



# GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS GAZETTE-JOURNAL

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SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Participating in the popular "Conversations with Watermen" during May Faire 2022 were, from left, Chris Pritchett, Karen Townsend, Carroll Melvin Smith, journalist Larry Chowning, Arnold Ripley and J.C. Hudgins.

## Inclement weather doesn't put damper on May Faire

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

May Faire 2022, Celebrating Mathews Watermen, was a bit drizzly and cool, but that didn't stop people from par-

ticipating and enjoying it.

Throughout the day, rain or shine, people attended the planned activities and visited the many vendor booths that were selling artwork, home

baked goods, home décor,

and many other items.

During Saturday morning's opening ceremonies

SEE MAY FAIRE, PAGE 7A



CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

## MHS Senior Walk

Mathews High School seniors Savannah Smith and Joice Small, front from left, lead the procession that made its way through Mathews Elementary and Thomas Hunter Middle School on Friday afternoon as the Class of 2022 gets ready for graduation. The tradition had been sidelined for the past two years because of Covid. Directly behind Smith and Small are fellow MHS seniors Henry Barnett and Mandy Moran. The senior class will hold its baccalaureate on Sunday, May 22, with graduation set for 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 4.

## Case numbers stable in health district

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

COVID-19 case rates continued to increase nationwide during the past week, with about 70,410 new cases recorded per day over a seven-day average.

Virginia case rates increased slightly, with about 2,000 cases per day over a seven-day average, said Dr. Richard Williams, medical

director of the Three Rivers Health District, in his weekly report.

In the Three Rivers Health District, cases were stable during the week, he said, averaging just under 20 cases per day, and the CDC lists all localities in the district at low community transmission levels except for Mathews, which continues to have a medium transmission level.

The number of new cases in Mathews decreased to nine over the past week, between last Wednesday and this Tuesday. This brings the total number of Mathews cases to 1,522 since the pandemic began. Mathews had no new hospitalizations or deaths, leaving those numbers at 32 and 27, respec-

SEE COVID-19 UPDATE, PAGE 7A

## Gloucester board addresses mental health in schools

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

The Gloucester School Board met Tuesday night in the T.C. Walker Education Center Auditorium for several agenda items, including a presentation on mental health at Gloucester County Public Schools.

Director of School Counseling at Gloucester High School

Matthew Lord, GCPS Psychologist Christina Mahoney and Abingdon Counselor Lindsey Mahnke gave a presentation on Supporting Student Mental Health.

Mahnke discussed mental health services offered at the county's elementary schools, including student recognition programs, classroom management systems

and weekly social-emotional learning lessons. Four out of the five elementary schools use the program Second Step for SEL which includes units on Growth Mindset and Goal-Setting, Emotion Management, Empathy and Kindness and Problem-Solving. School board member

SEE MENTAL HEALTH, PAGE 7A

## County earns national award for podcast

"Current Conversations," Gloucester County's podcast, has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association

of Counties. The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

NACo recognized the podcast for its ability to offer a unique way to reach county

SEE PODCAST, PAGE 7A

## USCG to move boats

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

The U.S. Coast Guard will remove two of its boats from Station Milford Haven during work that's scheduled to be completed on the Gwynn's Island bridge between Aug. 19 to March 15.

The bridge will be completely closed to marine traffic as the Virginia Department of Transportation replaces its mechanical and electrical systems, completes spot structural steel repairs, and renovates or replaces the tender house.

Petty Officer Steve Lehmann, public affairs specialist with the 5th Coast Guard

SEE COAST GUARD, PAGE 7A

## Gloucester's vehicle tax decreases to \$2.30

BY TYLER BASS

While Gloucester taxpayers will experience a 3¢ increase on their real estate tax rate as a result of the recently approved budget, the FY 2023 budget, a new personal property tax classification on vehicles has allowed county supervisors to lower the vehicle tax from \$2.95 to \$2.30 per \$100 of assessed value.

The new classification on vehicles was created by the General Assembly to give localities the ability to lower the rate on qualifying vehicles. This comes as individuals are seeing the value of their vehicles rise dramati-

cally.

Normally, the value of cars and trucks depreciates each year; however, the pandemic has changed that, Acting County Administrator Carol Steele said.

The inventory of used cars dropped during the pandemic because rental companies and individuals were unable to purchase new cars, while the availability of new cars was impacted by a shortage of computer chips. That, along with a number of other factors, such as disruptions of the supply chain, led the price of vehicles to skyrocket.

SEE VEHICLE TAX, PAGE 7A



PHOTO BY LINDA TIOSSEM

## Cinco de Mayo

The Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic held its Cinco de Mayo fundraiser last Thursday in the clinic parking lot. A total of 222 Mexican fare meals-to-go were purchased online, and patrons picked them up in the late afternoon. Sponsors and friends were also able to tour the clinic and enjoy a beverage on the grounds. To raise more funds, an online auction opened on May 5. Fifty-eight auction items may be viewed at [www.bidpal.net/gmcc](http://www.bidpal.net/gmcc). Many local businesses and individuals contributed goods, services, and/or gift certificates. Proceeds benefit the GMCC, which serves uninsured and underinsured residents of Gloucester and Mathews. The Cinco de Mayo auction ends on Sunday. Shown here, GMCC executive director Arlene Armentor, left, and board member Nancy Dykeman stand ready to hand out meal bags.



### INSIDE THIS WEEK

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## Aquaculture center

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science dedicated the new Accuff Center for Aquaculture during a ceremony on April 29 at the Gloucester Point campus. For details, see story on page 4A.

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Y M C K





# MAY FAIRE: Mathews watermen, USCG honored at annual festival

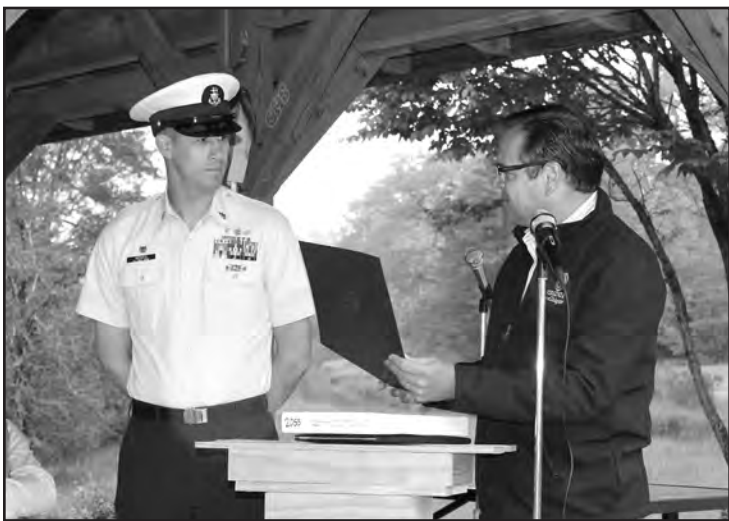
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

Del. Keith Hodges (R-Urbana) commended U.S. Coast Guard Milford Haven for its years of service to the region and presented BMC Joshua Menges with a flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol just days before, on April 28. He said that Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Montross) had also commended the Mathews Historical Museum, the festival's sponsor, in the halls of Congress.

The highlight of the festival—a two-hour talk by local watermen—was well-attended, with standing room only at times. It was moderated by journalist Larry Chowning of the Southside Sentinel, whose introductory remarks included naming many of the Mathews watermen he had interviewed over the years and sharing a few details about each one, bringing smiles of recognition and delight to many audience members. One by one, four watermen and one “waterwoman”—J.C. Hudgins, Arnold Ripley Sr., Carroll Melvin Smith, Chris Pritchett and Karen Townsend—spoke about life on the water and some of the highlights of their careers and answered questions from the audience.

Chef and owner Jonathan Lewis and Chef Danny Viers of Southwind Pizza gave a demonstration on grilling oysters and shared the delicious results with those who stopped by. The Court House Players and Girl Scout Troop 1280 entertained festivalgoers with the traditional dance around the Maypole, singer/guitarist Lane Rice performed solo from inside the administration building, and Mermaid Moonflower delighted children with small trinkets from her undersea treasure trove.

Sandy Warhol of the Mathews Historical Museum's May Faire Committee said that the schools, the sheriff's office, VDOT, and the county's administration all did their share to make the annual festival run smoothly.



SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

During May Faire's opening ceremonies on Saturday, Virginia Del. Keith Hodges (R-Urbana), right, commended U.S. Coast Guard Milford Haven for its service to the region and presented station commander BMC Joshua Menges with a flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol.

“It was amazing,” she said. “The town really kicked in ... all of them made it like, ‘welcome home.’”

While the weather kept the numbers small this year, with fewer than 1,000 people attending, there were lots of children, said Warhol, and “the face-painting lady stayed really busy.”

Unfortunately, she said, the Courthouse Community Orchestra couldn't play and the 70-foot model of the U.S.S. Alabama warship couldn't come because of the unpredictable weather, but everything else went forward as planned. The Flat Tones stepped up and played longer than they had planned, and a variety of workboat models were available for people to see in the museum.

Warhol said the museum had a record 200 visitors during the festival.

“What a nice event,” she said. “What a nice day!”

Warhol said that the model boat show on display at the Mathews Historical Museum will continue to be available on Saturdays through the end of the month.



MARTHA ARNOLD / CENTRAL VILLAGE HOMEMAKERS

Janet Yandle, left, of Chester and New Point, won the Central Village Homemakers basket during May Faire on Saturday. She is shown with her husband, Tommy. Central Village Homemakers is a nonprofit charitable organization that's been active in Mathews for nearly 50 years, said a press release. It raises funds by selling raffle tickets for various items and uses the money for two high school scholarships and donations to such local organizations as Hands Across Mathews, Meals on Wheels, the Christmas Blessing Fund, the fire department and rescue squad, and other recipients.



SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Singer/guitarist Lane Rice set up his microphone and speaker in the doorway to the administration building on the Court Green and entertained festivalgoers for a good part of the day.

“What I have found on the Second Step website, it's that anti-racism and anti-bias are recommended additions, but it's not part of the Second Step curriculum,” said Lock-

erby. Lord continued the mental health presentation, discussing ways that Gloucester High School supports student mental health and development. GHS covers difficult topics such as healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships and drug awareness. The school also provides books on mental health issues in the library and tries to make GHS a place where students want to be by creating a positive environment.

GHS also recognizes students through certificates for special achievements and public recognition, such as the student of the month award. “Students notice stuff like that,” said Lord.

Bagent also spoke on student mental health during his



SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

The Flat Tones performed on Saturday for those attending the annual May Faire festival in Mathews.



SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Members of the Court House Players and Girl Scout Troop 1280 came together to perform the annual dance around the Maypole during May Faire on Saturday in Mathews. Here, they're shown practicing before their performance.



MARTHA ARNOLD / CENTRAL VILLAGE HOMEMAKERS

Bobby Hudgins visits with Susan Hill, Phyllis Hudgins, Jan Kanner, and Paula Johnson, from left, at the Central Village Homemakers booth during May Faire on Saturday.

# MENTAL HEALTH: Presentation on mental health in schools turns to discussion on Critical Race Theory

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

Darren Post voiced his concerns about the Second Step program, pertaining to anti-racism and anti-bias content, specifically the possibility of Critical Race Theory and gender-supporting health care (including puberty suppressants) being taught to students.

“There are a lot of resources on the Second Step program, direct links from their website concerning a lot of things I believe would fall under Gov. [Glenn] Youngkin's definition of inherently divisive concepts,” said Post.

School board member Rob-in Rice pulled up the Second Step website during the meeting and searched specifically for CRT and transgender content on the website and found

nothing.

“I've spent a lot of time as a parent and one who gets reports from their kid like Ms. Rice does and these are not topics that have been brought [up],” said chair Troy Andersen.

Post directed Rice to the anti-racism and anti-bias resources webpage for Second Step when she asked for a direct link to CRT or transgender content.

“I'm on that but that's not Critical Race Theory,” said Rice. “I'm looking for transgender or Critical Race Theory.”

“This is not the conversation I want to have tonight because it's taking away the focus which we've heard over and over from Mr. [Tyler] Bagent [student advisory

committee representative], the role of mental health in our schools,” said Andersen. “We have a great program that we've heard about tonight that's helping us get there with our students.”

“So, to me, it's not the time to take away,” said Andersen. “Anti-racism is not Critical Race Theory. Anti-racism is not bias. We have a policy in place that says what we're not going to do. And nothing I've seen violates our policy on any of this stuff. Because you don't like it doesn't make it wrong.”

Andersen directed his next comments to Post and school board member Carlton Drew.

“It's insulting to ascertain over and over again that parents don't know what's go-

ing on and should be mad,” said Andersen. “Parents who are involved in their school's education know what Second Step is. They know what's going on in their kid's elementary classroom. And if they have problems with it, they're bringing it to us. They don't need you to sit up here once a month and tell them they need to get mad at things because they're engaged in their kid's education, every day, 365 days a year.”

Later in the meeting, school board vice chair Kellie Lock-

erby spoke on the Second Step curriculum, “said Lock-

erby.

Lord continued the mental health presentation, discussing ways that Gloucester High School supports student mental health and development. GHS covers difficult topics such as healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships and drug awareness. The school also provides books on mental health issues in the library and tries to make GHS a place where students want to be by creating a positive environment.

GHS also recognizes students through certificates for special achievements and public recognition, such as the student of the month award. “Students notice stuff like that,” said Lord.

Bagent also spoke on student mental health during his

last meeting as Student Advisory Council representative.

“Please don't allow the issue of student mental health be set aside once again,” said Bagent. “Note that tonight's discussion about mental health turned into an argument about Critical Race Theory, rather than actually discussing mental health for the elementary level.”

“Mr. Bagent, I just wanted to apologize on behalf of the board that the mental health presentation was hijacked by a discussion on Critical Race Theory,” said Rice. “Our guidance department does do extremely well in trying to take care of our students and take care of their mental health, and it was unfortunate that that happened.”

# PODCAST: Gloucester wins award from NACo

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

residents with current events and other timely information. The podcast does this with virtually no added cost to citizens, a release stated.

“We are pleased that our podcast received this national recognition,” said Carol Steele, Gloucester's Acting County Administrator. “We hope all of our residents tune in to gain insight into their local government, while learning more about the people behind providing quality ser-

vices to our citizens.”

“All across the country, counties are working tirelessly to support residents and drive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's Achievement Award-winning programs showcase how counties work every day to build healthy, safe and thriving communities,” said NACo president Larry Johnson.

Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories, including children and youth, criminal justice and public

safety, county administration, information technology, health and civic engagement.

Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Awards program is designed to recognize county government innovations. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

To tune in to Gloucester's Current Conversations podcast, visit <https://currentconversations.buzzsprout.com>.

# COVID-19 UPDATE: Case numbers stable locally

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

tively. In Gloucester, there were 45 new cases during the week, bringing the total to 7,420 since March 2020. There were two new hospitalizations, for a total of 105, and no additional deaths, leaving the total at 104.

Middlesex had 11 new cases, totaling 1,865, one hospitalization, for a total of 47, and no new deaths, for a total of 48.

Across the district, there was just one death recorded during the past week, bringing the total to 422 since the pandemic began. There were 11 new hospitalizations, for a total of 709, and 134 new cases, for a total of 27,897 during the past two-plus years.

Statewide, the case count increased by 16,477, for a total of 1,726,749, hospitalizations went up by 390, for a cumulative total of 50,537, and 45 Virginians died from the virus, for a total of 20,301.

## Vaccinations

The Middlesex Health Department will have a vac-

cination clinic from 9 a.m. to noon on Monday at 2780 General Puller Highway, Saluda. The Moderna vaccine for ages 18 and older and Pfizer vaccine for ages five and older will be available.

## Testing

COVID-19 testing continues to be available by appointment on Wednesdays throughout May at the Middlesex County Health Department. Call 804-815-4191 for an appointment.

# COAST GUARD

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

District—Portsmouth, said the station's 49-foot Buoy Utility Stern-loading Boat, which is used by the Aids to Navigation team, will be relocated, along with the 45-foot Response Boat—Medium. These boats are too large to get under the bridge, he said.

A Trailerable Aids to Navigation Boat and a 29-foot Response Boat—Small, both of which can pass under the bridge, will remain,

he said.

