



# GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS GAZETTE-JOURNAL

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MELANY SLAUGHTER / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

## Sign unveiling

Bethel Baptist Church held an unveiling Saturday for the new historical marker celebrating Gloucester's Bethel Rosenwald School, which served the black community of Sassafras in the days of school segregation. Bethel Rosenwald School alumni Tagie Dedmon Cosby, 103, and 80-year-old Pauline Lemon Paige, from left, reveal the sign with the help of Cosby's grandsons, Raynard Salaam (far left) and Dwane Salaam (in back, holding tapestry). Cosby was the oldest surviving student and Paige the youngest who were present at the unveiling. The tapestry that was used to cover the sign before the unveiling was given to Dr. Dorothy Cooke, daughter of Cosby, when she visited Africa. The marker can be seen at the old school site on Native American Trail.



MELANY SLAUGHTER / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Guests enjoyed the open and airy Mazzocco Home, which overlooks the Ware River, accessible from the home's wraparound porch that leads from the living room.

## Hearing held on proposed Mathews FY25 budget

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

The Mathews County Board of Supervisors held a public

hearing on the county's proposed \$39.77 million budget last Thursday, but no one from the public commented

on the matter and no vote was taken.

County Administrator Ramona Wilson outlined a 2024-2025 fiscal year budget that's \$7.66 million higher than last year, due primarily to grant-funded dredging projects at Hole in the Wall and Davis Creek and other proposed capital expenditures.

There are no proposed tax increases, leaving the real estate tax rate at \$0.56 per \$100 of assessed value, personal property at \$3.70 per \$100 of assessed value, boats at \$1.45

SEE MATHEWS BOARD, PAGE 10A

## Use of rec area subject of controversy

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

The Captain Sinclair Recreational Area in Gloucester has been the subject of controversy recently, with the Gloucester High School Crew Team Booster Club raising an issue with students sharing the space with two organizations that work with veterans.

A conflict resolution session is set for Monday involving the booster club, Knott Alone-Hold Fast, Meridian Health, and an independent moderator.

The issue was brought before the Gloucester Board of Supervisors at the March 6 meeting, a recording of which is available online. Jack Moore, president of the GHS Booster Club, said that

SEE CAPTAIN SINCLAIR, PAGE 10A



MELANY SLAUGHTER / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

A very rainy Sunday did not keep Garden Week guests from visiting the Gardens at Goshen.

## 500 attend Saturday's Garden Week tour; nearly 400 Sunday

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

A warm, overcast day was waiting for the 500 visitors of the 2024 Garden Club of Gloucester and Mathews Historic Garden Week tour Saturday. Nearly 400 braved the rain for the Gardens at Goshen tour Sunday.

According to tour chair Margaret Singleton, both tour days went smoothly. Having more shuttles in service this year helped alleviate wait times to and from the tour properties, including the Mazzocco Home, Paget, and River Promise.

"The Garden Club of Gloucester and Mathews is so grateful to our homeowners who are so generous to share their beautiful homes and gardens with our visitors," said Singleton. "Our homeowners work incredibly hard for a full year, and sometimes longer, getting ready to open for Historic Garden Week.

"As tour chair, I am especially grateful for our club members and community volunteers who give their time and talent to make our tour a success year after year. We had over 200 volunteers contributing to this year's tour. This is the first time in many years we have had a two-day tour, and

our volunteers rose to the occasion," said Singleton.

"We also had incredible support from our local sponsors, including our club members who participated in our new, 'Celebrate with Flowers' program where they honored or remembered

SEE GARDEN WEEK, PAGE 4A



MELANY SLAUGHTER / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Garden Week volunteer Martha Rhodes showcases Paget's plants and art on the home's porch.



Mathews Community Foundation grants committee chair Pat Lipinski holds up a novelty check indicating the \$173,241 in grants awarded in this most recent cycle.

## Mathews Community Foundation awards \$173,000+ in grants

The Mathews Community Foundation has announced that 31 grants totaling \$173,241 will be awarded to local non-profit organizations serving Mathews County.

Made possible by donor funds, Community Impact grants support local non-profits whose programs align with the foundation's four focus areas: cultural vibrancy, economic prosperity, educational success, and health and wellness.

"The Mathews Community Foundation works very hard each year to respond to the many requests that we receive for funding," said Bill Whitley, chair of the MCF's local advisory board. "It is a difficult process because we receive so many requests from organizations doing great work to improve our community. Our goal is to always try

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## FODR speaker to address invasive aquatic species

Clint Morgeson of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources will discuss invasive aquatic species introduction in Virginia and will review past, present and future invasive species management at the next meeting of the Friends of the Dragon Run.

He will also cover some of DWR's history and management of aquatic invasive fish species, especially in eastern Virginia. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday via Zoom. Visit [DragonRun.org](http://DragonRun.org) for the Zoom link.

Morgeson's presentation will cover the impact of invasive species on recreation, the economy, and the area's natural heritage. His presentation also will explain how the risk is being managed and additional steps planned to manage aquatic invasives and introduced species.

