19 vaccination clinic Friday at Newington Baptist Church in Gloucester using the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Pictured above are Mollie Andersen, left, and Joann Hamlin who administered the shots.

## VACCINE CLINIC: About 250 J&J doses made available

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

and health systems also operate as vaccine delivery systems, such as Riverside and Bon Secours.

"Nobody's staffed to do this," said Williams. "This is all extra."

Some of these clinics are occurring at a cost to health care infrastructures. Hospitals are operating in a

deficit when it comes to sending vaccinators to administer doses at vaccine clinics because they are sending employees, not volunteers. The health systems have been contributing despite the financial cost.

Williams said that all of the vaccines are effective and they are all much more effective than an annual flu vac-

cine. "Get the first one you can," Williams advised.

A vaccine clinic sponsored by the Mathews Branch NAACP will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. today at the Mathews Historical Museum. For details, email [mathewснааср@gmail.com](mailto:mathewснааср@gmail.com) or [mathewснаасрsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:mathewснаасрsecretary@gmail.com) or call 757-344-5388.

## GLOUCESTER BUDGET: Boards disagree on sales tax

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

the comments made by the school board. Fedors said that the sales tax was never advertised by the county to be used strictly for future projects nor did it contain that wording in the referendum.

Andersen pointed out that state legislation that allows counties to raise the sales tax to fund school related projects does say that the sales tax is to be used on "new construction and major renovations."

In response, Fedors said that the term "new construction" was not defined in the legislation. He inter-

prets that the legislation allows for the sales tax to be used to pay off existing school debt. He and Orth stated that they believe it to be ethical, legal and defensible.

The comments were made during a joint school board/supervisors' budget work session held Tuesday night at Gloucester High School.

Supervisors' vice chair Christopher Hutson was the only member to state that he did not agree with this use of the sales tax proceeds, but that the board as a whole did support it.

The differing opinions and interpretations between the two boards led to the school board

holding a vote to request legal counsel from the Attorney General. All but school board member Darren Poole voted in favor of that motion.

The disagreement between the boards came after the school board presented its proposed budget for FY 2022. The total budget amount, including the Capital Improvement Plan, was \$126,947,984. The total broke down as \$66 million as the operating budget, \$2.8 million as central food services, \$3.8 million for debt services, and \$54 million for the CIP. Within the CIP, \$43 million is set to be used for roof replacement where needed.

## Easter events at Beaverdam on April 3

Gloucester Parks, Recreation and Tourism will hold a pair of Easter-themed events on Saturday, April 3, at Beaverdam Park.

From 10 a.m. to noon, PRT is sponsoring a Bunny Trail at the site. Sign up for a 30-minute timeframe (10-10:30, 10:30-11, 11-11:30 or 11:30-noon). Participants will have a photo with the Easter Bunny, walk the trail on a scavenger hunt, receive eggs with candy and toys from volunteers, receive game ideas and other fun activities for at home. The fee is \$9 per child and the deadline to register is Thursday, April 1.

From 12:30 to 2 p.m., a Dog Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the park. Search for treat-filled eggs, have a photo with the Easter Bunny and have a quick training session led by CPDT-KA Trainer Amy Wiloughby (owner of Shared Joy Dog Training). There will also be dog trick and costume contests. Adoption dogs will be on site. Register for \$5 per dog; registration deadline is April 1.

**PEEPS PARADE:** Also, on April 3, at 2 p.m., Gloucester PRT will hold an online PEEPS™ Parade. Decorate a shoebox, no taller than 12 inches, with any PEEPS™ as the main feature of the float. Drop floats off on Monday, March 29 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. No fee. Registration deadline is March 25.

**FITNESS CLASSES:** PRT has some new fitness opportunities for April. My Mat Yoga will be held 9-10 a.m. on Thursdays. With different levels for each move, each participant makes it their own. On Friday mornings, PRT offers Core Challenge from 9-10 a.m. Using Pilates moves, participants will strengthen the core which will protect the back and helps the upper body and lower body work together more efficiently. Gloucester PRT offers Just Breathe from 9-10 a.m. Tuesdays and 5:30-6:45 p.m. Thursdays. This slower-paced class offers different levels of each pose, increased flexibility, balance and strength.

All classes are held at Bea-

verdam Park's Whitcomb Lodge and are \$9 per class or \$8 per class if you sign up for the whole month. Deadline is four days before each class.