Lehmann said he could not provide information on where the boats will be docked. He also said he doesn't know how long they will be located elsewhere.

“That depends on VDOT's expedience,” he said.

According to an email the Coast Guard sent to the offices of Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Montross), the boats will be returned to Milford Haven when the bridge construction project is completed.



Click on our Death Records Database [www.gazettejournal.net](http://www.gazettejournal.net)  
The database lists obituaries which appeared in the Gazette-Journal and earlier local newspapers from 1903 to the present.  
Copies or transcriptions of these obituaries are available for \$5.00.

**Gloucester-Mathews GAZETTE-JOURNAL** 804-693-3101





## Gloucester NAACP to hold Community Health Fair on May 21

The Gloucester Branch NAACP will hold its Community Health Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 21, at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Main Street, Gloucester.

The event, which the Gloucester NAACP plans to hold annually, was organized by the group's Health Committee in response to the NAACP's goal of reducing

health disparities for minority communities that have been exacerbated by the recent pandemic, a release stated. Committee chair Natalie Johnson, MSN, RN, and Gloucester NAACP president Brenda Dixon, BSN, RN, have both worked in health care in the region for many years.

The Community Health Fair is intended to connect all citizens, of all ages and back-

grounds, to health, mental health and health-related services.

Dr. Vanessa Walker Harris, current Director of Virginia Department of Health Office of Family Health and immediate past Secretary of Health and Human Services under Gov. Ralph Northam, will deliver the keynote address at 11 a.m. Local providers and agencies have been invited to participate. They will have opportunities to share their informational materials, con-



Dr. Vanessa Walker Harris

duct health screenings, and provide presentations and activities on health-related topics. Participants include the Virginia Department of Health, the Community Services Board, Three Rivers Healthy Families, Gloucester Department of Social Services, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and other local governmental agencies.

Additional programs that will be present include the Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic, Smart Beginnings, Virginia Peninsula Foodbank, Bacon Street, Alzheimer's Association, and Bay Aging. Also present will be a number of private agencies including specialists in Medicare enrollment, senior safety, nutrition,

home health care, physical therapy/personal training, and mindfulness. There will be information available to pick up as well as ongoing presentations throughout the day. Door prizes and many giveaways will be given throughout the day.

The Sentara Mammogram Van will be at the church beginning at 10 a.m. to conduct mammograms. To schedule an appointment, call 757-388-2030 (option 1) and reference number 602262 to let them know which event you are attending.

Riverside Health System will

have a recruiter for employment and volunteer opportunities as well as a wide variety of educational information and programs by medical providers throughout the day.

A number of organizations will provide screenings, including for diabetes measuring the Hemoglobin A1C, which estimates sugar levels over the past three months and can establish a diagnosis of diabetes on the spot. COVID vaccines and boosters will be available, sponsored by the Three Rivers Health District.



**Bay Aging is in need of Volunteer/s for our Gloucester County Meals On Wheels program.**  
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[vdh.virginia.gov/backtoschool/](http://vdh.virginia.gov/backtoschool/)

### Organizations invited to take part in Memorial Day service

American Legion Post 75 will hold its annual Memorial Day service at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 29, at the Courts Building on Justice Drive. Gloucester resident and Navy veteran Tony Dziadul will serve as guest speaker and the GHS NROTC will perform color guard duties.

The program will end with the placement of wreaths alongside the Gloucester Veterans Memorial Wall in front of the court building. Organizations or individuals wishing to place a wreath during the service should contact American Legion Post 75 at post75adjva2@outlook.com or call 804-654-4148 and leave a message.

### Kiwanis Club to hold spaghetti fundraiser

The Gloucester Kiwanis Club will hold a spaghetti dinner fundraiser to support the organization's many charitable efforts from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, May 20, at the Courthouse Restaurant, Main Street, Gloucester.

For \$10 (either dine-in or take-out), people will get spaghetti, salad, bread and a drink. Tickets are available in advance from a Kiwanis member or can be purchased at the door.

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### FREE FUN



**Saturday, June 18, 2022 | 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

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Please bring the entire family and join us for a riding adventure to explore and learn about our open spaces, courtesy of your local private land trust.



Music / Door Prizes / Educational Stops Along the Way  
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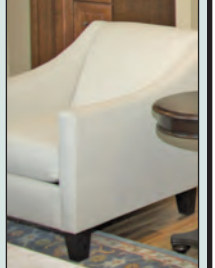
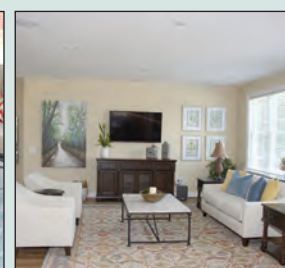


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For showings and more information call James Meade at 757-220-2874, or visit [WestvilleLanding.com](http://WestvilleLanding.com)





Tour de Chesapeake

The 23rd annual Tour de Chesapeake is almost here. Cycling enthusiasts from across the country will be coming to Mathews on Saturday, May 21. With Thomas Hunter Middle School as the starting point, cyclists can explore the county using four routes, from Mobjack to New Point. Sponsors for this year's event are, from left: Chesapeake Bank (represented by Rachel Dye), Riverside Walter Reed Hospital (represented by Vonnie James), Burton's Waterfront/Isabell K. Horsley Realty (represented by Bernadette La Casse) and (not pictured) the Mathews Economic Development Authority.



CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

The home of his youth

It took Jerry Sadler some 500 hours of detailed work to reconstruct the home of his youth—in HO scale. Sadler, who lives on Pine Hall Road, grew up a little ways away on Buckley Hall Road in Mathews Court House. Using his memory, Sadler recaptured the homeplace, circa 1950, in intricate detail, including all the outbuildings, the farm and its animals, down to clothes on the clothesline and Sadler's bicycle where he would often leave it as a child. Family members are also included in his diorama. "The memories associated with home inspired me to build this model," he wrote in a description of the work. "Every building was constructed from scratch and it took me about five months to complete. It is an accurate replica, to the best of my memory."



Mathews Rotary grants

The Mathews Rotary Club presented grants recently to several county nonprofit organizations as part of its community service programs. At the presentation were, front row from left, Community Service Committee chair Ron Lambert, grant recipients Alda Barnett from the Mathews High School After Prom Committee, Bernadette La Casse from the Mathews Christmas Store, Jeremy Elliott and Charles Ingram from the Mathews Fireworks Committee, Buzz Lambert from the Mathews Family YMCA, Josie Thorpe from the Mathews Historical Museum; back row, Assistant Fire Chief Steve Ray from the Mathews County Volunteer Fire Department (who also picked up a check for the Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad), Ricky Wiatt from the Mathews County Little League and Mathews Rotary Club president-elect Jack White. The club has given out more than \$10,000 in grants so far this year. In addition to the grants, club members have dedicated many man-hours to projects around the county and surrounding areas including grading and graveling the parking lot and driveway at Hands Across Mathews this past month. The Rotarians have two upcoming fundraisers. The first is Flags for Heroes which will again be visible on Main Street in Mathews near Moughons Ace Hardware that will last from Memorial Day weekend through the Fourth of July. The second will be Party with a Purpose on June 4 at Williams Wharf with music by Good Shot Judy. More information about both fundraisers can be found at [www.mathewsrotaryclub.org](http://www.mathewsrotaryclub.org).

MATHEWS ROTARY CLUB'S

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[www.mathewsrotaryclub.org/party](http://www.mathewsrotaryclub.org/party)

Westville Christian Church Women's Fellowship

**BIG TAG SALE**

Saturday, May 14 ~ 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Indoors in the Church Fellowship Hall

Something for Everyone!

Also Plants, Baked Goods, Lemonade

All proceeds to missions.

105 Main Street, Mathews

Let's Talk Wellness!  
\*online event\*  
May 18th  
Zoom 7-8pm

Karaoke & Open Mic Nights  
May 27th 6-8pm

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**NOTE:** On Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at precisely 2:45 pm, the Mathews American Legion Post 83 will provide a 21-gun salute followed by Taps at the flag site near Moughons on Main Street.

*Please join us in honoring those who have made or still make us proud!*

For more information and how to sponsor flags, go to:  
[Mathewsrotaryclub.org](http://Mathewsrotaryclub.org)


\*Flags are the property of Mathews Rotary Club. Net proceeds are used to support local Rotary charities. Focus this year is on feeding the hungry. Each flag sponsorship is \$50. Other sponsorship levels are available.

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Members of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science community enjoyed a tour of the newly dedicated Acuff Center for Aquaculture on April 29.

## VIMS dedicates new Acuff Center for Aquaculture at Point campus

Representatives from academia, state government, and the shellfish-farming community joined on April 29 to dedicate the new Acuff Center for Aquaculture at the College of William and Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

"The Acuff Center will soon be populated with scientists and millions of baby oysters,"

said Dr. Bill Walton, Acuff Professor of Marine Science and coordinator of the Shellfish Aquaculture Program at VIMS, during the dedication ceremony. "This beautiful new state-of-the-art facility will allow VIMS to help Virginia's aquaculture industry solve problems and seize opportunities as well as position

VIMS as a global leader in the field of shellfish aquaculture science."

The center's name honors A. Marshall Acuff Jr., as well as his late father. Acuff, a managing director at Silvercrest Asset Management LLC in Richmond, has been involved with VIMS for many decades.

A founding member and past president of the VIMS Foundation Board, he also chaired VIMS's "For the Bold" campaign committee. In 2017, Acuff made a substantial commitment to advance shellfish aquaculture research at VIMS through a named professorship, endowed scholar program and support for the now eponymous shellfish hatchery. Acuff's father was an oyster harvester on the Eastern Shore.

Virginia is the leading producer of hatchery-based shellfish on the East Coast. Cultured shellfish contribute more than \$100 million to the commonwealth's economy each year while helping to filter Chesapeake Bay waters.

The aquaculture center was purpose-built to advance the science of farming shellfish. The 22,000-square-foot facility houses a shellfish research hatchery designed to accommodate the operation of VIMS's Aquaculture Genetics and Breeding Technology Center, plus several other research, education and advisory teams collaborating within the institute's recently established Shellfish Aquaculture Program.

The \$22.7 million Acuff facility was designed by architects at Ellenzweig and Quinn Evans and built by Kjellstrom & Lee Construction of Richmond. Funding came from the Commonwealth of Virginia.



PHOTO BY LINDA TOSSEM

## Flooding

A rainy weekend, coupled with several days of strong winds, caused residents of Gloucester and Mathews counties to grapple with flooding this week. Three hours after high tide on Tuesday morning, Stonewall Road in Severn was still covered with water.



## Hamfest

In spite of inclement weather and frequent mist showers, the Middle Peninsula Amateur Radio Club's second annual Hamfest at the Abingdon Ruritan Club event field in Hayes was well attended by many area and regional ham operators; several came from neighboring states. Vendors said they were pleased with sales and trades and also enjoyed a hot lunch served by several of the MPARC members. Of course there were typical radio and electronic items and some rather unique antiques available along with handmade crafts and even fresh honey for sale. The early afternoon raffle kept many there in anticipation of winning radio equipment donated to the club. Ruritan members were on hand to assist, making the event a success. Here, MPARC and Ruritan member Dean Marzocca seems to be having a good time at the event.

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## Volunteers sought for Werowocomoco

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, a branch of the National Park Service, is looking to recruit Community Volunteer Ambassadors to dedicate a year of service to build enduring relationships between their national parks and local communities, particularly in Gloucester.

Volunteers are needed to help identify native plant species at Werowocomoco, an indigenous archaeological site located on the north side of the York River in

Gloucester. They are also needed to help engage park visitors in the Chesapeake Bay's history, cultural heritage and environment. Werowocomoco was acquired and protected by the National Park Service as part of the Chesapeake Trail in 2016.

More information about the Community Volunteer Ambassador program can be found online at [cvainternships.org](http://cvainternships.org) or by contacting [cajo\\_info@nps.gov](mailto:cajo_info@nps.gov).

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Registration will begin at 5:30 pm on the 19<sup>th</sup> and class will follow at 6 that evening.  
Cost: \$40 non-members / \$20 members  
Minimum age of dog - 1 year  
Dogs should work easily on leash and have a reasonable sit and down stay.  
For more information and pre-registration, email Joanna at [info@belroiagilityclub.com](mailto:info@belroiagilityclub.com)

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Living Flower Arrangement Container Workshop:  
Saturday, May 14, 1 pm  
Grab a friend and come put together a beautiful patio container you can enjoy all summer! You will love the brightly colored flowers and decorative leaves that will soon emerge to fill in your layered bulb container masterpiece! \$25 each or 2 for \$40!  
Advance registration is required.  
Visit us online for more information on these events and to see what else we have going on!  
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Marker to be dedicated for RI Academy

A state historical highway marker for the Rappahannock Industrial Academy will be dedicated at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 21, in Dunnsville. The public dedication and unveiling ceremony will take place on the former site of the school, across the road from 28882 Tidewater Trail.

The RI Academy, as it was called, was established by African Americans to fulfill the need for high school education for African Americans at a time when no public schools in the area did. It was in existence from 1902 to 1948 and primarily served students from Middlesex, Essex, and King and Queen counties, a release said.

The two large three-story buildings and other structures on the nearly 300-acre campus are no longer stand-

ing. A solar farm stands on a portion of the property, which is still owned by the Southside Rappahannock Baptist Association.

The Rappahannock Industrial Academy marker was sponsored by the Rappahannock Industrial Academy Alumni Association, a group that seeks to document and preserve the history of the RI Academy and to extend the school's legacy through a scholarship program for African-American high school seniors. Alumni Association president Bessida Cauthorne White said that "There were very few public high schools in Virginia for African Americans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The RI Academy was one of a number of academies that were established by black communities

across Virginia to fill this void. The approval of a highway marker for the RI Academy is an important step in our organization's quest to make sure that the Herculean efforts of our forefathers and foremothers to educate their communities are never forgotten."

The Board of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, which has the authority to designate new historical markers, approved the marker in June 2021.

The public is invited to join the ceremony in-person or virtually. It will be livestreamed at [www.facebook.com/RIACADEMYALUMNI](http://www.facebook.com/RIACADEMYALUMNI). There is limited roadside parking at the marker site. However, attendees may park at Angel Visit Baptist Church, 29566 Tidewater Trail, Dunnsville, and use a shuttle service that begins at 10 a.m. Masks will be required on the shuttle.

For more information, call 804-651-8753.

Aeronautical group to meet May 19

The Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck chapter of the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society will hold its monthly luncheon presentation at 11:30 a.m. next Thursday, May 19, at the Pilot House Restaurant, adjacent to Hummel Airport on Route 3, Topping.

The May 19 program will include a presentation by a staff member of the Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach. The museum has many historic airworthy military aircraft and hosts an annual Warbirds Over the Beach Airshow open to the public. The presentation will include a DVD of the 2012 airshow.

Everyone interested in aviation is invited to attend.

Genealogical societies hold virtual meeting Saturday

Three genealogical societies will meet virtually on Saturday for a talk by Dr. Shelley Viola Murphy on "Adding Timelines to Your Research Plan."

The organizers are the Middle Peninsula African-American Genealogical and Historical Society, the Hampton Roads Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, and the Grand Strand Genealogy Club of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The meeting starts at 10:30 a.m. and will explore the benefits of timelines, will demonstrate how they help resolve gaps or conflicts, and will show why researchers, regardless of experience, should use timelines, a release said.

A genealogist for more than 30 years, Dr. Murphy, also known as "familytreegirl," conducts genealogy workshops at local, state and national conferences. She is known for her inspiring and interactive "SO WHAT" with genealogical research, along with interesting problem-solv-



Dr. Shelley Viola Murphy

ing methodology lectures, the release said. She works for the University of Virginia as the Descendant Project Researcher, seeking descendants of the enslaved laborers who built the university.

Following Dr. Murphy's talk, each of the three organizations will hold its own meeting via Zoom breakout rooms. For Zoom information, email [aahgshr@gmail.com](mailto:aahgshr@gmail.com) or [mpaaghs.va@gmail.com](mailto:mpaaghs.va@gmail.com).

Reedville concert to benefit historic skipjack

A benefit concert to aid in the continued preservation of a historic skipjack will be held on Saturday at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum.