A top challenge to preserving and protecting the Dragon Run watershed is identifying and mitigating the risks associated with invasive species already entrenched or establishing themselves in Virginia. FODR has expanded its citizen science initiatives to identify, map and take action to contain the threat presented by invasive species. The list of invasives—both flora and fauna—is long and growing. The list includes tree of heaven, spotted lanternfly, blue catfish, phragmites, emerald ash borer, northern snakeheads, Japanese stilt grass, and many more.

The FODR is also monitoring species that are migrating toward the Middle Peninsula and Dragon Run, such as the highly destruc-

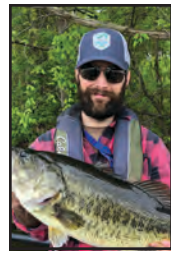
tive nutria.

State agencies and conservation-focused nonprofits such as FODR are clearly concerned and increasing collaborative efforts. "We collectively agree that we are not yet winning against invasives and realize that we are in this struggle for the foreseeable future," a release from the FODR stated.

The impact of invasive species has many dimensions. They disrupt food chains needed by native species. They displace native species. And they put the local economy at risk—particularly agriculture, forestry and recreational activities. Invasive species are a management issue for property owners, communities and for governments at all levels.

A Regional Aquatics Manager for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, Morgeson's responsibilities include developing and directing a comprehensive regional aquatic resources program designed to manage, enhance, protect and utilize the commonwealth's fishery and aquatic resources in a multi-county region in eastern Virginia. Prior to DWR, he worked for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Friends of Dragon Run is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. For more information about Dragon Run and to join its activities, visit [DragonRun.org](http://DragonRun.org).



Clint Morgeson

## Gloucester Museum refreshes Old Country Store display

BY RUBY WILLIAMS

The Gloucester Museum of History updated and refreshed its Old Country Store display, which has been at the museum for about 10 years.

Intern Sidney Ripley and museum coordinator Robert Kelly have been researching Gloucester County stores during the early 1900s for the past few months. There were over 50 country stores in Gloucester during this period with some of them housing post offices as well, and their stories are told in the exhibit through three different themes: commerce, community and connection.

"I am trying to bring awareness to this community's stories of Gloucester stores and trying to keep these stories alive," said Kelly.

Kelly explained that neighborhood stores provided commerce through giving the community access to food and specialty goods that may not have been easily produced at home. Some items these country stores provided were goods such



RUBY WILLIAMS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Part of the museum's revamped Old Country Store display.

as butter, coffee and fabrics. Through community, people are coming to these stores to not only buy items, but to also talk, gossip or even listen to the radio. Through commerce and community, connections are developed.

There are about 50 items in the exhibit that help tell the story of Gloucester County's

country stores. Items in the exhibit include ledger books from the Roanes and Zanon stores, in which storekeepers kept a record of sales as well as payments.

Kelly said that through the items that customers bought, one can learn a lot about the families and sometimes these items were purchased

through a barter system. There are a few of these country stores that are still here today such as Bucks Store at Bena and Nuttalls Store in Ware Neck.

The Old Country Store display was revealed earlier this month and is a permanent exhibit in the museum.

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## Library renovations on track for May 30 completion

Renovations to Gloucester Public Library, Main Street Center, are on track to be completed by May 30.

Until that time, library staff members have said they appreciate the patience of patrons as many of the library's services have been interrupted during the final stages of renovations.

During the time of the remaining renovations, public computer access will be limited, as well as access to magazines and to book stacks.

"We are keeping in contact with the contractor on a daily basis to ensure this project is completed on time and all of our services resume for our patrons as soon as possible," said Diane Rebertus, Director of Library Services. "We sincerely appreciate everyone's patience during this time and cannot wait to be able to showcase our improved facility to the public very soon."

The Point branch remains open, and the library is always available online by visiting [gloucestervera.gov/library](http://gloucestervera.gov/library).



Renovations are underway at Gloucester Public Library, Main Street Center branch. Work is expected to be completed by the end of May.

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## 'Flights to Freedom' marker to be unveiled May 11 in Mathews

A new Virginia Historic Highway Marker will be unveiled in Mathews County on Saturday, May 11. The public is invited.

Titled "Flights to Freedom," the marker will commemorate the enslaved people of Mathews who escaped to freedom via the waterways around Mathews County during the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.

The marker will be erected in front of the First Baptist Church of Mathews, located at 9654 Buckley Hall Road, across from Mathews High School. Founded in 1865, the First Baptist Church of Mathews is the oldest African American church in the county.

The marker states "these recurrent flights from bondage, made at great risk, defied the system of slavery and demonstrated the depth of enslaved peoples' desire to be free."

The May 11 program will be held in the church sanctuary starting at 11:30 a.m., followed by the unveiling outside.