**SELF DEFENSE:** Parks, Recreation and Tourism is sponsoring two self-defense classes beginning March 26 on Friday evenings. The focus is on girls ages 9-17 from 6-7 p.m., and from 7-10:10 p.m., the focus will be on women, 18 and older. Both classes are about empowering students towards personal and collective strength through self-defense, traditional martial arts and unique fitness training. These four-week classes are \$45 per person and the deadline to register is March 26.

All PRT classes require the wearing of masks; once in your distanced workout space, you may remove your mask. For more information on these and other activities call PRT at 804-693-2355, email [prt@gloucesterva.info](mailto:prt@gloucesterva.info) or stop by the office at 6382 Main Street. For online registration, visit <https://gloucesterva.info/civrec>.

## 'Run for the Potty!' 5K to be held for Deltaville Ballpark

Deltaville Ballpark will host a virtual 5K run/walk this spring, named "Run for the Potty!" This fundraiser will benefit Phase 3 of the ballpark's multi-year renovation project, which will fund construction of new ADA-accessible bathrooms in the fall.

The new bathrooms will expand the number of restroom stalls from two to seven, and bring the ballpark into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act by being completely handicapped accessible.

In addition to multi-stall men's and women's bathrooms, a third family bathroom, also ADA-compliant, will be included in the structure. These modern restrooms will replace the tiny existing bathrooms

that have stood behind the grandstand since being built over 50 years ago.

The circa 1948 ballpark began its renovation plan in 2015, and this represents the park's first major renovation since 1975. The original roof canopy, which was becoming structurally unsound, was replaced in 2016 as Phase 1. Last spring, Phase 2 was completed. That phase saw the construction of an ADA-compliant ramp into the ballpark grandstand, addition of wheelchair seating, and reconstruction of the concession stand to physically accommodate the new ramp and provide a modern food service facility. This Phase 3 will complete the renovation plan. The intended completion is scheduled for spring 2022, which will be Deltaville

Ballpark's 75th season.

"Run for the Potty" is a "Virtual 5K"—completed at a time and place of your choosing. You can run or walk; it is meant as a fun fundraising event. Entrants will receive a race T-shirt and medal, as well as "a little something special" in their race packet. Entry is \$35, with all proceeds benefiting the ballpark. Signups end March 31, with the race to be completed anytime in April. Signups are conducted online, at [www.DeltavilleBallpark.com](http://www.DeltavilleBallpark.com).

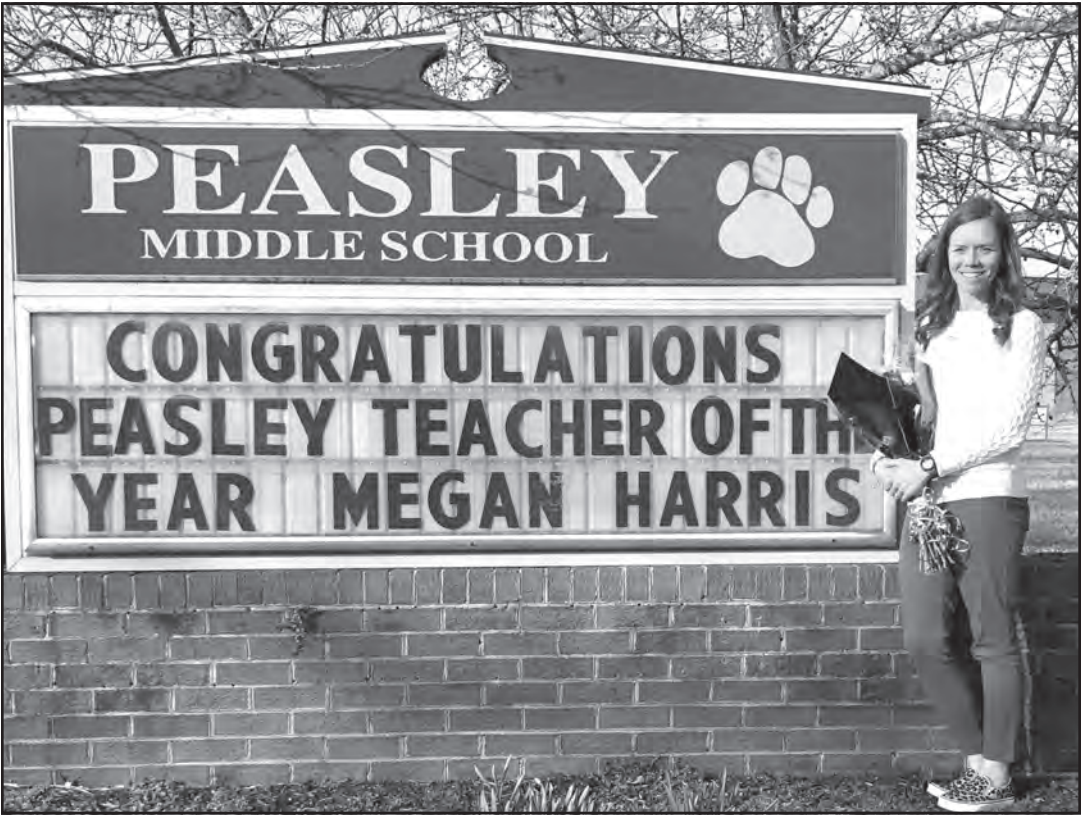
Approximately \$80,000 is needed to complete the ballpark renovation. Visit its website ([deltavilleballpark.com](http://deltavilleballpark.com)) to learn more about the renovation, as well as contribute. All gifts are tax deductible.