Chesapeake singer-songwriter Janie Meneely and Dutch-born traditional balladeer Rob van Sante will join forces for an evening of folk music from the Chesapeake Bay. The concert will be held from 7-9 p.m. at the museum at 504 Main Street in the Northumberland County community.

Tickets are available online for \$20 and \$25 at the door. Children under 10 are admitted free.

Proceeds from the con-

cert will go towards the ongoing preservation of the Claud W. Somers, one of the last remaining skipjacks that sail the Chesapeake Bay. Built in 1911 on Virginia's Eastern Shore, the Claud W. Somers dredged oysters in Maryland until she sank in 1977 near Deale Island during a squall, leaving six drowned, including her owner-captain. The Somers was salvaged and restored and is now docked at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum where she is available for public sails.

For more information about the concert, visit [rf-museum.org/somers-benefit-concert](http://rf-museum.org/somers-benefit-concert).

Drum circle Sunday in Kilmarnock

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock's monthly drum circle will be held from 3-5 p.m. Sunday at the Kilmarnock Town Centre Park.

All are welcome. Those attending are asked to bring percussion instruments; drums will also be provided to share. Drum circles are held on the third Sunday of the month through October. For more information, call Belinda Gaskins at 804-577-7974.

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**\*May 28th. Sat. 5-6pm-** The fabulous "Ray Pittman". Beach, Blues and Soul!  
**6-8pm- #1 Blues Billboard artist "Bobby Messano",**

**\*JUNE 25th, Sat-5-6pm-**"Sincerely, Iris: songs from the road"  
**6-8pm-"The Taters" "4 Part Harmonies" and all your faves!**

**#JULY 23rd, Sat. 4-6pm-** 20th Anniversary Celebration with Clayton Neal  
**Sat. 6-8pm- #Special performance: # -"the "Steve Bassett" Band**  
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**\*August 27th:5-6pm. -"StonesThrow" The arrangements make the difference.**  
**6-8pm-"Stuck on a Name" , Let's REGGAE! None better, no worries!**

**\*Sept 3rd, Labor Day Groovin' : 5-6pm-** Toby Gillie and the "Unpredictables"  
**6-8pm-Josh Walker Quartet w/Carla Jackson: Standards**

**\*SEPT. 24th: 6-8pm: Rappahannock Crossing! Bluegrass to the max!**

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## A sense of place

So, where do you live?

Residents living next door to each another may have totally different answers to that question.

For instance, one might say, “I live in Perrin.” Another may say “I reside in Hayes,” while a third would tell you he’s a proud resident of Guinea. A fourth might simply respond “Gloucester.” Thing is, all of them would be correct.

For those living in Gloucester or Mathews, place identity is a personal thing. Some identify with the traditional post office name, even if it hasn’t been a working post office in years. There are people around who say they live in Blakes or James Store or Signpine, even if their mail were addressed that way, it would probably end up in the dead letter office.

Others may choose to align themselves with their post office address, although identifiers such as Hayes cover everything from the White Marsh area down to Guinea, and someone living on Gwynn’s Island could find themselves saying they live in Hudgins.

We live in a mishmash of unincorporated communities with no distinct boundaries. And we guess that’s part of its charm.

## Post offices past and present, A to Z

Many post offices have served the communities through the years. Most have disappeared, while some remain in service. Sometimes we wonder what might have happened if the post offices had been allowed to stay open. Would the country stores around them have survived? Would our sense of community and unity be stronger?

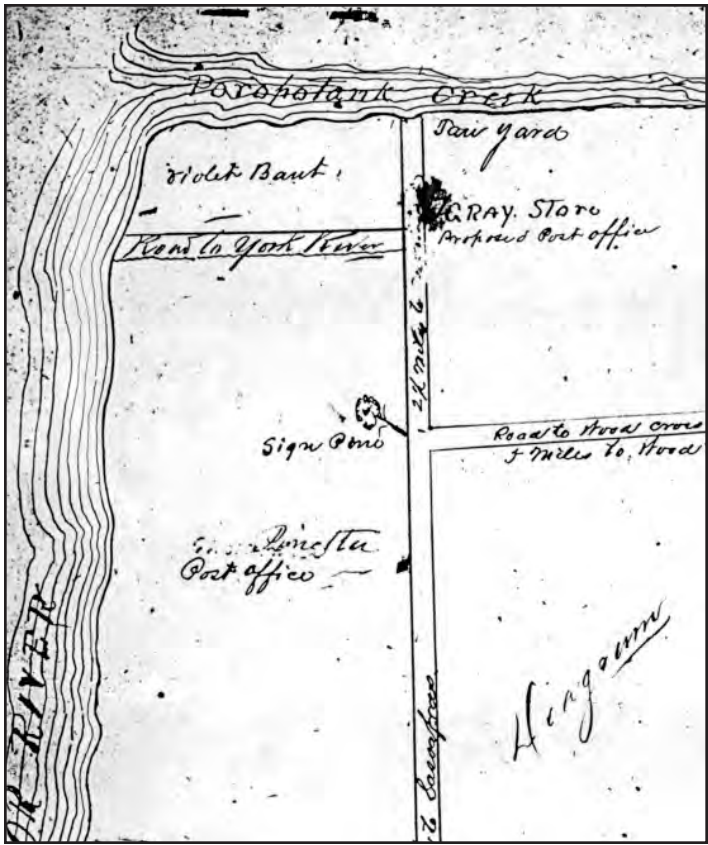
From our records, we have found these names, A to Z, past and present.

### Gloucester

Achilles, Adner, Allmondsville, Ark; Baileys, Batt, Bellamy, Belroi, Bena, Bridges; Cappahosic, Cash, Clay Bank, Clements Wharf, Clopton, Coke, Crab; Dixondale, Dutton, Flat Iron (Iron Clad), Freeport; Glass, Glenns, Gloucester, Gloucester Point, Gum Fork; Harcum, Hayes, James Store, Lady; Maryus, Money, Naxera, Nest, New Upton, Nuttall; Ordinary, Pampa, Perrin, Pinero, Pinetta; Roanes, Sassafras, Schley, Selden, Severn, Short Lane, Signpine; Tidemill, Wan, Ware Neck, White Marsh, Wicomico, Woods Cross Roads, and Zanoni.

### Mathews

Auburn Wharf, Bavon, Beaverlett, Belle Isle, Blakes, Bohannon; Cardinal, Cobbs Creek, Cricket Hill, Diggs, Dixie; Fitchetts, Foster, Grimstead, Gwynn, Hicks Wharf, Hallieford, Hudgins; Laban, Mathews, Miles, Mobjack, Moon, Motorun; New Point, North, Onemo, Peary, Penny, Port Haywood, Pribble; Redart, Retz, Ruff, Sarah, Shadow, Soles, Susan; Tabernacle, Trader, Warehouse and Williams Wharf. Finally: Once a stranger was asked where he lived. His reply would have made sense to someone living in Mathews County decades ago: “I live 5 miles south of North, on the west side of the East River, and a mile from Miles.”



An application to the United States Post Office shows the proposed location of Signpine Post Office in Gloucester County. Signpine opened in 1894 and closed in 1956.

GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS

GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Elsa Cooke Verbyla | Publisher

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Gloucester, VA 23061



## READERS WRITE

### For the use of ALL of us

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

The forefathers of this country held to the quote, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men (and women) do nothing.” Therefore they set aside the court green for the use of ALL of us.

It is my opinion that no portion of the green be conveyed to any private individual or organization. We have enough real issues which require the time, attention, and, yes, money which truly need to be addressed. This is not one of them.

Nancy S. James  
Dutton, Va.

My suggestion is get over it and leave matters alone, and we will get along once again.

Bobby Dobson  
Cobbs Creek, Va.

### Thank you, Mathews County

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

On behalf of the Mathews Historical Museum, we thank you Mathews—our citizens, employees, officials, their families and friends—for your support for “Celebrating Mathews Watermen,” at May Faire 2022 on Saturday.

We are fortunate to be living in Mathews County with generations of brave watermen and women as our forebears. We celebrate them. At the podium, our U.S. Coast Guard was recognized by Delegate Keith Hodges, who on behalf of Congressman Rob Wittman, presented a proclamation to Chief Petty Officer Joshua Menges, Officer in Charge of U.S. Coast Guard Station, for service from an appreciative community.

The Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary are an integral part of our Mathews family, and we thank them for their service. The county administrative staff, school officials, VDOT, the sheriff’s department, our community service organizations and the Gazette-Journal were generous with their support, and for that we are most grateful.

Saturday was a splendid opportunity to stop by our vendors, see old friends and visit the new displays at the museum. We are proud to introduce a new exhibit on loan from the Yorktown Watermen’s Museum, “Bay to Belly.” Through the efforts of one MHM Board member, Tom Robinson and his wife Dale, who obtained this display for two months. We are proud to share that 19 classes of over 350 Mathews students and their teachers have already visited this educational exhibit.

Also at the museum this weekend we unveiled the Mariners’ Wall, featuring photographs of our watermen and women who work the water, and have done so throughout the history of our community. We urge you to visit our website to learn more and encourage you to consider sharing photographs to add to our collection. Originals will be returned to you.

Highlights of the day included the model boat show, with models on loan from a cross section of the community. The pound cake contest, Maypole dance, music by the Flat Tones, and the mermaid who greeted everyone at the Information Desk all added to the festivities. A great time was had by all. Thank you, Mathews County.

See you again on May 6, 2023 with a hope for better weather!

May Faire 2022 Co-Chairs  
Barbara Bass, Cindy Roman and  
Sandy Warhol  
Mathews, Va.

### Grandparents raising kin a growing trend

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

For many years, the staff at the Mathews Department of Social Services has recognized a growing trend of grandparents raising grandchildren or relatives raising their kin in their community. One may ask oneself why or how does this happen? There are a multitude of reasons: parent(s) is/are incarcerated, deceased parent(s), homelessness, poverty, parental substance abuse, mental health issues or child protective services involvement with the possibility of foster care.

In March of 2019, the agency applied for a grant with the Mathews Women’s Giving Circle to assist those grandparents with needs they may not be able to afford. Imagine being retired, on a fixed income and now having anywhere from an extra person to multiple extra people in your household and having to feed them, clothe and shelter them. This grant has assisted with back-to-school clothing, recreational opportunities, cribs, beds, rental assistance, replacement glasses, and summer camp. Many grand-families have been thankful for this support, which now comes from the Mathews Community Foundation and private donations.

However, the agency wanted to do more to support this trend in the way of connecting these families together so they would have real support. These unique families needed someone else who really understood what they are going through. The Mathews Department of Social Services, child welfare staff, and Community Services Board collaborated to host a Meet and Greet for grandparents and relatives raising children at the Mathews Memorial Library. The event on April 26 had a goal of allowing caregivers to network with others raising children and to establish a peer support group. The CSB also provided a micro training on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) scores. The results were amazing, as the caregiver families expressed their desire to continue meeting formally on a monthly basis to support each other.

The Mathews Department of Social Services has agreed to provide the group with quarterly speakers for one year. The group will be meeting on the 4th Tuesday of the month at Mathews Baptist Church at 9 a.m. If you know a grandparent/relative raising a grandchild/kin, who would like to attend this group, please contact Lisa Burns-Brown at Mathews DSS (804-725-7192).

The following day, several meet-and-greet participants gathered at a local park to allow the children in their care to burn off energy after school. The grandparents played cards and games while the children played.

Tiffany Gordon  
Director, Mathews DSS  
Mathews, Va.

### Rising to the challenge

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

It is that time of year to recognize our EMS providers everywhere and we especially want to honor the members of the Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad for their dedicated call to “Rise to the Challenge”—the 2022 EMS Week slogan.

National EMS Week (May 15-21) is our opportunity to thank every Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad medical provider for being there to care for us, their neighbors and friends, whenever we call for help—be it day or night, weekends or holidays—under any and all circumstances, even when helping others might jeopardize their own well-being, not to mention giving up time with their families and loved ones.

They have been there these past couple of years during the pandemic and they continue to be there as this virus disrupts and affects the lives of our citizens. Rest assured, our EMS providers will continue to care for the needs of Mathews County citizens and visitors alike.

The MVRSA Auxiliary wants to recognize our MVRSA “heroes” and ask that especially during the upcoming week—you, their Mathews County friends and family, please take the time to let them know how much they are appreciated. A simple “Thank You for All You Do” will be gratefully received and reward enough (but they love cookies).

Sharon Coulter, MVRSA Auxiliary  
Cobbs Creek, Va.

### Moms deserve recognition

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

Mother’s Day, observed last Sunday, is a special time of the year to give thanks to your mom for everything that she has done for you over the years. I really appreciate the things my mom has done for me.

Mothers are very hard-working people who do so much for us, and they deserve to be rewarded for a job well done.

Scotty Adams  
Gloucester, Va.

### Letters To The Editor

Letters to the Gazette-Journal on any subject of public interest are always welcome. Letters should be 300 words or shorter, and all submissions must include the writer’s complete home mailing address, email and phone number should we need to reach you (this information is not published).

We favor letters that thoughtfully respond to or offer perspective or content published in the Gazette-Journal, and on local or state issues. The Gazette-Journal will not accept letters which comment on articles published in other periodicals. We do not accept letters that are primarily broad endorsements or attacks on political candidates or parties. Also, space limitations often prevent publication of thank-you letters.

The right is reserved to edit letters for length, accuracy, clarity, tone, style and other considerations. The newspaper requires a physically signed copy for our records. That can be accomplished by sending a digital image, such as a JPEG, to the editor.



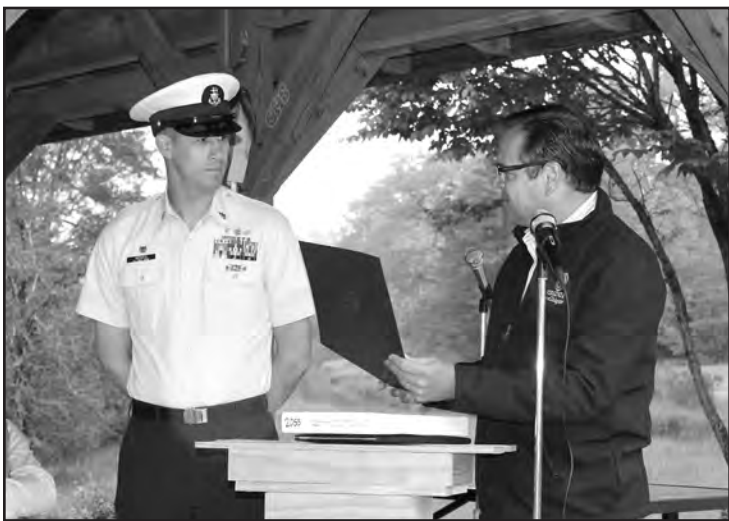
# MAY FAIRE: Mathews watermen, USCG honored at annual festival

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)  
Del. Keith Hodges (R-Urbana) commended U.S. Coast Guard Milford Haven for its years of service to the region and presented BMC Joshua Menges with a flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol just days before, on April 28. He said that Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Montross) had also commended the Mathews Historical Museum, the festival's sponsor, in the halls of Congress.

The highlight of the festival—a two-hour talk by local watermen—was well-attended, with standing room only at times. It was moderated by journalist Larry Chowning of the Southside Sentinel, whose introductory remarks included naming many of the Mathews watermen he had interviewed over the years and sharing a few details about each one, bringing smiles of recognition and delight to many audience members. One by one, four watermen and one “waterwoman”—J.C. Hudgins, Arnold Ripley Sr., Carroll Melvin Smith, Chris Pritchett and Karen Townsend—spoke about life on the water and some of the highlights of their careers and answered questions from the audience.

Chef and owner Jonathan Lewis and Chef Danny Viers of Southwind Pizza gave a demonstration on grilling oysters and shared the delicious results with those who stopped by. The Court House Players and Girl Scout Troop 1280 entertained festivalgoers with the traditional dance around the Maypole, singer/guitarist Lane Rice performed solo from inside the administration building, and Mermaid Moonflower delighted children with small trinkets from her undersea treasure trove.

Sandy Warhol of the Mathews Historical Museum's May Faire Committee said that the schools, the sheriff's office, VDOT, and the county's administration all did their share to make the annual festival run smoothly.



During May Faire's opening ceremonies on Saturday, Virginia Del. Keith Hodges (R-Urbana), right, commended U.S. Coast Guard Milford Haven for its service to the region and presented station commander BMC Joshua Menges with a flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol.