Speakers include Martha W. McCartney, historian and

author of "Mathews County, Virginia: Lost Landscapes, Untold Stories" (2015); Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander, professor of history and Director of the Joseph Jenkins Roberts Center for the African Diaspora at Norfolk State University, and author of "Virginia Waterways and the Underground Railroad" (2017); Bessida Cauthorne White, genealogist, retired attorney and president of the Middle Peninsula African American Genealogical and Historical Society; and Dr. Colita Nichols Fairfax, chair of the Virginia Board of Historic Resources, and professor of social work at Norfolk State University.

The Emmaus Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir and Kevin Thomas will provide musical selections. Refreshments will be served in the church fellowship hall after the unveiling.

The Flights to Freedom Historic Marker is sponsored by the Mathews County Historical Society, the NAACP Mathews Branch #7090, and the First Baptist Church of Mathews. For more information, call Reed Lawson at 804-725-3375.



## Mathews blood drive

Sixty-four units of blood were collected at the Mathews Community American Red Cross Blood Drive, held on Tuesday, April 16, at the Piankatank Ruritan Club building in Hudgins. A total of 66 potential donors attended; four were deferred, four others were unable to give a sufficient quantity, while eight provided a Double Red donation. First-timers included Cole Harris, Michael Kuhns, Kirsten Thomas and Susan Tyler, while Kristin Harris and Coleman Tyler donated for the first time at a Mathews drive. Gallon pins were awarded to Terry Hyman (one gallon), Cheryl Zecher and Jay Booth (three gallons), Jerry L'Heureux (five gallons) and, pictured above, Bruce Meador (15 gallons). The next Mathews drive will be held July 16.

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

America's 250th anniversary is just around the corner, and Mathews County's VA250 Committee is gearing up to make sure the county is one of Virginia's go-to spots for the celebration during the week of July 4, 2026.

The committee's initial roll-out of the two-year celebration will be held on May 4 at this year's May Faire celebration.

Established last year by the Mathews Board of Supervisors, the 17-member Mathews VA250 Committee is charged with planning activities that highlight the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, as well as the ensuing fight for freedom.

Chairman Fred Lyon said the committee has been working since last June to incubate ideas and organize itself, and now it's ready to start putting some of its ideas into action. On May 4, during "May Faire 2024: A Rural Life," Mathews County's spring heritage festival, VA250 members will have

a booth set up to provide information to the public and raise money by selling a CD of patriotic music recorded by Mathews High School freshman Hunter Owens.

Near the end of the day, at 3 p.m., the committee has arranged for the Williamsburg Fife and Drum Corps to appear. The corps will march from the firehouse to the festival's main stage, escorting Lord Dunmore and General Andrew Lewis, who were adversaries in the Battle of Cricket Hill on July 9, 1776, just five days after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Dummore and Lewis will engage in a less-than-friendly conversation, and the fife and drums will entertain the audience as the festival ends.

The celebration will continue on May 15, with a free concert of American and Patriotic songs performed by the Courthouse Community Orchestra on the Mathews Court Green. This will be the first of three annual concerts between now and the main event in July 2026. The series commemorates the drafting and submission for approval of the Virginia Declaration of Rights to the Virginia Constitutional Convention in May 1776. If it rains, the concert will be held in the Harry M. Ward Auditorium at Mathews High School.

A speaker series on Revolutionary War themes is also being planned by the committee, said Lyon. The first one will be held in September, with details to be announced later. A private donor is funding the series, including travel costs and honoraria for the speakers and advertising.

Revolutionary War-themed products will be created in the run-up to the primary event of the celebration, said Lyon. Currently under consideration is a ceramic Jefferson Cup with a 250-themed seal, to be created in collaboration with the Bay School Community Arts Center. The committee would welcome ideas from the public on the design of such a seal, submitted to Lyon at fredlyon250@gmail.com. Lyon said the committee is

considering exploring "the nature of Mathews County citizens in the American Revolution." He said the research that will be conducted will include all citizens, those who fought for the Patriots and the Loyalists as well as free people of color, the enslaved, and indigenous peoples.

"One of the VA250 themes is to make this celebration very inclusive of all parts of the Virginia population," said Lyon. "It'll be more inclusive than the Bicentennial, with a greater emphasis on the contributions of ordinary people."

The research will seek to determine not only who the people were who fought on either side, but also who their descendants are, said Lyon, adding, "We'll flesh out as much as we possibly can."

A contest for the design of a LOVE sign with a Revolutionary War theme is yet another idea the committee is considering.

Lyon said the committee will be seeking grant-funding for many of the projects it's planning for the celebration.

The culmination of the celebration will be in July 2026 said Lyon, and it will focus on "something nobody else has"—"The Battle of Cricket Hill."

This historic battle drove Lord Dunmore from Virginia forever, said Lyon, and the committee is working with the Sons of the American Revolution and the reenactors of General Andrew Lewis's own 7th Virginia Regiment to provide lectures, multiple reenactments, and a colonial dance on July 4, 2026. This will be preceded earlier in the day by a July 4th Parade and Picnic, with free refreshments on the court green.

The committee will begin fundraising next month, said Lyon. They're looking for private donations and sponsorships.

"We're excited about everything," said Lyon. "We invite the participation of the community."

Anyone with ideas may contact Lyon at fredlyon250@gmail.com.