Kindness in our Community

The Peasley Middle School Student Council Association recently hosted an outreach “Kindness in our Community” to deliver cheer to local nursing home residents. The club asked Peasley students to decorate cheerful coloring pages during their downtime. The papers have been laminated and will be taken to local nursing homes in hopes of brightening some resident’s day. Above from left with their colored pages are Ashley VanVranken, Isabella Miller and Cassie Wilson.



Teacher of the Year

Megan Harris has been named the 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year at Peasley Middle School. Harris teaches seventh grade mathematics at the Gloucester school.

Mathews schools edge closer to full, in-person instruction

BY CHARLIE KOENIG

Mathews County Public Schools edged a step closer to offering full, in-person instruction, with the school board giving Superintendent of Schools Nancy Welch authority to reduce the separation between students from the current six feet to three. This will allow students who have been struggling during the pandemic, with failing grades in one or more of the core subjects, to come back to the classroom four days a week, she said. The board gave its consent during Tuesday’s monthly meeting, which was held in the Harry M. Ward Auditorium at Mathews High School. In revised guidelines issued by the Virginia Department of Education on March 9, while the separation of six feet between pupils should be maximized to the greatest extent possible, “minimum distances between three and six feet may be considered if masks are worn and if it is necessary to continue some form of in-person instruction.” “In some classrooms right now, classrooms are maxed out” in terms of numbers of students who can attend, based on the previously mandated six feet of separation,