“It was amazing,” she said. “The town really kicked in ... all of them made it like, ‘welcome home.’”

While the weather kept the numbers small this year, with fewer than 1,000 people attending, there were lots of children, said Warhol, and “the face-painting lady stayed really busy.”

Unfortunately, she said, the Courthouse Community Orchestra couldn't play and the 70-foot model of the U.S.S. Alabama warship couldn't come because of the unpredictable weather, but everything else went forward as planned. The Flat Tones stepped up and played longer than they had planned, and a variety of workboat models were available for people to see in the museum.

Warhol said the museum had a record 200 visitors during the festival.

“What a nice event,” she said. “What a nice day!”

Warhol said that the model boat show on display at the Mathews Historical Museum will continue to be available on Saturdays through the end of the month.



Janet Yandle, left, of Chester and New Point, won the Central Village Homemakers basket during May Faire on Saturday. She is shown with her husband, Tommy. Central Village Homemakers is a nonprofit charitable organization that's been active in Mathews for nearly 50 years, said a press release. It raises funds by selling raffle tickets for various items and uses the money for two high school scholarships and donations to such local organizations as Hands Across Mathews, Meals on Wheels, the Christmas Blessing Fund, the fire department and rescue squad, and other recipients.



Singer/guitarist Lane Rice set up his microphone and speaker in the doorway to the administration building on the Court Green and entertained festivalgoers for a good part of the day.



The Flat Tones performed on Saturday for those attending the annual May Faire festival in Mathews.



Members of the Court House Players and Girl Scout Troop 1280 came together to perform the annual dance around the Maypole during May Faire on Saturday in Mathews. Here, they're shown practicing before their performance.



Bobby Hudgins visits with Susan Hill, Phyllis Hudgins, Jan Kanner, and Paula Johnson, from left, at the Central Village Homemakers booth during May Faire on Saturday.

# MENTAL HEALTH: Presentation on mental health in schools turns to discussion on Critical Race Theory

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)  
Darren Post voiced his concerns about the Second Step program, pertaining to anti-racism and anti-bias content, specifically the possibility of Critical Race Theory and gender-supporting health care (including puberty suppressants) being taught to students.

“There are a lot of resources on the Second Step program, direct links from their website concerning a lot of things I believe would fall under Gov. [Glenn] Youngkin's definition of inherently divisive concepts,” said Post.

School board member Rob-in Rice pulled up the Second Step website during the meeting and searched specifically for CRT and transgender content on the website and found

nothing.

“I've spent a lot of time as a parent and one who gets reports from their kid like Ms. Rice does and these are not topics that have been brought [up],” said chair Troy Andersen.

Post directed Rice to the anti-racism and anti-bias resources webpage for Second Step when she asked for a direct link to CRT or transgender content.

“I'm on that but that's not Critical Race Theory,” said Rice. “I'm looking for transgender or Critical Race Theory.”

“This is not the conversation I want to have tonight because it's taking away the focus which we've heard over and over from Mr. [Tyler] Bagent [student advisory

committee representative], the role of mental health in our schools,” said Andersen. “We have a great program that we've heard about tonight that's helping us get there with our students.”

“So, to me, it's not the time to take away,” said Andersen. “Anti-racism is not Critical Race Theory. Anti-racism is not bias. We have a policy in place that says what we're not going to do. And nothing I've seen violates our policy on any of this stuff. Because you don't like it doesn't make it wrong.”

Andersen directed his next comments to Post and school board member Carlton Drew.

“It's insulting to assert over and over again that parents don't know what's going on

and should be mad,” said Andersen. “Parents who are involved in their school's education know what Second Step is. They know what's going on in their kid's elementary classroom. And if they have problems with it, they're bringing it to us. They don't need you to sit up here once a month and tell them they need to get mad at things because they're engaged in their kid's education, every day, 365 days a year.”

Later in the meeting, school board vice chair Kellie Lock-erby spoke on the Second Step argument.

“What I have found on the Second Step website, it's that anti-racism and anti-bias are recommended additions, but it's not part of the Second Step curriculum,” said Lock-

erby.

Lord continued the mental health presentation, discussing ways that Gloucester High School supports student mental health and development. GHS covers difficult topics such as healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships and drug awareness. The school also provides books on mental health issues in the library and tries to make GHS a place where students want to be by creating a positive environment.

GHS also recognizes students through certificates for special achievements and public recognition, such as the student of the month award. “Students notice stuff like that,” said Lord.

Bagent also spoke on student mental health during his

last meeting as Student Advisory Council representative.

“Please don't allow the issue of student mental health be set aside once again,” said Bagent. “Note that tonight's discussion about mental health turned into an argument about Critical Race Theory, rather than actually discussing mental health for the elementary level.”

“Mr. Bagent, I just wanted to apologize on behalf of the board that the mental health presentation was hijacked by a discussion on Critical Race Theory,” said Rice. “Our guidance department does do extremely well in trying to take care of our students and take care of their mental health, and it was unfortunate that that happened.”

# PODCAST: Gloucester wins award from NACo

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)  
residents with current events and other timely information. The podcast does this with virtually no added cost to citizens, a release stated.

“We are pleased that our podcast received this national recognition,” said Carol Steele, Gloucester's Acting County Administrator. “We hope all of our residents tune in to gain insight into their local government, while learning more about the people behind providing quality ser-

vices to our citizens.”

“All across the country, counties are working tirelessly to support residents and drive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's Achievement Award-winning programs showcase how counties work every day to build healthy, safe and thriving communities,” said NACo president Larry Johnson.

Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories, including children and youth, criminal justice and public

safety, county administration, information technology, health and civic engagement.

Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Awards program is designed to recognize county government innovations. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

To tune in to Gloucester's Current Conversations podcast, visit <https://currentconversations.buzzsprout.com>.

# COVID-19 UPDATE: Case numbers stable locally

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)  
tively.

In Gloucester, there were 45 new cases during the week, bringing the total to 7,420 since March 2020. There were two new hospitalizations, for a total of 105, and no additional deaths, leaving the total at 104.

Middlesex had 11 new cases, totaling 1,865, one hospitalization, for a total of 47, and no new deaths, for a total of 48.

Across the district, there was just one death recorded during the past week, bringing the total to 422 since the pandemic began. There were 11 new hospitalizations, for a total of 709, and 134 new cases, for a total of 27,897 during the past two-plus years.

Statewide, the case count increased by 16,477, for a total of 1,726,749, hospitalizations went up by 390, for a cumulative total of 50,537, and 45 Virginians died from the virus, for a total of 20,301.

## Vaccinations

The Middlesex Health Department will have a vac-

cination clinic from 9 a.m. to noon on Monday at 2780 General Puller Highway, Saluda. The Moderna vaccine for ages 18 and older and Pfizer vaccine for ages five and older will be available.

## Testing

COVID-19 testing continues to be available by appointment on Wednesdays throughout May at the Middlesex County Health Department. Call 804-815-4191 for an appointment.

# COAST GUARD

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

District—Portsmouth, said the station's 49-foot Buoy Utility Stern-loading Boat, which is used by the Aids to Navigation team, will be relocated, along with the 45-foot Response Boat—Medium. These boats are too large to get under the bridge, he said.

A Trailerable Aids to Navigation Boat and a 29-foot Response Boat—Small, both of which can pass under the bridge, will remain,

he said.

Lehmann said he could not provide information on where the boats will be docked. He also said he doesn't know how long they will be located elsewhere.

“That depends on VDOT's expedience,” he said.

According to an email the Coast Guard sent to the offices of Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Montross), the boats will be returned to Milford Haven when the bridge construction project is completed.

# VEHICLE TAX: Rate drops from \$2.95 to \$2.30

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)  
Steele said that, according to J.D. Power and Associates, the value of 95 percent of vehicles rose dramatically. Along with increasing car values, Gloucester residents are experiencing increasing prices at the gas station, grocery stores and in retail goods.

Gloucester's Chief Financial Officer Cheryl Spivey said the new rate was a result of the board requesting the old rate be reduced as low as possible while still pulling in the

expected revenue that the proposed budget showed. She said the old rate of \$2.95 would have generated around \$2 million more than the expected amount because of the dramatic increase in vehicle valuations.

Gloucester's decision to lower the vehicle tax to \$2.30 will keep county residents from experiencing the same level of inflation others are in the country, said Steele. She said the impact of the lower rate will vary from vehicle to

vehicle and that some may pay a similar amount to what they paid before.

Steele noted that though the rate for the vehicle tax was lowered, it was not leveled. Residents of Gloucester will likely be paying more than they were before, but Steele said the increase is not massive and is considered inflationary. She said Gloucester always projects an increase in revenue gained from personal property due to normal inflationary causes.



Click on our Death Records Database [www.gazettejournal.net](http://www.gazettejournal.net)  
The database lists obituaries which appeared in the Gazette-Journal and earlier local newspapers from 1903 to the present.  
Copies or transcriptions of these obituaries are available for \$5.00.

**Gloucester-Mathews**  
**GAZETTE-JOURNAL** 804-693-3101





Mike Robbins (shown here flanked by Richard and Lynda Smith in photo at left) will be a guest performer on Saturday night at MHS along with Hunter Owens (photo at right).



## Li'l Ole Opry to hold Oldies Show

Cast members at Virginia's Li'l Ole Opry will kick up their heels on Saturday as they take the audience back in time to the "good ol' days" of country and rock and roll music for the annual Oldies Show.

The show, featuring house band Shades of Country, Opry singers and some special guests, will be held at the Mathews High School auditorium. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the show begins at 8.

"This is one of the most requested shows we do each year," Opry president Lyn-

da Smith said. "9 to 5," "He Stopped Loving Her Today," "Get Ready" and "Great Balls of Fire" are a few of the classic hits on Saturday's play list.

Mathews County native Hunter Owens and past Opry member Mike Robbins, a Richmond native, will be guest performers on the show. "You'll swear you're listening to George Jones himself," Smith said of Robbins. The two will join Lynda and Richard Smith, William Earl Sadler, Ralph Motley, David Shuber, Sam Hogge, Jeff Long,

Susan Ripley, Tracy Hill, A.J. McKeen, Harmony Smith, Mike Gregg, LeighAnn Abbott and Adam Greve on stage.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Mathews Visitor Center in Mathews and Marketplace Antiques on Route 17 in Hayes. Tickets are also available at the door on show night.

Visit [www.donkstheater.com](http://www.donkstheater.com) for a complete list of 2022 dates and featured performers.

## Grayson Torrence, Slapnation to perform at Flat Iron Crossroads

Flat Iron Crossroads will present two concerts this weekend, with pop singer/songwriter Grayson Torrence performing on Friday and Slapnation taking the stage on Saturday. Both performances begin at 6:30 p.m. at the venue on Flat Iron Road in Gloucester.

Torrence, 18, has released three singles on all social media platforms and is working on her first album. She will be joined by Billy Joe Daniel and Luke Hopkins on guitar, Tony Bob

Merritt on bass and Smithfield Dash on drums.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with Positive Pizza food truck and beverages from the FIX Bar.

Slapnation features a four-piece rhythm section and a three-piece horn section, paired with two vocalists. The group has performed widely throughout the region.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with Gumbau's food truck and the FIX Bar.

Tickets for either show are \$15 and may be purchased at [www.flatironcrossroads.com](http://www.flatironcrossroads.com).



Grayson Torrence

## Auditions Sunday, Tuesday for 'Boeing Boeing'

Auditions for the Court House Players' production of the comedy "Boeing Boeing" will be held from 4-6 p.m. Sunday and 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday in the former YMCA space in Main Street Center, Gloucester.

There are roles for two males aged 30-45, three females aged 25-40, and one female aged 30-45.

In this fast-paced, fun-filled comedy, an American architect living in Paris has been

juggling engagement to three different air hostesses. When their airline schedules are upset, he finds that all three fiancées will be arriving on the same day. Hilarity ensues as he tries to keep the three from meeting.

Performances will be held Aug. 19-21 at the Church of St. Therese, Main Street, Gloucester. For more information about auditions, email director R.J. Erickson at [rj.chp@cox.net](mailto:rj.chp@cox.net).

## Bay School juried show winners named

The Bay School Community Arts Center, Mathews, announced the winners of its ninth annual Art Speaks on the Bay Juried Art Show at its opening reception on April 30. The show, featuring 65 Virginia artists, will run through May 30.

In celebration of the Bay School's 25th Anniversary, Wendy Wells-Finn, founder and first executive director of the school, served as both juror and judge of the show. As juror, she selected 94 two-dimensional and three-dimensional pieces from 358 entries to be featured in the show.

As judge, Finn-Wells made the following awards in two-dimensional media:

Best in Show (An Award Honoring Adele and Remembering Dick Pogue)—**Tierney Miller**, "Spindrift," an oil on canvas; first place (the Dorothy Gould Abare Award)—**Jorge Saenz**, "Introspection," a mixed media piece; second place (the Martha Anne King Award)—**George Chung**, "Swim," an acrylic on canvas; third place (the Linda Walker Award)—**Erika Zipser**, "Palindrome," acrylic and gilt on canvas.

Three-dimensional media awards went to:

First place (the Chris McCann Award)—**George Cramer**, "Struggle or Triumph?" hand-forged, torch-sculpted steel; second place (the Gene White & Diane Driscoll Award)—**Nancy Sowder**, Ceremony, stoneware and mixed media; third place (the Claire S. Jones Award)—**Lillian Milgrom**, "To sit alone and think," hand-built clay.



KIM ANDREWS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

In celebration of the Bay School's 25th anniversary, founder Wendy Wells-Finn, left, was the juror and judge of the 2022 Art Speaks on the Bay School's Juried Art Show. She is shown here with the school's executive director Pam Doss.

In addition to the judge's awards, the show featured the following three awards of support:

The Founder's Award, Wendy Wells-Finn & Patrick Finn (selected by Patrick Finn)—**Jordan Flower**, "1st and Broad," acrylic on canvas; Richmond Clayworks Award for Ceramic Excellence (selected by Wendy Wells-Finn)—**Katherine Maloney**, "Swallowtails in Flight," white stoneware; Arts on Main Award (selected by Meredith Timberlake)—**Joan Belevaqua**, "Grandmother's Chair I," oil.

Mathews High School art students participated as judges, as well, selecting the following two Students' Choice

Awards:  
2D Award—**Jessica Clamptet** for "Playing in the Clover," melted crayon (encaustic); 3D Award—**Sue Henshaw** for "Whisper Down the Lane," stoneware clay.

The following five Awards of Merit were selected by the judge:

**Susan Crave Rosen**, "Rounding on Sibley's," acrylic and collage; **Karen Eide**, "Blue Moon," mixed media; **Shelia Simons**, "Sweet Jenna," graphite pencil; **Sally Nelson**, "Day Break," oil on gallery wrapped canvas; and **Lee Cochrane**, "Knuckle Saloon Memorabilia," photograph.

## Outdoor painting event planned for festival

Local community artists are invited to participate in Paint Main 2022 from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 18, during the Gloucester Arts Festival.

Painting outdoors on Main

Street alongside 20 invited plein air professional artists, local artists will compete for cash prizes with other local artists. The freshly painted artwork will be judged by artist Nancy Tankersley on the

Tabb House Lawn, and the paintings will be made available for sale to the public.

To sign up for news and updates on the festival, visit [gloucesterartsfestival.com/paintmain](http://gloucesterartsfestival.com/paintmain).

### ARTS IN BRIEF

#### Orchestra to perform at Bethany UMC

The Courthouse Community Orchestra will perform at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 25, at Bethany United Methodist Church, Gloucester Point.

This free spring concert will include such favorites as "Music of the Night," "Prairie Song," and the music of George Gershwin, along with a few new selections.

The orchestra is directed by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Treg Ancelet and Dr. Elisse Ancelet.

#### Open Studio Friday at Gloucester gallery

Arts on Main will have an Open Studio special event with Kay Van Dyke from 9 a.m. to noon Friday at the gallery on Main Street in Gloucester.

Van Dyke will have a video projector available for artists to project a photo on a canvas and trace it. The technique is generally used for portraits. Artists should bring a blank canvas or panel, a pencil for tracing, and any additional paints and equipment needed. Registration is not required.

For more information, visit [gloucesterarts.org](http://gloucesterarts.org).