See us on Facebook



## 102nd birthday

Marguerite "Maggie" DeVita of Cardinal reached a milestone of 102 years on April 19. Westville Christian Church of Mathews helped her celebrate on Sunday. The Rev. Timothy Dice, pastor of Westville, presented a sermon on aging and afterwards the congregation and friends celebrated with a luncheon for her, complete with a homemade four-layer cake by the minister's wife Mary, some dancing by Maggie and others, and classic songs that meant a lot to Maggie, who continues to live independently.

### MATHEWS MAY FAIRE COMMITTEE

The Mathews May Faire Committee has been approved for street closures in the Court House area including but not limited to the following:  
Route 1001 Court Street and Route 1003 Brickbat Road. From Friday, May 3, 2024, 4pm through Saturday, May 4, 2024, 4:30 pm. The public parking lot on Brickbat Street will also be closed Friday, May 3, 4 pm through Saturday, May 4, 4:30 pm.  
No public parking on the courtgreen side of Church Street between Brickbat and Main Street. 4 p.m. Friday till 4:30 p.m. Saturday

## May Faire

Sat., May 4 ~ 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
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For more information on how to sponsor flags, what gifts all sponsors receive and ordering information, go to:  
[Mathewsrotaryclub.org](http://Mathewsrotaryclub.org)

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

## Colonial Williamsburg Fife & Drum Corps

will perform at May Faire 2024  
Saturday, May 4, at 3:00 p.m.

The performance is sponsored by the Mathews VA250 Committee

The Mathews VA250 Committee is part of the Commonwealth's efforts to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War and the independence of the United States from Great Britain.

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## Spaghetti dinner fundraiser

Abingdon Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc., hosted a spaghetti dinner fundraiser Sunday at Station 2 in Bena for AVFR Capt. David Thurston, who is battling Stage 4 lung cancer. The event drew a big turnout, the community coming out in force to support the man who has helped them on countless emergency calls over the years.



## Oyster restoration

Gov. Glenn Youngkin joined Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources Travis Voyles and representatives from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science to announce the completion of the Lower York River Oyster Restoration Goal on Monday at VIMS. Youngkin is pictured commemoratively signing the final oyster shells to be added to the restored Lower York River oyster reef. Pictured with him, from left, are Del. Anne Ferrell Tata (R-Virginia Beach), VIMS Dean and Director Derek Aday, Del. A.C. Cordoza (D-Hampton), Del. Chad Green (R-York), Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Newport News), VMRC Commissioner Jamie Green, Rep. Delores McQuinn (D-Henrico) and Voyles.



Garden Week guests travel up the footpath to view River Promise, a 1987 home built in a classic Victorian style.



Historic Garden Week tourists treated to warm, spring day Saturday. Pictured are visitors of Paget waiting for the shuttle to take them to either the T.C. Walker Education Center or River Promise.



## Abingdon Ruritan donation

Abingdon Ruritan Club Citizens and Patriotism Committee chairman John Atherton, at left, presented three checks from the club to American Legion Post 75 commander Dr. David C. Workman. The combined \$1,150 in donations helps American Legion Post 75 to sponsor three youth groups comprised of 39 juniors at Gloucester High School—Girls State, Boys State and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program.



The Fine Arts Museum of Gloucester was open Saturday as part of Garden Week festivities. Shown here is a fraction of the museum's current exhibit, "Back Home," featuring works and artifacts by self-taught folk artist Kacey Carneal (1935-2022) of Gloucester.



Visitors to the Mazzocco Home board the bus to return to the Ware River Yacht Club.



Visitors to River Promise enter the home filled with color and art.

## THANK YOU!!

Abingdon Volunteer Fire and Rescue sends a heart-felt Thanks to all the businesses and community members that came together and supported our Spaghetti Fundraiser for our beloved member **Dave Thurston "Captain 30"**. Over \$10,000 was raised from our spaghetti dinner, 50/50 raffle and silent auction. Your support for him as he goes through this difficult battle is greatly appreciated.

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## GARDEN WEEK

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A) special people, many of whom have been inspirational to them and their love of gardens and gardening.

"Finally, our tour would not be the success it is without our visitors, many of whom

return year after year. We had so much positive feedback from our visitors this year who loved the different styles of the homes and gardens and the beautiful arrangements that our flower arranging teams created," she said.

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# Democratic Congressional hopefuls take part in candidate forum

BY CHARLIE KOENIG

Area Democrats gathered last Thursday night at St. Clare Walker Middle School in Middlesex to hear from the two candidates vying for the chance to unseat Rep. Robert J. Wittman (R-Montross) in the November general election.

Around 60-70 people filled the school's auditorium to hear from Herb Jones and Leslie Mehta, the two hopefuls running in the Democratic Primary for Virginia's 1st Congressional District, in a candidate forum sponsored by five Middle Peninsula Democratic committees.