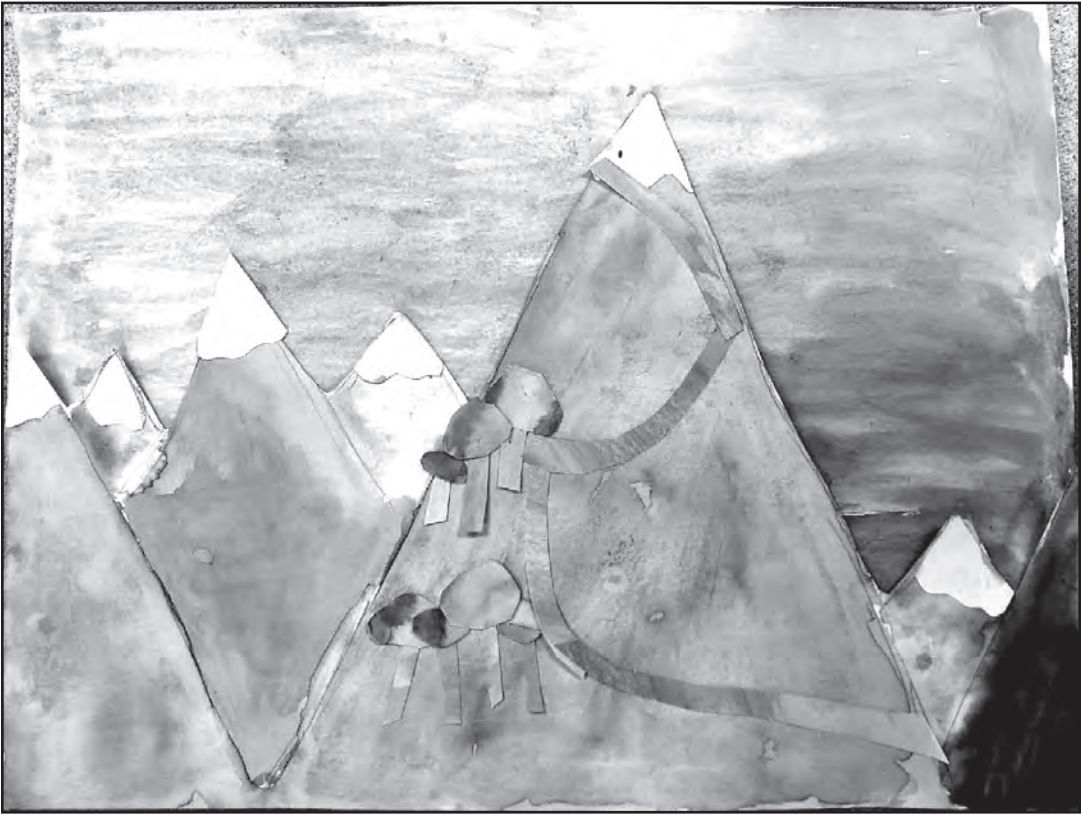
Welch said. This is especially true at the middle school, she indicated. At the same time, the trend of coronavirus cases “looks great for our county at this point in time,” Welch said. Most significantly, there has been no reported transmission of COVID-19 in the school setting, “which is fantastic,” she added. Also, as of March 24, all school employees who opted to receive a shot will be fully vaccinated. At present, Mathews schools are operating on a hybrid instruction model, with half of the students attending in-person class on Mondays and Tuesdays and the other half coming in on Thursdays and Fridays, with Wednesday reserved for deep cleaning. In the other days, students attend class virtually. For students failing in one of the core subjects, such as math, English and social studies, that limited in-person instruction just isn’t enough. “That’s the group that needs to be back four days a week,” Welch said. The school board gave Welch the leeway to work out the schedules for the struggling students. She also struck a hopeful tone for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. “I see in the

fall we’ll be back on a regular schedule,” Welch said. In other news, the school board adopted a change to its current year calendar to make up for a snow day. Friday, April 2, which had been a teacher workday, is now a regular school day. That day is also Good Friday and Welch indicated that students and employees who observe the religious holiday may opt out of instruction that day. The school board also approved, by a 4-1 margin, The schedule of student fees for the 2021-2022 school year. While voting against the fees, vice chairman Jeanice Sadler did acknowledge the work that Welch has done in reducing and eliminating some of the fees. Following a closed session, the board approved a number of personnel actions, accepting the resignation of MHS special education teacher Nicole Cannell for the current year, as well as the 2021-2022 resignations of MHS CTE instructor Nancy Rowe and Thomas Hunter teacher Jessica Lee. Stephanie Rowe was appointed a special education teacher assistant at MHS, while retirement was approved for THMS teacher Sally DiSpirito.



VSBA Art Contest winners

Mathews High School junior Jordan Hunley placed second in the VSBA Eastern Region Art Contest this spring for her painting, “The Tide Mill of Poplar Grove” (above). Leah Hyde of The Elementary School of Mathews, meanwhile, took third place among elementary students for her work, “The Journey to the Top” (image below). Those two students, along with Thomas Hunter Middle School contest entrant Layla McBurney, will be recognized by the Mathews County School Board at its April 20 regular monthly meeting.



SCHOOL BRIEF

Emma Renee Cirillo has been named to the 2020 fall semester dean’s list at Hollins University. To be eligible, students must earn at least a 3.5 average on a 4.0 grading scale. A sophomore environmental studies major, she is the daughter of Chris and Kelly Cirillo of Gloucester.

Youth Conservation Camp accepting applications

Applications for 2021 Youth Conservation Camp are being accepted for current ninth through 12th graders. This year, many conservation agencies have worked together to make the camp virtual. Attending students will learn about aquatics, forestry, soils and wildlife. Campers

will attend live presentations in the morning and have exploration assignments in the afternoons. It is a five-day camp, July 12-16. Once accepted, campers will be responsible to pay the \$25 registration fee—although residents of Gloucester, Mathews and Middlesex counties should

contact Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District for assistance in covering the fee. The deadline to apply for the camp is April 30. For more information, call TSWCD at 804-699-3482.