Virginia's  
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(formerly of **donk's THEATER**)  
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**OLDIES SHOW**  
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### The Court House Players will hold AUDITIONS for the hilarious comedy



by Marc Camoletti

Translated by Beverley Cross and Francis Evans

**Sunday, May 15, 4-6 p.m.**

**Tuesday, May 17, 7-9 p.m.**

**in the former YMCA space at Main Street Center, Gloucester**

There are roles for two males aged 30-45, three females aged 25-40, and one female aged 30-45.

Performances are August 19-21 at

The Church of St. Therese, 6262 Main Street, Gloucester.

For more audition information,

email director RJ Erickson at [rj.chp@cox.net](mailto:rj.chp@cox.net).

Visit [courthouseplayers.org](http://courthouseplayers.org) for show information.

**BAY AGING**  
DIGNITY AT EVERY AGE  
**Spring Virtual Education Series for Caregivers**  
Are you an unpaid caregiver for a friend or family member? Bay Aging invites you to attend our free online education series. Call us at 800-493-0238 to receive the Zoom link and toll-free call-in number. Also available at the Mathews Memorial Library.

**Thursday, May 12, 1-2 p.m.**  
**Identifying Scams and Reducing your Threat with Barry Moore, BBB President**  
Tips on how to protect older adults from scams and abuse.

**Thursday, May 17, 1-2 p.m.**  
**Planning for your Future with Lisa Walker**  
Medicare & Medicaid questions, long term care planning, how to choose a facility, and things to look for to be a great advocate for your loved one.

**Thursday, May 26, 12-1 p.m.**  
**Fill your Cup**  
**Dr. Christine Jensen & George Worthington, Virginia Dementia Coordinator**  
Learn about Virginia's dementia plan, memory assessment clinics, and refilling your cup as a caregiver.



KATHERINE ‘KACEY/JEANIE’ SYDNOR CARNEAL



Katherine “Kacey/Jeanie” Sydnor Carneal made her life transition to her new adventure on May 5, 2022. She had a peaceful passing on her own terms at home in Gloucester County, surrounded by family and friends. We sent her out with love, prayers, and song, and all of us were in a circle holding her hands. She was aware and was ready to go—expecting to be greeted on the other side by (to name a few) her husband, Rock; her brother, Tom Sydnor; her mom, Kitty; her grandson, Ty Henderson, Jean Carneal, and quite a few beloved furry friends who went on before her. Kacey was a prolific self-taught artist whose paintings reflect the things and the people and causes she loved, all while delivering thought-provoking inspirational themes in her signature whimsical style.

Kacey told us that we should “Carry On” and know that she had a beautiful life. She loved and was loved beyond words. She had found her passion, her peeps, and her place in this world. Her work as an artist was so important to her and with few exceptions, she painted eight hours a day, seven days a week and her work found its way into many homes and galleries nationwide and internationally. She was featured in newspapers and magazines profiling her style, her method, and the joy that is in all of her work. One of her proudest accomplishments was being the resident artist at the University of Virginia Children’s Hospital in Charlottesville. She felt like she had fulfilled her mission in life by being able to use her passion and talent to bring joy to children who would delight in seeing her amazing, colorful, and fun paintings on their hospital walls. She even had framed pictures in her art studio of some of the children. Kacey was happy to be here with us for as long as she was—87 years!! She was born in Richmond, Virginia, on 9 March 1935 to Katherine Eddy Sydnor and Thomas Clifton Sydnor, and is survived by her two daughters, Susie Mains and Vicki Henderson and her daughter of the heart, Katie Hale; her grandson, Alex DeAngelis, and her son-in-law, Vicki’s husband, Gary Henderson. She also leaves behind her nieces, Terri Sydnor Doyle and Lynda Sydnor Hunley. And wow, did she have wonderful friends that made her life so beautiful and inspired her paintings and her daily life. Kacey wanted us all to shed no tears (which we are having trouble honoring) but she wants us to celebrate the joyful life she lived in perfect Kacey Carneal style as she made her transition to Cinco de Mayo, a day of huge celebration! Memorial contributions may be made to the Patient Advocate Foundation, 421 Butler Farm Road, Hampton, Va. 23666, or online at patientadvocate.org. A Celebration of Life is being planned in Gloucester for June 25, 2022; to be included, please send an email to Vicki at vhendu20@gmail.com.

Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home.

AIDAN CARTER



Aidan Carter, the son of Joe and Rosey Carter Cope, of Gloucester County, died at Riverside Regional Medical Center on May 2, 2022, as the result of an auto accident. He was only 22 years old. Aidan was a 2018 Gloucester High School graduate and an employee of C.A. Barrs Contractor. Family and friends have said he was the light everywhere he went with his smile and contagious laugh. Aidan loved his family and friends more than anything. He was a big shy guy, but once he got comfortable, he was wide open. He loved all sports, but the New York Yankees were his jam. He was always listening to loud music and making up silly dances. He enjoyed going to the beach and out on the boat, but not necessarily getting in the water unless it was a pool. Don’t mess with his shoes and hats. He was always watching Barstool Sports and documentaries. He loved moving dirt in his air-conditioned machine. Aidan loved life! He will be missed by all who knew him. Even though we lost our big sweet boy, he went on to help others by being an organ donor. Great-grandfather, Calvin Rhea, and great-grandmother, Genelle Carter, preceded Aidan in death. Survivors in addition to his parents are siblings, Quwas Carter and Mariner Cope; maternal grandparents, Al and Denise Carter; maternal great-grandmother, Rachel Rhea; paternal grandmother, Arlene Cope; uncles, Zac Carter and Eric and Monique (aunt) Cope; special cousins, Brodie and Brooklyn, and a huge extended family that adores him. A gathering of family and friends was held Tuesday, May 10, 2022, from 5-6 p.m. at the Abingdon Ruritan Club, 8784 Guinea Road, Hayes, Va. 23072. A special Memories Tribute will begin at 6 p.m.

Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home.

JOHN FAULKNER DIXON

Son of the late Jasper Edwards Dixon and Jacqueline Faulkner Dixon passed away peacefully on May 7, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Virginia McDaniel; his brother, G. Gordon Dixon (Meg); a nephew, John Thomas Dixon, and two step-children, Warren and Jennifer McDaniel. John Faulkner lived a life of service to the Gloucester community. After graduation from Mathews High School in 1961, he went on to teach and later earn a Master of Education from Old Dominion University. He returned to Gloucester in 1967 where he spent the next 33 years teaching math, first at Gloucester Intermediate and then at Peasley Middle School. He served on the Abingdon Rescue Squad for over 20 years, and the Abingdon Fire Department for 22 years where he was not only a member but also the Fire Department’s president for several years. In his retirement he enjoyed camping and just “hanging out.” A three thousand-mile, forty-two-day trip to Alaska and a month in Nova Scotia were the highlights of his camping, but perhaps the best way to sum up his life is the use of his favorite hymn, “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” He was 79 years old. Any remembrances are to be made to the Abingdon or Mathews Fire departments.

KATHLEEN O’GARA FLAM



Kathleen O’Gara Flam danced her way offstage on Sunday, May 8, 2022, after a 2.5-year battle with breast cancer. She put up a good fight but was ready to be reunited with the love of her life, Michael, whom she lost on March 19. Mom was surrounded by her loved ones in her final days and passed peacefully in the early hours of Mother’s Day. Mom has been known to be a little dramatic so she departed on a day we would never forget! New York natives, Kathleen and Michael moved to Mathews County in 2016 to be closer to their family. She was a kind woman who loved talking with people; she never met a stranger she didn’t know! If Mom wasn’t talking to you, she was feeding you. Kathleen excelled in the culinary arts and no one ever left her home unfed; whether you wanted to eat or not. In addition to cooking, she loved blasting her music and dancing around the house. She passed her passion for music and dancing onto her daughter, as well as some of the neighborhood kids. If she wasn’t enjoying her music, you could find her reading a good book; the scarier the better. She lived a fulfilling life and was loved dearly by her family and friends. Her family will be talking about her for generations to come.

Kathleen rejoins her dearest (and sometimes vexing) husband of 48 years, Mikey, after being apart for seven weeks. Kathleen will be remembered for being a wonderful, caring, and loving wife, mother, nana, sister and friend. She is survived by her daughter, Sherrylynn and Tim; grandchildren, Ashley and Josh, Timothy, Wayne and Krystal, and Zach; sister, Margy and Bob; brother, Joey and Judy; lifelong friend of 54 years, Betty (but known to others as Liz), and the Marys in New York, as well as many nieces and nephews. Kathleen was a cat lover and leaves behind her beloved “Gizmo.” A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 13, in the mausoleum chapel at Windsor Gardens Cemetery & Mausoleum, Dutton. The family would like to thank Riverside Middle Peninsula Cancer Center, Dr. Khalil and Dr. West and the caregivers with Hospice, for their exceptional care of Kathleen during her illness, as well as their kindness. In lieu of flowers, the family requests you make a donation to the American Cancer Society (or a cancer foundation of your choice). Faulkner Funeral Homes, Foster-Faulkner Chapel, Mathews, Virginia, is assisting the family.

MICHAEL DAVID HARRISON



Michael David Harrison of Gloucester County, died unexpectedly on Thursday, May 5, 2022. He was 60 years old. Michael was a U.S. Coast Guard veteran. Father, Bobby Harrison, and brother, Gregory Harrison, preceded him in death. Survived by his wife, Polly Harrison; children, Brittany Harrison (Jennifer Grubb), and Aaron Harrison; mother, Frances Whited Harrison, and siblings, Scott Harrison and Wendy Harrison. The family will receive friends Thursday, May 12, 2022, from 4-5 p.m. at Crossroads Community Church, 1420 Lakeside Drive, Yorktown, Va. 23692, with a service beginning at 5 o’clock, conducted by the Rev. Aaron West. Interment will be held at a later date in Arlington National Cemetery. In memory of our loved one, contributions can be made to Crossroads Community Church, Attn: Nicaragua Mission Trip, 1420 Lakeside Drive, Yorktown, Va. 23692. Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home.

CLIFTON M. HUDGINS



Clifton M. Hudgins of Alexandria, Va., passed away on May 9, 2022. He was predeceased by his parents, John C. and Virginia M. Hudgins; a brother, Darden Hudgins, and a very special niece, Bonnie Sandahl. He was born Sept 13, 1932 in Baltimore, Md. but was raised in Mathews, Va. He served for six years in the U.S. Air Force, completing basic training in Sampson, N.Y. and serving in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Japan, the Philippines, the UK and then received an Honorable Discharge from service. He leaves behind many loving friends; two nieces, Amy Morgan (John Cottee) and Kristi Hunt (Jesse), along with several great-nieces and -nephews. A celebration of life will be held at a later date at Christ Episcopal Church in Mathews. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to local Alcoholics Anonymous in his name or to the Gwynn’s Island Museum.

AMBER MARIE JONES



Amber Marie Jones, 32, of Hartfield, passed away at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical in Richmond on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021, due to injuries caused by a distracted driver on Twigg’s Ferry Road in Hartfield on Sept. 28, 2021. Amber was one of four children born to Angela U. Morton and Freddy A. Jones Jr. of Middlesex County. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, James and Etta Morton; great-grandparents, and several uncles, aunts and cousins. She is survived by her four wonderful children, Zoey Balsley, Bladen Moore, Payten and Hayden Daniel; her siblings, Melinda S. Darnell, Joshua S. and Cody R. Jones; her uncle, Shawn A. Morton; her aunt, Donna Dunlevy, and many more. Amber was born on April 18, 1989 and raised in Middlesex County. She also attended and graduated from Middlesex High School in 2007. Amber loved life. She enjoyed fishing, music, drawing, working, riding horses and spending time with her family. Most of all, she loved her four children more than life. Amber was an organ donor and was able to save six-plus people’s lives—including a child. Amber was always a very loving soul and would help anyone in need. She is loved and missed by her children, family and anyone who knew her. “God has you in his arms now, my precious daughter,” her mother wrote. “Until we’re reunited in Heaven, I will always love and miss you with all my heart and soul.” If you would like to help this family in any way, please visit or contact C&F Bank at Cooks Corner in Saluda. There’s an Amber’s Fund account to help give Amber a final resting place for her four children to able to visit their mother. The family thanks you in advance.

MABLE HOGGE SAULMAN



Mable Hogge Saulman, age 90, of Hayes, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, May 7, 2022. Mable was born on Feb. 14, 1932 in Hayes, and was one of 10 children. Mable had a long career as a meat wrapper, where she made many friends who became like a second family to her. In her younger years, Mable loved being on the water with her father, fishing, and later would share that love with her own children. After retirement, she spent her weekdays doing for others, but her Saturdays were reserved for her favorite pastime, going to yard sales. Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing Mable knows that she was a woman of strong faith who loved spending time reading her Bible and expanding her knowledge of God’s word. Her kind heart and generous spirit will be sorely missed by anyone’s life she touched. She was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Harry Saulman; her daughter, Terry Williams; son-in-law, David Williams; parents, Steven and Leona Hogge; siblings, Ruby, Steve, Blanche, Katherine, Wilson, Margie, Lorraine, and Norris. She is survived by her loving sons, Harry II and his wife Cindy; Dale and his wife Penny, and her grandchildren, Kelly (Chris), Katie (Robert), Lauren (Nicholas), Taylor, and Cole. Six great-grandchildren, her brother, Winfred, and her lifelong friend, Evelyn Crump also survive her. Visitation will be from noon-1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 13, 2022, at Hogg Funeral Home, 3098 George Washington Memorial Highway, Hayes, Va. 23072. Followed by a graveside service, conducted by Pastor Richard Whiteheart at Bellamy United Methodist Church Cemetery, 4870 Chestnut Fork Road, Gloucester, Va. 23061, to begin at 2 o’clock. Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home.

LINDA JOHNSON SOLOFF



Linda Johnson Soloff, age 64, of Hayes, died Wednesday, April 27, 2022, in Leesburg, Virginia, resulting from an auto accident. A native of Wicomico and daughter of the late Roy Stuart Johnson and Charlotte Mae Kaiser Johnson, Linda was an independent distributor for Little Debbie Snack Cakes. She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward Mervin Soloff; brothers, James Stewart Johnson and Roy Stewart Johnson Jr.; survived by her stepchildren, Steven (Sharon) Soloff, Kenneth (Paula) Soloff, Laurie (Eric) Rice, David (Natasha) Soloff, Dean Soloff, Derek McMurray, and Darren (Rosie) McMurray, a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The family received friends Saturday, May 7, 2022, from 10-10:45 a.m. at Hogg Funeral Home, followed by a chapel service at 11 o’clock conducted by Pastor Art Wolz. Interment was private. Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10A)

A Celebration of Life Service for

**Jim Reinke**

will be held on

Sunday, May 15, at 2:00 p.m.

at Apostles Lutheran

7092 Main Street, Gloucester, Va. 23061



OBITUARIES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9A)

HOWARD WESLEY SOREY



Howard Wesley Sorey of Mathews, Va., went to meet his beloved wife, Susan, in heaven on Wednesday, May 4, 2022. Howard was born on Sept. 26, 1948 to Carroll and Hulda Sorey in Norfolk County, Va. He had his first job at the tender age of six when he was his father's right hand in farming, a job that would continue into high school and lead to him being a produce truck driver. After Howard graduated from Great Bridge High School in 1966, he studied engineering at Old Dominion University. He continued delivering produce even after he put his engineering degree to use as a Navy civilian at Norfolk Naval Air Base. Howard worked for NARF from 1966 until his retirement in 1991. He then pursued his passion in woodworking and as a part-time granddaddy-babysitter. He re-entered the professional workforce in 1998 at Simco Electronics and stayed until his final retirement in 2015. Through his career, he traveled the world in order to map the North Star and progression of the Earth for flight navigation. He married his high school sweetheart, Susan, in 1966. They were married for nearly 48 years raising seven children who adored them.

Howard was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Susan; his parents, Carroll and Hulda, and his sister, Carolyn.

Left to cherish his memory are his children, Judy Lassiter (Vince), Robby Sorey (Tracey), Wendy Byrns (Chris), Kim Way (Bill), Shane Sorey (Missy), Jenny Sorey (Walter), Shanna Chandler (Donnie); his grandchildren, Whitney, Andi, Melissa, Abbie, Emily, Taylor, Logan, Matt, Connor, C.W., Justin, Patrick, Indigo, Lora and Lenna, and step-grandchildren, Will and Grayson; six great-grandsons, with three more great-grandchildren on the way; a brother, Kevin Sorey (Lynn), and many nieces and a nephew.