Those looking for a contentious fight between the two candidates would have come away disappointed, as Jones and Mehta agreed on many of the same issues, ranging from providing affordable and accessible health care and protecting women's reproductive rights to ensuring gun safety, preserving democracy and the right to vote. Both expressed their disdain for Wittman, who they said is an election denier, has endorsed former President Trump and aligned himself with far-right Republicans.

The spirit of the forum could best be summed up in the final question posed by Pastor Douglas D. Riley Sr., who served as the evening's moderator. In the audience-submitted question, Riley asked if the candidate who doesn't win the nomination would fully support the eventual Democratic nominee.

Neither hesitated, and both replied with the same one-word answer: "Absolutely."

The two candidates did attempt to make the case why they would be the best person to oppose Wittman in the general election. "I assume the goal is to defeat Wittman," Jones said. "If this is the case, I submit to you I'm the better candidate to make this happen" as he went into his background, which includes his 30 years' service in the U.S. Army, retiring with the rank of colonel after serving a tour of duty in Afghanistan and being awarded the Bronze Star for Iraq service. Jones, who has lived in the district for 31 years, was also New Kent County Treasurer.

"In 2022, when no one else would run against Wittman," Jones said, he received numerous calls asking him to run. He mounted a last-minute campaign in that election, he said, and in spite of being outraised by Wittman eight to one, he managed to receive 43 percent of the vote.

The United States, he said, is the most powerful nation in the world and no outside source is powerful enough to bring it down. The only thing that could defeat the U.S., he added, is the divisiveness and vitriol that has ramped up in recent years. A half century ago, he said, Democrats and Republicans would work together in the best interest of the American people; that's not the case today.

"We need to get back to that," he said. "We need to

get back to this in Congress."

While Jones said he believes the time is right for a Democrat to take back the 1st CD seat, "a first-time candidate is not going to defeat Wittman."

Mehta, a Chesterfield County resident, pointed out the changes in the boundaries of the 1st CD, changes that now make Chesterfield and Henrico counties account for 42 percent of the district's population. "The district is changing and Rob Wittman isn't changing with it," she said. "He's kind of wrapped himself around President Trump."

Wittman, she said, is vulnerable on issues such as gun safety and reproductive health and her job is to focus on those issues to make both Democrats and moderate Republican voters aware of the differences.

A civil rights attorney, Mehta spoke of her experience as an advocate, both to protect the constitutional rights of people in her former role as legal director of the ACLU of Virginia "during the chaos of the Trump regime," and in her personal struggle to get health care for her daughter, Brooke, who in 2021 died at the age of 5 from Rett syndrome, a rare neurological disorder.

Brooke was diagnosed in 2017 and Mehta was spurred into action in search of treatments and a cure for Rett syndrome. Her advocacy continued after her daughter's passing, working with Abi-



CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Area Democrats gathered at St. Clare Walker Middle School in Middlesex last week to hear from the two candidates seeking the party's endorsement for the 1st Congressional District race. Leslie Mehta, at left, and Herb Jones, right, are shown with the evening's moderator, Pastor Douglas Riley of Shepherdsville Baptist Church, Gloucester.

gail Spanberger (D-Glen Allen), as well as reaching out to other Democrats, Republicans "anyone who would listen" on a bill to include federal funding for Rett syndrome. Everyone was supportive of the bill, she said, except Wittman.

Her advocacy got the attention of Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who appointed her last year to serve on his Rare Disease Council. Although she and the Republican governor don't agree on a lot, she said, she described herself as both "a proud Democrat" and "a

proud pragmatist" who is willing to work across the aisle.

Of Wittman, she said "he comes across as a moderate who kisses babies and shakes hands," but he is also the same person who sponsored a fetal personhood bill before Alabama's IVF ruling.

Mehta said she has been each of the 18 jurisdictions that make up the 1st CD, "listening and learning" and has assembled a professional campaign staff "with decades of experience."

"Democrats you trust, trust me," she said, citing a growing number of endorsements.

"We will need all hands on deck," she said, to bring Democratic leadership back to the House. "We can do this if we can work together," she said. "We can flip this seat from Red to Blue."

To learn more about the two candidates, visit [www.herbjonesforvirginia.com](http://www.herbjonesforvirginia.com) and [https://lesliemehta.com](http://https://lesliemehta.com). The Democratic Primary will be held on Tuesday, June 18, with early voting beginning next Friday, May 3.

## FOUNDATION GRANTS: Mathews Community Foundation awards \$173,000+ to local groups

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

to maximize the effect of our funding to address as many needs as possible. I think when community members review the list of organizations funded this year, they will agree that we have met this challenge."

MCF was established in 1999 with a mission of improving the quality of life for those living and working in Mathews by encouraging local philanthropy, establishing and maintaining endowment funds, providing donors a way to create enduring charitable funds that reflect their priorities, and making grants that meet changing community needs. MCF is one of three affiliate foundations supported by the Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond to provide a mechanism for donors to direct charitable resources here in our local community. The affiliate program was developed to help smaller, rural communities encourage local giving to address their unique needs.