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SPORTS



MELANY SLAUGHTER / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

GHS volleyball

The Gloucester High School girls' volleyball team fell to Kecoughtan in straight sets last Wednesday, March 10, 25-20, 25-13 and 25-15. The Lady Dukes redeemed themselves Monday night when they posted a win against Phoebus in three quick sets, 25-8, 25-11 and 25-12. Caroline Merchant, left, reaches for a block during the Kecoughtan match.

GHS sweeps Menchville, Kecoughtan in straight sets

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

The Gloucester High School boys' varsity volleyball team defeated Menchville on March 8 and Kecoughtan on March 10 in a pair of straight-set victories. Set scores for the Menchville game were 25-19, 25-18 and 25-20. The Dukes swept Kecoughtan, 25-14, 25-13 and 25-16.

During the Menchville game, Jack Sandahl led for the most kills for Gloucester with seven, followed by Jack Ronan and Connor Brooks who each earned six, Quinn Estlack and Gavin Cohn who had four kills each and Kurt Carter who had one.

Leading the team in aces was Estlack with three, followed by Cohn with two, and Sandahl, Ronan and Brooks each had one. Estlack led Gloucester in assists with a total of 18 and Carter had one. Brooks was the only player to block, with a total of four.

At the Kecoughtan game, Sandahl once again led the team in kills with a total of eight, followed by Ronan with seven, Brooks with six, Cohn with three, Estlack with two and Carter with one.

Cohn and Carter led the team in aces with three each, followed by Sandahl with two and Ronan with one. Sandahl



MELANY SLAUGHTER / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Gavin Cohn prepares for a dig at the Kecoughtan match on March 10 where Gloucester swept its opponent away in straight sets, 25-14, 25-13 and 25-16.

was recorded as having one and a half blocks and Cohn and Ronan were recorded as having one block each. Estlack also earned the most assists for the match with a total of 20.

Kecoughtan, Phoebus forfeit to GHS

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

Opponents Kecoughtan and Phoebus had to forfeit to the Gloucester High School cross country team last Wednesday, March 10 because there were not enough participants to compete as a team.

For the GHS boys' team, Tanner Baker came in first place with a time of 16:57. Next for Gloucester was Conner O'Beirne with a time of 17:35, Alec Daniel with a time of 18:22 and Joel Junker finishing at 19:25.

Josh Pinder (JV) ran a 20:11, followed by Tyler Hicks (20:27), Leo Berry (20:28), Hayden Bower (20:30), Carter Hill (20:52),

Ian Waters (21:15), Rylan Allcorn (21:59), Braden Enock (22:04), Matt Slater (22:39), Wyiat Pruitt (22:55), Joal Taylor (JV) (22:57), Brandon Carucci (23:07), Jacob Paulin (26:25) and Devin Lowney (28:01).

Mya Baker came in first for the girls' team with a time of 21:38. Next for Gloucester was Kaylee Hall (JV) with a time of 24:13 and Abigail Junker (JV) finishing at 24:28.

Nicole Pinder ran a 24:52, followed by Cody Brown (24:59), Emily Shipe (25:20), Cori Morgan (25:21), Layla Angles (25:32), Samantha Jacobs (25:40), Caitlyn Shelton (25:50) and Leah Wise (29:08).

GHS golf leading Peninsula District

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

The Gloucester High School golf team is leading the Peninsula District with a team score of 692, followed closely by Menchville High with 707.

In the first match of the season, which was held at Gloucester Golf Club on

March 3, Gloucester came out on top with a combined score of 337. Gunner Healey led Gloucester with an 80, followed by Andrew White with an 81 and Camden Richardson with an 85. Next for Gloucester were Jackson Dutton (91), Wyatt Lawson (92) and Zachary Barrack

(102). Gloucester fell behind Menchville by two points with a score of 355 when the team traveled to Deer Run Golf Course on March 9.

Healey came out on top for Gloucester again with a score of 77, followed by White with a score of 88 and Richardson

with a 91. Next for Gloucester was Drew Adkins with a 99, Dutton (101) and Lawson (104).

Averages for the Gloucester team so far this season are as follows: Healey (78.5), White (84.5), Richardson (88), Dutton (96), Lawson (98) and Adkins (101).

Lady Devils split pair of volleyball games

BY ALEYA MCCURRY

The Mathews High School varsity girls' volleyball team split a pair of home games this past week, falling to the Rappahannock Raiders, 3-1, last Thursday, and bouncing back on Monday for a straight-set victory over King and Queen. The Lady Devils' season record remains even, now standing at 3-3 overall.