Howard was kind, compassionate and generous with his time and resources. He volunteered at Hands Across Mathews for many years, and fed barbecue to thousands as the head chef/caterer of Tater Neck BBQ. He shared his passion for good food with his family, and the tradition is carried on in his namesake café, Howard Dooley. He opened his home and heart to friends, extended family, and anyone who needed the stability and love that came with being a Sorey. The only thing that rivaled his kindness was his intelligence. There wasn't anything he didn't know or anything he couldn't fix.

The family received friends from 3-5 p.m. on Monday, May 9 at Faulkner Funeral Homes, Foster-Faulkner Chapel, Mathews. A celebration of Howard's life was held at 5 o'clock on Monday immediately following visitation. Honorary pallbearers were C.W. Sorey, Patrick Sorey, Matt Lankford, Connor Lankford, Logan Byrns and Justin Sorey. Donations may be made in his honor to Hands Across Mathews, P.O. Box 1303, Mathews, Va. 23109, the Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad, 94 Cricket Hill Road, Hudgins, Va. 23076 or to the Mathews Volunteer Fire Dept., P.O. Box 1130, Mathews, Va. 23109, or choose an act of kindness.

LANA JEAN 'SHOT' TABB



Lana Jean "Shot" Tabb of Ware Neck, passed away on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, in Gloucester, Virginia, leaving a rich legacy of generosity, compassion, courage, love and humor. Lana was born in Aurora, Illinois, and attended MTSU (Middle Tennessee State University) earning a degree in Sociology and Economics and serving as a class officer each year. Her career was focused on serving the community through her work on Mayor Richard J. Daley's Community Improvement Advisory Committee and with the JFK Foundation starting a pilot program for educational and trainable adults in Chicago, Illinois. She also started medical social services departments in Florida hospitals, ran her own contract furnishings company and served as an Independent Judiciary Professional in Virginia. She met and married the love of her life, the late Waller Crockett Tabb, in Lakeland, Florida, and eventually moved to his family home in Virginia. They enjoyed a life full of family, friends and shared hobbies including sail-

ing, skiing, scuba diving and piloting their private plane. During her own battle with breast cancer, Lana wrote a series of articles titled "Battling Cancer with Faith, Hope and Humor" to share her experiences with others facing cancer. She shared her hope, faith, contagious laughter and brilliant storytelling with everyone she met.

Lana is survived by her stepchildren, Waller C. Tabb Jr. (Mary), the Rev. Stewart Tabb (Bill Hall), and John Tabb (Sherri), along with her stepgrandchildren and her siblings, Janis Mason, Janet Plum, Nancy McNeill (John) and Monty Williams (June).

A memorial service will be held on Monday, May 16, 2022, at 11 a.m. in Ware Episcopal Church by the Rev. Scott Parnell. Memorial donations may be made to Ware Episcopal Church, 7825 John Clayton Memorial Highway, Gloucester, Va. 23061, Middle Tennessee State University Foundation, c/o Director of Development, Box 109, Wood Stegall Center, 1301 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37132 (to fund the Lana Plum Tabb Scholarship), United Breast Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 2421, Huntington, N.Y. 11743.

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

MARY ALICE REVERE WOERNER



Mary Alice Revere Woerner, 85, formerly of Gloucester County, parted this life from her home in Virginia Beach, and into a new life on Thursday, May 5, 2022. Born and raised in Hampton with her parents, Paul Revere and Janie Jones Revere, all her young years, she was a graduate of Newport News High School in 1954, graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from Westhampton College of the University of Richmond in 1958 and was elected to the Mathematics Honor Society, Pi Mu Epsilon. She began her career in a computing unit and was a "Hidden Figure" with NACA which was the forerunner of NASA, retiring with 37 years of service. She worked on the development of computer data processing systems for many scientific space launch satellites and instruments. For her work on the Data Processing System for the Nation's first Global Climate Experiment in Space, she received three Group Achievement Awards from NASA. Ultimately, she became the supervisor of her computing unit. She had a strong commitment for volunteer service. She served as President of her Alumni Association and as co-chair of Home-

coming where the University of Richmond defeated her husband's Virginia Tech Hokies. She was active in St. Therese Roman Catholic Church serving on as many as six committees at one time, including Parish Council President. She and her husband did bar-b-ques for the Cancer Relay for Life, raising over \$40,000 for the American Cancer Society. They transitioned to the Bread for Life Food Pantry in Gloucester, raising over \$60,000 for the charity. She was a member of the Ware River Circle of The King's Daughters and Sons, earning the Unsung Hero Award and the Founders Award, which is the highest award. She chaired the social committee for Ware River Yacht Club for many years and was awarded Booster of the Year twice and received the Jimmy Morgan Award for community volunteer work, as well as food chairs for 22 years for the Virginia Governor's Cup Yacht Races. She is survived by her husband and soul mate, Charles V. Woerner. They loved to travel and visited every country in Europe a number of times, including Australia, New Zealand, China, Canada, Central America, and two countries in Africa. They also took many cruises around the world earning Status III on Holland America Line. They also enjoyed playing competitive bridge. She is survived by three stepchildren whom she called her own: daughter, Pamela Ashworth (Curtis) of Virginia Beach and grandson, J.C. Ashworth; son, David Woerner (Bobbie) of Grifton, N.C., and granddaughters, Danielle and Marissa Woerner; son, Glenn Woerner of Newport News, Va., and sister-in-law, Joan Riggan of Exmore, Va. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Church of St. Therese, 6262 Main Street, Gloucester, Thursday, May 12, 2022, at 11 a.m. The family will receive friends prior to the Mass from 10-11 a.m. A reception to celebrate her life will be held in the church social hall immediately following. Private inurnment will be held in Virginia Beach. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ware River Circle of The King's Daughters and Sons, c/o the treasurer, Debra Goodier, 7220 Wellford Lane, Gloucester, Va. 23061.

Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home.

Revolutionary War living history event this weekend

Cannon fire will be heard throughout Gloucester Main Street on Saturday and Sunday for the yearly living history event "Gloucester 1776: A Revolutionary Experience."

The free educational program is hosted by the Gloucester Museum of History in partnership with the Gloucester Historical Society, Friends of the Museum, 7th Virginia Regiment, and Gloucester Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

The event will start at 10 a.m. both on days—rain or shine—ending at 4 p.m. on Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday. The event will feature cannon and musket firings along with revolutionary infantry drilling behind the museum. People can also get a glimpse of what life was like for civilians and soldier alike during the Revolutionary War.

Gloucester's Museum's Co-ordinator Robert Kelly said he's glad to see the livening history events stay consistent. The museum has held two living history events a year since Kelly joined the museum, one in the fall and spring.

Event goers are encouraged to engage with reenactors. Gloucester students can take part in a questionnaire that focuses on material included in the fourth and fifth grade history SOL, said Kelly.

The museum will be open both days of the event.

COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY

**OLDIES SHOW:** Donk's Theater, Virginia's Li'l Ole Opry, will have an Oldies Show at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Harry M. Ward Auditorium at Mathews High School. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

SUNDAY

**BAY CONCERTS:** Clan MacCool, specializing in Irish/Scottish traditional music, will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Harry M. Ward Auditorium at Mathews High School as part of the Concerts by the Bay 2022 concert season. Tickets are \$25 at the door for adults. Students and children are free.

MONDAY

**NAACP:** The Mathews Branch of the NAACP will meet at 6 p.m. Monday at Central United Methodist Church, Mathews. Training in REVIVE, the Opioid Overdose and Nalozone Education program for the Commonwealth of Virginia, will be presented at 6:30 by the Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Board.

TUESDAY

**PANTRY:** The Loaves & Britches food/diaper pantry at Bellamy United Methodist Church, 4870 Chestnut Fork Road, Gloucester, will be open from 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesday. For more information, call the church office at 804-694-5142.

**SCHOOL BOARD:** The Mathews County School Board will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Mathews High School media center.

**SUPERVISORS:** The Gloucester Board of Supervisors will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the colonial courthouse.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** The Mathews County Planning Commission and the Mathews County Board of Supervisors will hold a joint public hearing at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the historic courthouse on Court Street. The planning commission's regular meeting will follow.

WEDNESDAY

**DAR:** The Cricket Hill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 18, at Olivia's in the Village, Main Street, Gloucester. The meeting will include the installation of officers and the welcoming of new members. Reservations are required. Email Colanne Bunting at lanie23035@gmail.com or call 804-694-7533 by May 12.

**SOCIAL SERVICES:** The Mathews Social Services Board will meet at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18, in the Social Services office lobby on Church Street.

NEXT THURSDAY

**SOCIAL SERVICES:** The Gloucester Social Services Board will meet at 7:30 a.m. next Thursday, May 19, in the Social Services conference room.

**MCRC:** The monthly Zoom meeting of the Mathews County Resources Council will be held at 9:15 a.m. next Thursday, May 19, with login beginning at 9:05. Maria Sadler, president of TRIAD, will present information on that program. For more information, call 804-210-9169.

Walter Reed Birthplace open for tours Saturday

The Walter Reed Birthplace in Belroi will be open for public tours Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Reed's father was a Methodist Church circuit rider and was assigned to the King and Queen, Gloucester, and Mathews circuit in 1851-1852. When they arrived in Gloucester, the family of six was expecting a new arrival soon. Walter Reed was born on Sept. 13, 1851 while his family was temporarily housed at the cottage at Belroi until a new parsonage was finished nearby.

The family valued education, and all of the Reed boys were educated at the University of Virginia, where at the age of 17 Walter was and remains the youngest medical degree graduate in the school's history. He went on to a career as a doctor with the U.S. Army and served on a commission that determined mosquitoes transmitted the yellow fever virus.

On Saturday, members of the Walter Reed Garden Club will serve as volunteers giving tours for The Fairfield Foundation.



A view of the interior of the Walter Reed Birthplace. The historic site will be open to visitors from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Yum Yum Cookbook Club to meet May 31

Gloucester Library's next Yum Yum Cookbook Club meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 31, at Main Street Center. Library Chef Chris Thomas will demonstrate English recipes in honor of the Queen's Jubilee.

Registration opens May 18 for this free program for ages 18 and older. Space is limited. Call 804-693-2998 for more information.



IN MEMORIAM



In memory of STILLMAN C. KELLUM JR.

5/17/1943~5/14/2009

There is always a face before us. A voice we would love to hear. A smile we will always remember of our brother we loved so dear. Deep in our hearts lies a picture more precious than silver or gold. It's a picture of our brother whose memory will never grow old. Brothers and Sisters Aunts Peggy & Cathleen



In loving memory of John (Johnny) K. Green Nov. 8, 1985~May 9, 2018 It has been four years. We have counted every day and missed you and loved you every day. Those we love don't go away. They love within our hearts every day. Love forever, Pops, Nanee, Mama & Sissy





Young poets

Four students at Bethel Elementary School entered original poems in the Virginia Symphony Orchestra’s “Celebration of Water” poetry competition. Although the poems were not selected as winners, they will be included in the program book for the concert. The students received two complimentary tickets each for the June 4 concert, which will be held at Chrysler Hall in Norfolk. The performance is part of the Virginia Arts Festival. Pictured, from left, are student poets Keane Barnett, Kaelyn Carter, Olivia Whitley and Killian McDaniels with their certificates of excellence for outstanding performance in poetry from Bethel.

Mathews NAACP establishes Beatrice Bobo Scholarship

The Mathews Branch NAACP announced this week the creation of a scholarship in memory of a long-time Mathews County Public Schools teacher and former Mathews NAACP president. Donations to set up the Beatrice Bobo Scholarship were made by the Thomas Hunter Class of 1964. The \$1,000 award will be given to a Mathews resident who identifies as African American or a person of color. Eligible candidates are students accepted or enrolled in an accredited college or university, includ-

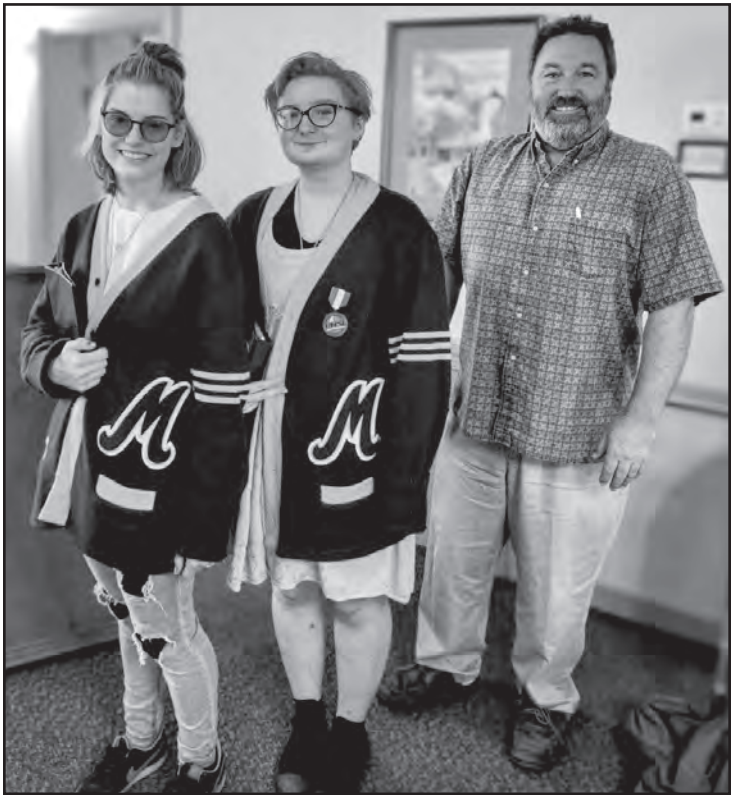
ing community colleges, or in an apprenticeship with a recognized labor union. Eligible applicants can be graduating high school seniors, students currently enrolled in college or apprenticeship, or older adults returning to school who have been accepted into college or apprenticeship. The deadline to submit applications is June 30, 2022. The recipient of the scholarship will be announced in the fall of 2022. The funds will be awarded for the 2023 spring semester. To receive an ap-

plication or for more information, contact mathewснаааср-scholarship@gmail.com.



Winning designs

Olivia Harrison, sixth grade student at Gloucester Montessori School, placed first in Bracket C (fourth-eighth grades) for the sticker design contest at Machicomoco State Park in Hayes. Her design is pictured at left. Five students at Abingdon Elementary School also placed in the state park’s contest. In Bracket A for kindergartners-third graders, Nora Verrett placed first, Helena Hutter placed second and Elijah Cason placed third. In Bracket C, Conner Stewart placed second and Arizona Phelps placed third. Pictured below with their awards are, from left, Hutter, Cason, Verrett, Phelps and Park Ranger Courtney Kirberger.



MHS forensics

Fresh off the team’s standout performance at the VHSL state tournament, two members of the Mathews High School forensics team (Sandra Baer, at left, and Grace Lewis, along with faculty advisor Steve Casper) addressed the May 9 meeting of the Mathews County Woman’s Club. Baer placed first the state in the Prose category, while Lewis came in second in Poetry. Forensics is a supported scholastic sport. At the competition, each student is given 10 minutes to speak on his or her topic which can range from poetry and original oratory to impromptu where they are given only seven minutes to prepare. Other topics, such as published literature and Interpretation, where the meaning is brought to life, can take up to several months to study and prepare. The MCWC gave the team a \$100 donation to further their dedication to the written language.

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VDOT

Virginia Department of Transportation

Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
NORTON	22454	58	EBL/ROUTE 58A	BEAR CREEK	4/28/2022
NORTON	22455	58	WBL/ROUTE 0058	BEAR CREEK	4/28/2022
ALLEGHANY	1199	710	STONEWALL LANE	DUNLAP CREEK	4/27/2022
BUCHANAN	4003	1020	GREAT OAKS RD	LEVISA FORK	4/26/2022
SCOTT	16808	670	HALES SPRING RD	VALLEY CREEK	4/26/2022
SCOTT	16698	623	SPEERS VALLEY RD	N FORK CLINCH RIVER	4/20/2022
HALIFAX	9317	716	DRYBURG RD	DIFFICULT CREEK	4/16/2022
SMYTH	17552	633	BEAVER CREEK RD	BEAVER CREEK	4/12/2022
BLAND	3045	602	SPUR BRANCH RD	SPUR BRANCH #1	4/8/2022
FRANKLIN	7951	739	GAP GATE RD/ROUTE739	GREEN CREEK	4/7/2022
BLAND	3111	625	CERES SCHOOL RD	N FORK HOLSTON RIVER #1	4/5/2022
RICHMOND	21310	7542	GROVE AVE	ROUTE 195 & CSX RR	4/1/2022

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact [haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov).