The MCF grants committee, chaired this year by Pat Lipinski, reviews applications and ensures that funding is allocated to meet the needs of the community. MCF provides stewardship of donor contributions by ensuring donor intent and nonprofit programs are aligned. Whitley noted that "our Grants Committee spent time on each request they received, evaluated each one for the impact it would have on the community, and made decisions based on the Community Foundation's established priorities. Their recommendations were enthusiastically approved by our full board when presented."

This year's Community Impact grant recipients include: Alzheimer's Association, Greater Richmond Chapter—To improve the quality of life for persons with dementia and their care partners by providing one risk reduction program and three caregiver education programs in Mathews County in the upcoming year.

Avalon Center—To support those affected by domestic and sexual abuse in the Mathews Community through counseling, support groups, legal advocacy, hospital accompaniment, shelter and youth programs.

Bay Aging—To support older adults in gaining access to healthy nutritious meals as well as socialization in Mathews County.

Bay School Community Arts Center—To support the Bay School's free community arts programming in Mathews between July 2024

and June 2025.

Coastal VA Wildlife Observatory—To support the operation of the Kiptopeke Hawkwatch, which will be in its 48th consecutive season this fall.

Concerts by the Bay—One grant to support the continuation, accessibility, and quality programming of the Concerts by the Bay Association, and another to support the contribution of the Concerts by the Bay to the youth program in Mathews Elementary School to develop and encourage an understanding of the performing arts.

Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic—To help integrated health care and medications for uninsured and underinsured Mathews County adults.

Hands Across Mathews Interfaith Council, Inc.—One grant to support 25 economically disadvantaged students attending school in Mathews County to obtain clothing and school items for the upcoming school year, and a second to support the programs of Hands Across Mathews, which aid local families who have suffered some crisis that puts them in need of the basic amenities of food, clothing, shelter, prescription medications, and/or food.

Helping the Homeless Ministry—To support the efforts of driving out hunger in Mathews with the mobile food bus for those facing food insecurity.

Jacob's Ladder—To support one Mathews County middle school student to attend the

Jacob's Ladder summer residential enrichment program with continued year-round advocacy.

Mathews High After-Prom Committee—To support an event following Junior/Senior Prom designed to engage and contain the participants eligible to attend MHS Prom on Saturday.

Mathews County Sheriff's Office—To support a national night out event for the residents of our community to strengthen relationships between law enforcement and residents.

Mathews County Public Schools—To support needs which have been identified by faculty and administration of MCPS.

Mathews County Visitor & Information Center, Inc.—To support the educational area/Chesapeake Room Museum of the visitor center with updated visual aids and display units.

Mathews Department of Social Services—To support those ages 18 to 64 who have a basic reasonable need and Mathews Social Services is unable to assist due to the person not meeting the criteria of state programs or grants.

Mathews Land Conservancy—To enhance safety features at the county's primary public waterway access site, with marine grade ladders and safety throw rings on piers and the 300-foot riverfront boardwalk, perimeter safety barrier at the entrance to open space and waterfront, and first aid kits.

Mathews Little League—To

improve the current facilities and services they provide to the community. This spring season expects around 200 children and 45-50 adult volunteers to participate.

Mathews Volunteer Fire Department—To support the purchase of several sets of PPE for the firefighter's protection on emergency scenes.

Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad—To support the purchase of several sets of PPE for the rescue squad's protection on emergency scenes.

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission—To support the MPPDC Regional On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Funding Program by providing septic repair assistance to property owners on Gwynn's Island.

Rx Partnership—To support the efforts to distribute medication for the Mathews uninsured and underinsured, specifically through collaboration with the Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic.

The Court House Players—To support community involvement in the arts, in particular, live theater. The Court House Players hosts two summer camp opportunities for school-aged children to be a part of a musical production in Mathews and Middlesex.

The Salvation Army, Gloucester Center—To provide emergency assistance with rent/mortgage, clothing, and food packages to Mathews County residents that are low-income individuals and families and/or those facing a temporary crisis.



### Lodge Foundation donation

The Botetourt Lodge #7, AF & AM Foundation, recently donated \$2,500 to the Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic as the clinic's newest Community Health Partner. This gift will benefit patient care for uninsured and underinsured adults in the community. Russell Clements, at left, and Mitchell Simpson, right, of the foundation are shown making the presentation to GMCC executive director Arlene Armentor. The foundation is a new Gloucester nonprofit dedicated to health care, housing, and youth activities in the local area. For more information on the foundation's activities, contact Botetourt Lodge No. 7 AF & AM Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 243, Gloucester, Va. 23061. For more information on the Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic and the services it offers, visit [www.gmccareclinic.com](http://www.gmccareclinic.com) or call 804-210-1368.

## Plein Air Unleashed 9th Annual Outdoor Painting Event



April 29 - May 4

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Event by **Allure Art Center**  
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# COMING EVENTS

For listings, call 804-693-3101 or email [info@gazettejournal.net](mailto:info@gazettejournal.net)

## THURSDAY

**VA250:** The Mathews County VA250 Committee will meet at 3 o'clock today, Thursday, April 25, at Mathews Memorial Library.