Rappahannock

After winning the opening set by a 25-20 margin, the MHS girls struggled in last Thursday's contest against the Raiders, dropping the next three by scores of 25-22, 25-23 and 25-14.

Joice Small had a strong game for Mathews, leading the team both in aces (three) and kills (nine). Defensive standouts included Connie Johnson and Morgan Crittenden, who led the Devils with seven digs each. Crittenden also had six kills and two aces, while Johnson picked up three kills.

Grace Bandurco had the highest number of assists at 16, while Aleya McCurry had four. Bandurco and McCurry added one dig apiece, while McCurry also scored one kill and an ace. Emily West ended the night with two kills, a pair of aces and two digs. Also registering kills in the game were Olivia Ashbaugh and Jada Ashberry (four each) and Jordan Hunley (one).

King and Queen

Mathews had little trouble on Monday night, dispatching



CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Morgan Crittenden keeps her eye on the ball as the Lady Devils faced the Rappahannock Raiders last Thursday. Mathews dropped that contest, 3-1.



CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

JV Lady Devil Autumn Jenkins bumps the ball over the net in last Thursday's contest against Rappahannock. After winning the first set, the JV girls dropped the last two against the Raiders.

the King and Queen Tigers on Monday night in straight sets (25-13, 25-17 and 25-17).

West had the highest number of aces at four, followed by Bandurco, Johnson, Crittenden, Olivia Ashbaugh and Small each with one. Bandurco had 19 assists while McCurry had five. Offensively,

Small had the highest number of kills at seven, followed by Mandy Moran, Crittenden and Hunley each with three, Sarah Ashbaugh, Olivia Ashbaugh, Meghan Pruitt, Ashberry and Johnson each with two, and Hannah Canady with one.

Defensively, Johnson had the most digs with eight, fol-

lowed by West and Crittenden each with seven, Hunley with five, and McCurry and Olivia Ashbaugh each with one. Small had two solo blocks while Ashberry had one. Small and Olivia Ashbaugh each also had one assisted block.

JV Lady Devils

The MHS JV Lady Devils, meanwhile, currently have a 2-3 record overall. The girls began the season with a 1-2

loss to King William (17-25, 25-14, 11-15), picking up their first win on March 4, winning both sets against West Point (25-22, 26-24). Following that were losses to Northumberland (25-17, 19-25, 10-15) and Rappahannock (17-25, 20-25) and, most recently, a 2-0 victory over King and Queen (25-11, 25-2). Individual player statistics are not currently being recorded for the junior varsity girls.

MHS runners come out on top in away meet

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

The Mathews High School boys' and girls' cross country teams came in first against Lancaster, Rappahannock and Middlesex high schools at an away meet at Middlesex on Wednesday, March 10. The boys won with a score of 19 and the girls won with a score of 21.

Cameron Stearns came in first place for the boys' team with a time of 19:08. Following Stearns was Landon Green with a time of 20:10 and Josh Rosadino with a time of 20:19.

Seth James (JV) ran a 22:25, followed by Dylan White (22:41), Andrew Greve (22:42), Grayson Camp (23:03), Brian Robinson (23:23) and Carson Brown (24:43).

For the girls, Adelle Hudgins came in first for Mathews and second overall with a time of 27:12. Next for Mathews was Zoe Camp with a time of 27:13 and Melody Smith with a time of 27:21. Emily Rosadino ran a 29:12, followed by Sarah Taylor (31:14), Anna Raub (31:20) and Zoe Goodwin (31:36).



CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

JV Blue Devils

The Mathews High School JV football team's record evened out at 1-1 following Monday's 55-12 loss to the visiting West Point Pointers. Sophomore tailback Aidan West (#12, above) scored the Blue Devils' first touchdown, a 65-yard run in the first quarter to narrow the Pointers' lead at that time to 8-6. That was as close as MHS would get; the Devils trailed, 36-6, S at halftime. Eighth grader Aiden Wells scored on the kickoff to begin the second half, but that was all the points MHS was able to put on the scoreboard. Mathews opened its season on March 9 with an 18-12 win on the road against King and Queen. Mathews was scheduled to host Windsor High School on Wednesday. The abbreviated season ends on Wednesday, March 31, at Goochland High School.