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT’s Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation’s Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

Y M C K



# Hearing Tuesday on county-owned Gwynn’s Island property

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

The Mathews County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission will hold a joint public hearing Tuesday to consider a proposal to rezone the county's two-acre property at 897 South Bay Haven Drive on Gwynn's Island from Waterfront Residential to Waterfront Business in order to provide water access to the public.

Mathews acquired the property through a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant, so it can only be used as open space, for wetlands management practices, or for recreation.

The hearing will be held at 7 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

Two island residents, speaking during the public comment period at the supervisors' April 26 regular meeting, objected to public use of the property.

Phyllis McArron of Millstone Lane said that the issue had come up several months ago and the board voted not to pursue rezoning, and she questioned why the issue had come up again.

John Hall of South Bay Haven Drive said his home is adjacent to the property and that people sometimes drive on the county property at night or park there during the day and ignore his posted signs to walk on his property and his pier. "I have to confront them," he said.

Hall also said the road is

single lane and that the property itself is not large enough for vehicular traffic. People should only be allowed to walk or bike there, he said.

During discussion, supervisor Mike Walls said that, while South Bay Haven Drive isn't wide enough for a boat trailer, "it's plenty wide for cars."

"It's a property with deeded access that's been deeded to Mathews County," he said. "We absolutely need all the public access we can have."

Walls suggested removal of the concrete slab that was left after demolition of the home that was previously there and installation of signage limiting access to daylight hours only. He said he would be in favor of eventually replacing the old pier that was torn down, as well, but not allowing nighttime fishing.

Supervisor Dave Jones said it is public access property that the county can't sell but would only be able to give to a conservancy of some sort and that the only issues with it are overnight parking and people accessing the neighbor's property.

"Taking some measures could fix some of the problems," he said, suggesting possibly erecting a fence and a bike rack and installing trash cans "so people understand when they're down there that they must abide by the rules."

Supervisor Melissa Mason said that MCVIC is always looking at ways to build up tourism, and that water access is "what people like to do."

"You want to have that pleasure as part of the life of Mathews County," she said. "But we should do it while protecting the interest of the neighbors. You want to protect both worlds."

She emphasized that they are not reconsidering the Mathews Maritime Foundation's previous proposal to develop the parcel as a maritime park, and she said that fencing and signage "will make people stop and think."

Supervisor Jackie Ingram

said that rezoning to B-1 could affect residential property values in the neighborhood, but Jones said he wants residents to understand that "right now we have no control over anything. This could solve a lot of problems for them."

Interim Planning and Zoning Director James Knighton said rezoning the property to B-1 would make it consistent with other county waterfront properties and would give the sheriff the authority to enforce any regulations.

## CUP application

A third public hearing will be held on a request by Rhetson Companies Inc. for a conditional use permit to build a 7,500-square-foot commercial building on property adjacent to the FasMart at the corner of Buckley Hall and Twigg Ferry roads in the Cobbs Creek/Dutton area.

The developer proposes to build a smaller Dollar General store than proposed with the first two applications for the property, and to install a pre-treatment septic system on site, as proposed in its second application, rather than connecting to HRSD.

## Noise issues

Also during the April 26 meeting, Mathews residents complained about problems with noise in their neighborhoods, prompting board members to discuss the possibility of developing a noise ordinance for the county.

"I'm not in favor of ordinances, but sometimes they can't be helped," said Jones. "We need to come up with a solution."

Four Cherry Point residents complained about a neighbor who they said has been consistently blasting loud music and disturbing their sleep. Billi "Jo" Campbell of Fitchett Road said the music is "24/7. ... "If there's a window of time when we could expect no music, that would be wonderful," she said. Anthony Davis of Triangle Road said he would like to see an ordinance prohibiting such noise between midnight and 8 a.m.

Also asking for help were Tom Reed of Old Cherry Point Road and Dan Hill of Triangle Road.

In addition, Hicks Road resident William Terry said he's been having a problem with live bands playing music in his neighborhood. The problem was initially just on the weekends, he said, but now it's occurring during the week, as well. "It's so loud, we can't have our windows open," he said. "We've approached them about it, but they just laughed it off ... There's no reasoning with them. We've tried."

Walls said the county attorney should look into filing a court action to get relief for the Cherry Point residents, while Jones said he had driven down to Cherry Point and that the neighbor had a speaker in the garage that was "blaring as hard as he could go." "I've been playing music all my life—been in a lot of bands," he said. "But there's a time and a place for everything."

Sheriff Mark Barrick told board members that Cherry Point residents have a right to be upset. He said he had been dealing with noise issues his entire career, including when he worked for the City of Newport News. The city had a noise ordinance, he said, "and we enforced it," but it was found to be unconstitutional because loud noise is "a matter of perception." The city then came up with the idea of measuring decibels, he said, but the measurement is different depending on how far away the meter is from the source.

Without a noise ordinance, the sheriff's office "spends an exorbitant amount of time playing referee and leaving with an unsatisfactory solution," Barrick said, adding that he also gets complaints about gun shots, which are "a way of life here." He said he handles those complaints by looking for gun violations, such as reckless handling or alcohol use.

Chairman Paul Hudgins told Barrick that the board will include him in its final decision.

In other actions, the board:

—Unanimously voted to exempt licensed auto dealers, repair facilities, salvage dealers, scrap processors and agricultural storage trailers and

semitrailers from a county ordinance that restricts the number of unlicensed vehicles that can be parked on a property;

—Voted to schedule two public hearings for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24, during the monthly meeting. One will be on raising the real estate tax rate by a half-cent, from 0.645 cents per \$100 of assessed value to 0.65 cents per \$100 of assessed value, with a sunset of Dec. 31, 2022. County Treasurer Wendy Stewart requested that the board either increase or decrease the tax by a half-cent for accounting purposes. The second hearing will be held to consider reducing the number of members on the Mathews County Planning Commission from

seven to five;

—Voted to schedule a public hearing at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28 on issuing civil rather than criminal penalties for zoning violations;

—Unanimously voted to adopt the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission's recently updated All Hazard Mitigation Plan;

—Unanimously made the following appointments: Mark Harvell to the position of alternate on the Board of Building Appeals, Tom Robinson to the Board of Zoning Appeals, Dana Brown (reappointment) and Michael Miskowsky to the Mathews Memorial Library Board of Trustees, Paul Logan to the Rappahannock Community College Board, and Steven Taylor-Ovide (reap-

pointment) to the Economic Development Authority;

—Voted unanimously to appoint an attorney to represent the Board of Zoning Appeals at an amount not to exceed \$5,000 annually because sometimes the county is in legal conflict with the board, and it would be a conflict of interest for the county attorney to represent both;

—Recognized two Mathews Sheriff's Office deputies for length of service—Gene Goin for 20 years and Brian Hill for 15 years, and

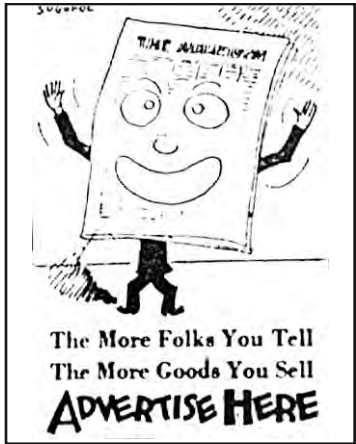
—Recognized Mathews Animal Control team Kimberly Browning-Logan and Misty Schwartz in honor of National Animal Care and Control Week, which was April 10-16.



PHOTO BY EDITH TURNER

## Mathews Continentals

The Mathews chapter of the Continental Society, Inc., recently installed its officers for the year. Leading the organization in 2022 are, front row from left, first vice president Lorraine Forrest, treasurer Denise Cooke, financial secretary Melissa Mason, president Virginia Kelley, second vice president Gaylen Davis, chaplain Julia Forrest; back row, Lottie Coleman, historian Wilnet Willis, parliamentarian Yvette Gaither, Margie Brooks and secretary Linda Johnson. The Continental Societies, Inc., is a not-for-profit international public service organization dedicated to fostering, promoting and developing the welfare of underserved children and youth.



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# Free Hearing Tests

## For the Greater Gloucester, Mathews, and Kilmarnock Areas

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Free electronic hearing tests will be given in our Gloucester and Kilmarnock office locations between May 13<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Tests have been arranged for anyone who suspects they are losing their hearing. Such persons generally say they can hear, but cannot understand words. Testing with the latest computerized equipment will indicate if you can be helped.

Everyone, especially adults over 55, should have an electronic hearing test at least once a year. If there is a hearing problem, hearing tests may reveal that newly developed methods or correction will help, even for those who have been told in the past that a hearing aid would not help them.

If you suspect you have hearing loss, call for a free hearing test appointment. Our licensed specialists are trained in the latest auditory testing methods and will be the first ones to tell you if you don't need a hearing aid. If you do have a hearing loss, we will explain your results and provide you with a list of options.

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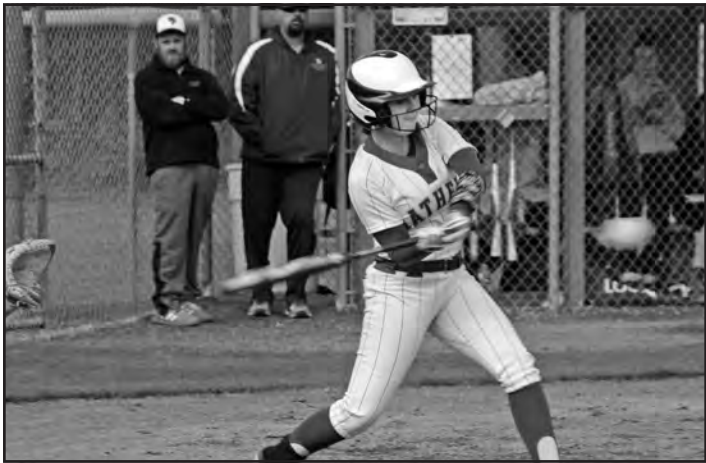




CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Senior Night

Before the start of Tuesday's Mathews High School softball and baseball games, the two teams took the opportunity to honor its graduating seniors. Four members of the MHS softball team—Emmillie Smith, Olivia Coons, Joice Small and Emily West—and three members of the MHS baseball team—Richie Hogge, Daniel Moughon and Brady Wright—were recognized. Both teams posted shutout wins over the visiting West Point Pointers.



CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

MHS senior Olivia Coons takes a cut at the ball during Tuesday's 10-0 victory over West Point.

West, Crittenden combine for shutout win

Two Mathews pitchers combined for a shutout victory Tuesday as the Blue Devil varsity softball team defeated the visiting West Point Pointers, 10-0.

Tuesday's game began by recognizing the seniors on the MHS squad—Emmillie Smith, Olivia Coons, Joice Small and Emily West. West started on the mound for Mathews, giving up only three hits while striking out five in four innings. Morgan Crittenden came on in relief to earn the save.

Mathews batters, meanwhile, racked up 12 hits, led by Chelsea Armistead's 3-for-3 performance at the plate, including two doubles. Christina Wood had two doubles and Small had a single and double. Aly Jackson picked up a double and Crittenden, Reese Brock, West and Coons also added hits. Defensively, the Devils played error-free ball.

The Devils travel to Middlesex on Friday for a JV/varsity doubleheader, beginning at 4 p.m. with the JV contest.



CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

MHS senior Brady Wright went 2-for-4 at the plate on Tuesday as Mathews posted a 16-0 victory over West Point.

Mathews posts 16-0 win over Pointers

BY THOMAS HUBBARD

The Mathews High School varsity baseball team picked up a 16-0 district win Tuesday night against the visiting West Point Pointers. Three Blue Devil pitchers combined for the win.

Junior Dawson Adams started out on the mound, throwing three shutout innings. Fellow MHS juniors Aidan West and Thomas Hubbard followed Adams, pitching one inning each in the five-inning affair.

Four Devils ended the night with multiple hits. Adams, seniors Daniel Moughon and Brady Wright and junior Will

Jackson each went 2-for-4 at the plate. For Adams, Wright and Jackson, one of those hits was a double. Moughon reached base all four times, also drawing two walks.

Sophomore Noah Wright (1-for-4) and junior Ethan Hudgins (1-for-3) also contributed to the Devils' offensive output.

Tuesday's game began with a Senior Night ceremony, honoring Richie Hogge, Daniel Moughon and Brady Wright.

Mathews travels to Middlesex for a JV/varsity doubleheader on Friday against the Chargers, beginning with the JV contest at 4 p.m.

Lady Dukes beat Menchville, Warwick

The Gloucester High School varsity softball team racked up two wins this past week against Menchville and Warwick.

The Lady Dukes beat the Menchville Monarchs, 1-0, last Thursday away. Jayanna Richards pitched a one-hit shutout, striking out six batters. She also supplied the offense when she sent a line drive over the left centerfield fence for the game's only run.

Menchville had runners on second and third bases with only one out during the second inning. Richards produced the second out at home plate and struck out the next hitter to end the inning.

Warwick

Gloucester beat Warwick on the road Monday, 13-3. Though they won, the Lady Dukes did not get off to a good start. At the end of the first inning, Gloucester was losing, 2-0.

The Lady Dukes came back in the third inning, taking an 8-2 lead. Samantha Carlton led off with a walk and scored on Sadie Bowden's triple; Bowden scored on Hailey Hardaway's hit. Kimber Rainey raised her team's score with a two-RBI single. Neveah Najar drove in a run with bases loaded. Bowden drove in the final run of the inning with a fly ball.

An RBI from Richardson and Rainey raised Gloucester's score to 12. Carlton earned the last run for Gloucester in the sixth inning.

Richards struck out six batters and gave up four hits. Makayla Hernandez and Richards each had two hits. Bowden and Rainey each drove in three runs.

Gloucester will host Warwick this afternoon at 4:30 p.m. The Lady Dukes will travel to Phoebus on Tuesday and host the team next Thursday for senior night. Gloucester will also host Bethel on May 20.

MHS beats Lancaster in soccer, 2-1

The Mathews High School varsity soccer team picked up a 2-1 win on the road Tuesday against the Lancaster Red Devils. The win avenges a loss earlier this season, when Lancaster edged the Blue Devils, 3-2, on March 16.

MHS currently holds a 3-7-2 record overall. The regional tournament begins later this month.

CCS to hold basketball coaching clinic

Christchurch School in Middlesex County will hold a basketball coaching clinic on Saturday, June 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for all high school, AAU and middle school basketball coaches.

Guest speakers include Bellarmine University men's coach Scott Davenport, CNU women's coach Bill Broderick (on developing half-court offense), Lynchburg College men's coach Hillary Scott (on

zone offense), Pfeiffer University coach Pete Schoch, Hampden-Sydney assistant coach Brian Gibson, Blue Ridge coach Cade Lemcke (on program building), retired state champion coach Steve Swope (on game planning), George Washington University strength and conditioning coach Eric Guthrie, VCU women's assistant coach Kirk Crawford, and University of Charleston head coach

Dwayne Osbourne.

The cost is \$50 (prepay), \$60 (at the door) or \$120 (staff rate prepay). Preregister by May 22 at this link: [www.christchurchschool.org/basketball-coaches-clinic](http://www.christchurchschool.org/basketball-coaches-clinic).

For more information, contact coach Carl Kelly Jr. at [ckelly@christchurchschool.org](mailto:ckelly@christchurchschool.org) or 804-384-2659.



TYLER BASS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Dukes' K.J. Wolford found space to face off against the Warwick goalkeeper during the JV boys' win.



TYLER BASS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Eva Updike runs past defenders during the Gloucester JV girls' dominant victory over Warwick.