## FRIDAY

**PARTY AT THE WHARF:** The Mathews Land Conservancy's 2024 Party at the Wharf Summer Series begins Friday with live music by Robbie Kerns & Friends from 6-9 p.m. Gates open at 5 with El Padrino Mexican Tacos food truck and a cash bar on-site. Bring a lawn chair. Coolers not permitted. Tickets are \$5, with children 12 and under free of charge.

## SATURDAY

**GWYNN'S ISLAND RACE:** The Gwynn's Island Race, sponsored by the Mathews Outdoor Club, will be held at 8 a.m. Saturday, beginning at the Gwynn's Island Civic League building. It will include a 4-mile run for \$35, a 10-mile bicycle ride for \$35, or a combined run and ride for \$60. There will also be a 1.31m "Micro Half" that will be \$20 for those wishing a T-shirt and free of charge with no T-shirt. Register at [mcova.net/](http://mcova.net/)

gi-race.  
**FLAT IRON:** Anthony Rosano & the Conquerors will perform at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Flat Iron Crossroads in Gloucester. Tickets are \$20, available at [flatironcrossroads.com](http://flatironcrossroads.com).

## SUNDAY

**ORCHESTRA:** The Courthouse Community Orchestra, based on the Middle Peninsula and under the direction of Senior Airman Jarret Kocan, will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Diamondstein Concert Hall at Christopher Newport University, Newport News. The concert is free of charge.

## WEDNESDAY

**WETLANDS:** The Mathews County Wetlands Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1, in the historic courthouse on Court Street.

## NEXT THURSDAY

**PARKS & REC:** Mathews County Parks and Recreation will meet at 4:30 p.m. next Thursday, May 2, in the historic courthouse on Court Street.

## Fundraiser at Damon & Co. to help with family's medical expenses

A Spring Bikefest fundraiser is being held by Damon & Company at noon on Sunday, May 5, to help pay for ongoing medical expenses for the infant daughter of local residents Taylor Jacobs and Dilan Cotman. Damon and Company is located at 7104 George Washington Memorial Highway in Gloucester.

The event will include a slow ride, a frozen T-shirt contest, a weenie bite, and best bike in show for \$5 a person, with proceeds from the games to go to Waverly. There will be 50/50 raffles, as well as raffles of various items provided by local businesses and event vendors, and a donation jar will be available for cash donations.

On top of it all, a BBQ plate will be available for purchase for \$10, with a portion of the proceeds to go to Waverly, and there will be live music by Edward Wade and the band Retro. Team Waverly T-shirts and sweatshirts are also available for purchase online at [bonfire.com/teamwaverly](http://bonfire.com/teamwaverly).

Jacobs, a Mathews native and former owner of Little Shepherds Academy day-

care and preschool, moved to Philadelphia last November along with Cotman, her boyfriend and a Gloucester native, in an effort to save the life of their then-unborn child. Jacobs was 20 weeks pregnant when she found out that the baby, Waverly, born Jan. 4, had a life-threatening birth defect called Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia.

The defect causes the lungs to grow in a compressed state and develop abnormally, but Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has developed an experimental in-utero surgery for the condition, and the couple chose to move within a 20-minute drive of the hospital to give their baby her best chance at life.

Now, Waverly, still in the hospital, requires ongoing medical assistance, and the young couple hopes the fundraiser will help them provide that care for her.

Restaurant manager Lisa Frush, said the fundraiser is personal for employees because some of them know the family. As with other Damon & Company fundraisers, she said that



A Spring Bikefest fundraiser for Waverly, the infant daughter of Dilan Cotman, left, and Taylor Jacobs, who are shown with Waverly and Jacobs's older daughter, Audrey, will be held on Sunday, May 5, at Damon & Company in Gloucester.

staff members visited local businesses to gather raffle prizes and are eager to help support the young couple in their time of need.

For more information, call 804-693-7218.

## Lecture/book signing Sunday on history of Gloucester schools

The history of Gloucester County Public Schools is the topic of a lecture and book signing to be held at 2 p.m. Sunday in Gloucester's colonial courthouse.

This program, "Creating a Timeline of Gloucester County's Historic Public Schools," will showcase Dr. Colleen Betti's research and new book exploring the history of the county's schools. Copies of her book will be available for purchase at the Gloucester Museum of History and Gloucester Visitor and Information Center.

The event is hosted by the Gloucester Historical Society, Fairfield Foundation, Gloucester Museum Foundation, Gloucester Genealogical Society, and the Gloucester Museum of History.

## Sen. Kaine to make campaign stop in Gloucester

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine, who is running for reelection in the November general election, will be making a stop in Gloucester next month.

As part of his Standing Up For Virginia Tour, Kaine will be at the Fine Arts Museum of Gloucester from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 11.

Seating is limited. To sign up for this event, visit [www.glodemsva.org](http://www.glodemsva.org), click on the Events tab under "Get Involved" and follow the link to the registration form.

## Thursday Thoughts looks at Bees and Pollinators

A series of talks in the amphitheater at Beaverdam Park—Thursday Thoughts—will be held on the second Thursday of the month, beginning in May.