WEATHER

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

DATE	MAX	MIN	Prec.	Wind
3/9	68	34	0	16s
3/10	66	38	0	14se
3/11	74	48	0	26wsW
3/12	75	53	0	24sw
3/13	56	38	0	23nnw
3/14	65	32	0	29nw
3/15	51	36	0	30nw

Summary

March weather ahead: today, rain, stormy, high of 65; Friday, rain, wind, high of 45; Saturday and Sunday, sunshine and highs of 48 and 56, the National Weather Service, Wakefield, said Wednesday.



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The intro will be offered from 4 to 6 PM on Wednesday March 24th, March 31st, April 7th or 14th.

**Want more information? Visit [www.mobjackrowing.org](http://www.mobjackrowing.org)**



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LOCAL TIDES

Mobjack Bay, East River Entrance

	HIGH	LOW
Thursday	12:41 a.m.	7:06 a.m.
3/18	1:08 p.m.	6:58 p.m.
Friday	1:19 a.m.	7:50 a.m.
3/19	1:46 p.m.	7:40 p.m.
Saturday	2:01 a.m.	8:39 a.m.
3/20	2:30 p.m.	8:26 p.m.
Sunday	2:49 a.m.	9:35 a.m.
3/21	3:20 p.m.	9:24 p.m.
Monday	3:46 a.m.	10:36 a.m.
3/22	4:22 p.m.	10:28 p.m.
Tuesday	4:54 a.m.	11:40 a.m.
3/23	5:30 p.m.	11:34 p.m.
Wednesday	6:01 a.m.	
3/24	6:30 p.m.	12:34 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.

Planktank River, Cherry Point—Add 1 hour.

Planktank River, Dixie—Add 1 hour, 33 minutes.

Urbanna—Add 2 hours, 50 minutes.

THE SUN THIS WEEK

	Sunrise	Sunset
3/18	7:11 a.m.	7:16 p.m.
3/19	7:10 a.m.	7:17 p.m.
3/20	7:08 a.m.	7:17 p.m.
3/21	7:07 a.m.	7:18 p.m.
3/22	7:06 a.m.	7:19 p.m.
3/23	7:04 a.m.	7:20 p.m.
3/24	7:03 a.m.	7:21 p.m.

THE MOON THIS WEEK

	Moonrise	Moonset
3/18	9:59 a.m.	
3/19	10:32 a.m.	12:21 a.m.
3/20	11:10 a.m.	1:19 a.m.
3/21	11:54 a.m.	2:16 a.m.
3/22	12:46 p.m.	3:11 a.m.
3/23	1:44 p.m.	4:01 a.m.
3/24	2:48 p.m.	4:47 a.m.

MARCH MOON PHASES

Last quarter	3/5
New moon	3/13
First quarter	3/21
Full moon	3/28

BAYSTARS FC SOCCER NEWS

**SWORDFISH:** The Baystars Swordfish dropped both of their opening games of the season, falling 4-1 to the WBSC Pink Cheetahs and 2-0 to the Beach FC at Woodville Park on Saturday. Meredith Salvadori scored the first and only goal of the day for the Swordfish against the Cheetahs and left midfielder Shaelynn Slusher hustled hard the entire game. Against the Beach FC, Ali Morelli led the defense while Kacy Johnson held down the middle.

**OSPREYS:** The Baystars U10 Ospreys edged the CSC Crush of Churchland, 5-4, on Saturday at Woodville Park. Early goals by Aidan Houtz

and Brady Bell gave the Ospreys a 2-0 lead but the Crush rallied. A penalty kick by Hunter Young and a final goal from Bell sealed the win. Houtz also had two goals in the victory. The Ospreys were anchored by solid goalie play from Richard Rosadino in the second half. The team hosts the Beach FC Milan at Woodville on Saturday.

**MARLINS:** The Baystars U12 Marlins dominated in a three-goal shutout of the Rush Blue Devils on Saturday at Woodville Park. Lilyan Wright scored an unassisted goal to put the Marlins up 1-0 early. Eliza Leo scored next with a punt assist from goal-

keeper Lexi Spangler. Spangler combined with second-half keeper Halea Korte for

the shutout. The final goal came on a free kick by Wright. The Marlins hit the road to

face the Chesapeake United this weekend.



PHOTO BY JENNA WRIGHT  
Baystars FC Swordfish player Meredith Salvadori, at left, showed off her footwork against the Pink Cheetahs on Saturday at Woodville Park. Salvadori struck for the only Swordfish goal of the day.

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