Dukes face off against Warwick

BY TYLER BASS

The Gloucester Dukes soccer teams faced off against Warwick High School Tuesday night. The varsity teams took to the road as the JV teams held down the fort against the Raiders.

**Varsity**

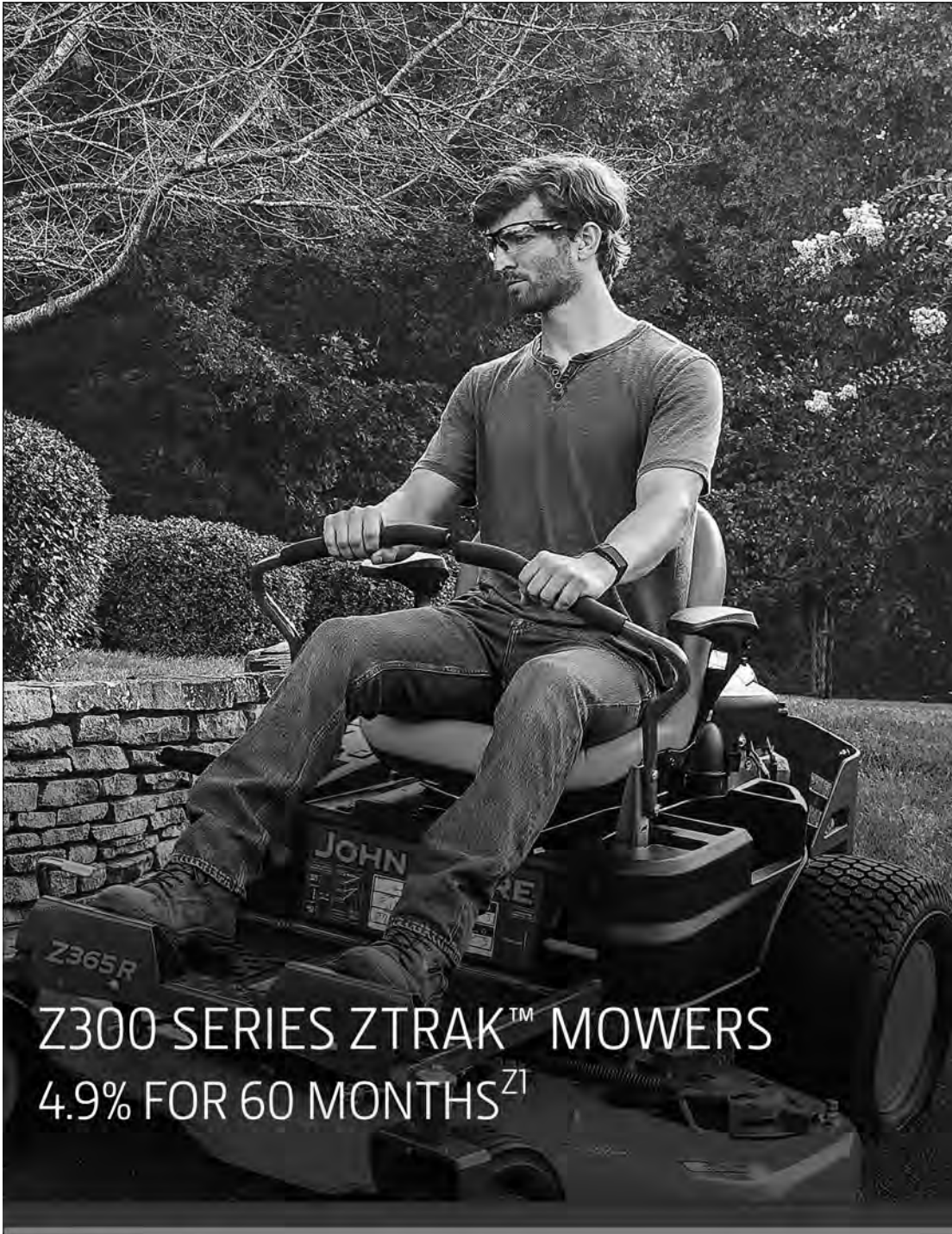
The girls' varsity team shut down the Raiders in its 7-0 win. Hanna Heaton scored an impressive six times during the game while Mia Hamill put up the Dukes' other point.

Cori Morgan recorded three assists in the game while Mara Collier, Caroline Merchant and goalkeeper Bailey Wilson recorded one each. Wilson also recorded three saves.

The boys' varsity team had less luck against Warwick, losing 5-1.

**JV**

The JV boys' team shut the Raiders down, winning 6-0. The girls also put on a dominant performance, beating Warwick 8-0.



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WEATHER

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

DATE	MAX	MIN	Prec.	Wind
05/03	65	55	0	13sse
05/04	79	56	0.70	14n
05/05	67	55	0	18nne
05/06	71	54	0.80	15s
05/07	64	50	0.12	29n
05/08	53	48	0.23	36nne
05/09	62	49	0	27nnw

Summary

The National Weather Service Wakefield forecasts another wet weekend with rain expected to start Thursday and continue through Sunday. Saturday night there will be a chance of thunderstorms. Temperatures will be in the 70s for Friday and Saturday and will hit the mid 80s on Sunday.



Pickleball clinic

Five Gloucester and Mathews residents attended a pickleball clinic on May 3 in Midlothian. Professional players Collin Johns, Callie Smith, Patrick Smith and Megan Charity demonstrated and taught techniques, strokes and strategies. The pros spent time on the eight pickleball courts at Career and Technical Center with 32 students from all around the state. Taking part were, from left, Andy Smith (Gloucester), Lanell Jarvis (Foster), pickleball pro Callie Smith (Orem, Utah), Julie Childress (Gloucester), Jill Smith (Gloucester), Linda Tjossem (Hayes), and pro Patrick Smith (Wichita, Kansas).

Knights end season against Suffolk

The Gloucester Youth Football and Cheer League ended its spring season over the weekend with games against the Suffolk Steelers.

The Gloucester Red Knight Mighty Mites earned its second victory of the season against the Steelers, 26-6. For the first time this season, each player had at least one tackle. Jamari Wilson and Cam Pluim each earned eight tackles; followed by Xavier Broughman and Alijah Pluim with seven tackles apiece; Tyrell Daisy, Durrall Daisy, Declan Schneider and Caleb Beyer with six tackles each; Brayden Mikkelsen and Lamar Frazier with four tackles each; Teagan Eanes, Tommy Lemon, Evan Davenport and JoJo Over-

street with three tackles each; and Emanuel Carter, Devin Berry and Todd Hill with two tackles apiece.

Wilson had one fumble recovery for a touchdown. Tyrell had one pass for a touchdown and one pass on an extra point. He also had five carries for 65 yards and two touchdowns. Durrall had two catches for 33 yards, six carries for 86 yards, one touchdown and one extra point. Broughman had five carries for 20 yards and one extra point.

Elizabeth Daisy and Arionna Burchett of the Knights Side-line Cheer were named best spirited for the game. Sally Ford and Savannah Ricicot had the best technique.

LOCAL TIDES

	Mobjack Bay, East River Entrance	HIGH	LOW
Thursday	5/12	6:23 a.m.	12:21 a.m.
Friday	5/13	6:52 p.m.	12:34 p.m.
Saturday	5/14	7:14 a.m.	1:15 a.m.
Sunday	5/15	7:40 p.m.	1:21 p.m.
Monday	5/16	8:04 a.m.	2:08 a.m.
Tuesday	5/17	8:27 p.m.	2:08 p.m.
Wednesday	5/18	8:54 a.m.	3:00 a.m.
Thursday	5/19	9:16 p.m.	2:56 p.m.
Friday	5/20	9:43 a.m.	3:51 a.m.
Saturday	5/21	10:06 p.m.	3:45 p.m.
Sunday	5/22	10:33 a.m.	4:40 a.m.
Monday	5/23	10:57 p.m.	4:34 p.m.
Tuesday	5/24	11:25 a.m.	5:31 a.m.
Wednesday	5/25	11:52 p.m.	5:25 p.m.

Tide adjustments at other points:

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

THE SUN THIS WEEK

	Sunrise	Sunset
5/12	6:00 a.m.	8:04 p.m.
5/13	5:59 a.m.	8:05 p.m.
5/14	5:58 a.m.	8:06 p.m.
5/15	5:57 a.m.	8:06 p.m.
5/16	5:57 a.m.	8:07 p.m.
5/17	5:56 a.m.	8:08 p.m.
5/18	5:55 a.m.	8:09 p.m.

THE MOON THIS WEEK

	Moonrise	Moonsset
5/12	4:17 p.m.	4:05 a.m.
5/13	5:25 p.m.	4:31 a.m.
5/14	6:36 p.m.	5:00 a.m.
5/15	7:51 p.m.	7:51 a.m.
5/16	9:08 p.m.	6:09 a.m.
5/17	10:23 p.m.	6:55 a.m.
5/18	11:32 p.m.	7:50 a.m.

MAY MOON PHASES

First quarter	5/8
Full moon	5/16
First quarter	5/22
Full moon	5/30

Anglers tag 19,000+ fish in state program

Volunteers tagged more than 19,000 saltwater fish in 2021, announced Susanna Musick, head of the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program.

The program is a cooperative effort between the Marine Advisory Program at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the Virginia Saltwater Tournament at the Virginia Marine Resources Com-

mission.

The program uses state saltwater license funds to train volunteer anglers to tag recreationally important fin-fishes, Musick said. The data collected helps anglers and managers learn more about fish migration, growth and habitat use, she said.

Last year, the total number of fish tagged was 19,160, and

1,473 recaptures—catching an already-tagged fish—were also recorded.

Repeating at Top Tagger was Ed Shepherd of Yorktown, who placed more than 6,000 tags in fishes.

For more information on the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program, visit [www.vims.edu/vgftp](http://www.vims.edu/vgftp).

Rockfish season opens Monday

The striped bass, or rockfish, recreational fishing season opens Monday in the Chesapeake Bay. Rules set by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission for 2022.

The spring season lasts from Monday through June 15. Each hook-and-line fisherman may possess one fish a day, and it must be at least 20 inches and not more than 28 inches long. A fall season in the bay will open Oct. 4 and end Dec. 31. Size limits in the fall are 20-36 inches, with a one-fish limit.

The Virginia Coastal Season also opens Monday, continuing through Dec. 31, with a size range of 28 to 36 inches, and possession limited to one per person.

Citation fish

The Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, operated through VMRC, issued last week a list of citation catches in 2022 to date. A number of local anglers have caught at least one citation fish so far this year. The list of citation winners stretches back to the

coldest days of winter and comes forward to the present and includes the following:

Billy Flippin of Bena, 54" red drum caught and released April 24 at York Spit Light. A red drum citation is issued only for fish released, and they must be at least 46" long to qualify;

Carter Flippin of Gloucester, 47.25" red drum caught and released April 24 at York Spit Light;

Robert F. Flippin of Gloucester, 47" red drum caught and released April 22 at York Spit Light; 5 pound, 7 ounce speckled trout caught Jan. 7 in James River; and 5-13 speckled caught Jan. 6 in the James. A speckled trout must be 5 pounds or more, or at least 24" long, for a citation;

Aaron Flippin of Hayes, 53" red drum caught and released April 22 at York Spit Light;

Corya Marie Morse of Bena, 47.5" red drum caught and released April 24 at York Spit Light;

Jason A. Ward of Hayes, 53" red drum caught and released April 22 at Bluefish Rock;

Jay Brown of Bena, 47" red drum caught and released April 22 at York Spit Light;

Keith Nuttall of Gloucester, 46.5" red drum caught and released April 22 in Chesapeake Bay; 24.5" speckled trout caught and released April 12 in Elizabeth River; 25.5" speck released April 7 in Elizabeth River; 24.5" and 26.25" specks released March 16 in the Corrotoman River; 24.5" speck released Feb. 23 in the Piankatank River;

Jason West of Shacklefords, 5 lb. 10 oz. speckled trout caught Feb. 12 in Mobjack Bay;

Carl Thiel-Goin of Gwynn, 48.5" striped bass caught and release Jan. 6 in Chesapeake Bay; the minimum length for a release citation is 44 inches; and

Mark Flanagan of Susan, 49" striped bass caught and released Jan. 6 in Chesapeake Bay.

Mud Mayhem to be held Saturday

The first of two mud bogs for the 2022 season is scheduled for this Saturday as The Pit at Virginia Motor Speedway hosts the 13th annual Mud Mayhem.

The Pit at VMS is located off Route 17, eight miles north of Saluda. There will be 11 classes of "Mud Maniacs" in action ranging from super stock to unlimited with cash

payouts in all 11 divisions. Competitors are encouraged to visit [www.thepitvms.com](http://www.thepitvms.com) for the rule's packages and payouts.

Gates and registration will open at 9 a.m., with single eliminations beginning at noon. Rules for each class are available at [www.thepitvms.com](http://www.thepitvms.com).



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## Prioritize safety when grilling this spring, summer

As temperatures continue to climb, grilling season is heating up. But before barbecue buffs fire up their grills for the first time this year, it's important that they inspect them first.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, the cause of about 5,700 grill fires on residential properties each year is malfunctioning gas grills.

"Grilling is a timeless warm weather activity many Virginians enjoy and look forward to," said Scott DeNoon, senior farm product and underwriting manager for Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co.

"However, an open flame and the use of gas can create numerous dangers for both the user and their property," he added. "That's why it's important to ensure you're using your grill properly and are following safe practices."

To help homeowners and renters avoid sparking grill-related fires, the Insurance Information Institute recommends they thoroughly inspect their grills before each use.

These inspections should include a check of grill hoses to ensure there are no cracks, holes or brittleness, and that there are no gas leaks. Leaks can be checked by using a soap and water solution that will bubble at points where gas could escape.

Additionally, grills should be cleared of any debris or food buildup that may have accumulated from previous uses. Grills also should be covered once sufficiently cooled to help protect parts from weather, environmental debris and insects.

Barbecues should be operated on level surfaces, at least 10 feet away from structures and landscaping such as trees and shrubs. Vinyl siding and wooden decks are especially vulnerable to catching fire, so use extreme caution when grilling in their general vicinity.

Never move a barbecue once it's lit, and be sure to grill in a well-ventilated area to avoid carbon monoxide exposure.

When grilling with charcoal, use only starter fluids designed for grills. Limit the amount of fluid to avoid flash fires, and never use gasoline to start a grill.

Grill users should protect themselves by wearing a heavy apron and oven mitts that reach over their forearms. Never grill near others, and keep children and pets away from the grilling area.

Lastly, keep a fire extinguisher, hose or bucket of

water nearby. And, should a fire occur that cannot be controlled by a fire extinguisher, call 911 and treat any injuries immediately with a first-aid kit.

Additional food safety tips also are available through Virginia Cooperative Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



## Keeping youth programs going

American Legion Post 75 adjutant Rick Ward and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 75 president Carolyn Vasta (at left) presented a plaque to Gloucester Ruritan Club president Jackie Beyea at the club's April meeting at the Courthouse Restaurant. The plaque was given in appreciation for the Ruritans' active participation in the American Legion Family Youth Programs. Ward recognized that even though the club could not hold any of its fundraising projects the last two years because of Covid restrictions, it never wavered in its sponsorship of Gloucester youth to attend the Boys State, Girls State and Law Cadet programs. Legion members also taking part in the presentation (not pictured) included Auxiliary Secretary and Historian Julie Coates and Dr. David Workman, along with wife Drenna and son David.



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## Sentara Healthcare and Optima Health support GMCC

A \$35,000 grant from Sentara Healthcare and Optima Health through the Sentara Cares program has been awarded to the Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic and will boost several important patient services.

"Great patient care is about so much more than a visit to the Clinic," said clinic executive director Arlene Armentor. "Many factors impact overall health and access to care. We are so grateful to Sentara for helping us meet the physical, emotional and social needs of our patients."

Empowering patients to take charge of their health is a priority of the GMCC, Sentara Healthcare and Optima Health. "We approach every community and every partner with our ears and our hearts open," said Sherry Norquist, Director of Community Engagement and Impact at Sentara Healthcare. "We're not here to provide prescriptive solutions. We're here to support and amplify the work of our partners in every way we can to improve more lives and inspire more hope for the future."

Several programs at the clinic will be boosted by this grant funding from the Sentara Cares program, including colon cancer screening, hypertension management, diabetes management, and mental health screening for all patients.