The May 9 talk, which will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m., is about Bees and Pollinators. Gloucester is an official Bee City; attend the upcoming talk to find out about local efforts to protect bees and pollinators. The program is free. Registration is required by May 2.

For more information, call 804-693-2355. To register online, visit <https://gloucesterva.info/civirec.org>.

## Mathews Land Conservancy hosts Eagle Scout osprey project

An Eagle Scout service project to build an osprey nesting platform at Bayside Landing in Mathews has recently been completed, the Mathews Land Conservancy announced.

"We are honored that Aiden Hagdorn, of Troop 113 in Gloucester, chose this project for his capstone Eagle Scout community service project," said Craig DeRemer, president of the Conservancy.

On April 13, Hagdorn and members of his troop worked with community volunteers to erect the nesting platform to support the conservation efforts of the Osprey Watch Alliance. "I am thankful for the opportunity the Osprey Watch Alliance provided to build this nest for my Eagle Scout project. I hope it provides a safe place for the osprey for many years to come," Hagdorn said.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank available to youth involved in Scouting BSA. It involves numerous hours of community service, physical rigor, and years of dedicated effort to specific skill, knowledge, and physical requirements. The Eagle Scout candidate selects their own project and must manage all aspects of the project, including fundraising, project management and coordination. Less than 10 percent of Scout candidates achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

Osprey Watch Alliance is a group of more than 60 citizen

scientists in the Middle Peninsula. Their mission is to sustain and increase a healthy osprey population in the Chesapeake Bay through citizen science and awareness, education advocacy and community involvement. The Chesapeake Bay is the largest breeding ground of osprey in the world. Each spring through summer, 8,000 to 10,000 ospreys visit the bay to breed and raise chicks. In August-September, they migrate south to mature. The birds have a strong nest fidelity, and they come back to the same nest area where they were born (within one mile) and build nests of their own.

The Osprey Watch Alliance is cooperating with the Center of Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary for monitoring nesting osprey in order to assess the interrelationship of salinity, diet, brood provisions, demography, and fish availability. For more information, go to [www.osprey-watch.org](http://www.osprey-watch.org).

Formed in 1994 to protect Williams Wharf Landing from continued industrial use, Mathews Land Conservancy's mission is to preserve and protect waterway access for public use, benefit and education. Once completed, the Owens Maritime Center will house rowing clubs along with other groups with the shared values of environmental stewardship and con-



Aiden Hagdorn, of Troop 113 in Gloucester, with the assistance of several of his fellow Scouts, helped construct an osprey nesting platform at Bayside Landing in lower Mathews County. Shown here are, from left, Eli Storrs, Luke Asbell, Justice Minor, Hagdorn, Carson Ridings, Ian Walters, Andrew Spaulding and Mathew Anderson.

servation. The organization relies solely on private donations, grants, and use fees for general operations as well as maintenance, improvements, and project construction. For more information, go to [www.mathewslandconservancy.org](http://www.mathewslandconservancy.org).

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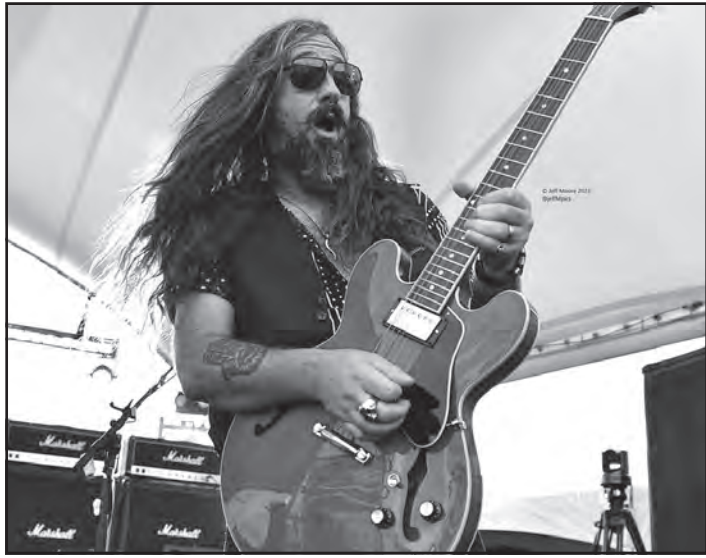
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## At Flat Iron Crossroads

Anthony Rosano and the Conquerors will perform at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Flat Iron Crossroads, Gloucester. The “new school blues” rock band was recently named the winner of the 2024 Veer Magazine Album of the Year for their song “Cheat the Devil.” The band’s sound has drawn comparison to such artists as Rory Gallagher, Mountain, Cream, and The Jimi Hendrix Experience, according to a press release. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with the Get Cheesy food truck. Drink tickets will be sold on-site. Show tickets are \$20 and are available online at flatironcrossroads.com.

## Bay School to hold Afternoon Tea on May 5

The Bay School Community Art Center will host its Second Annual Afternoon Tea from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, May 5, in the Art Speaks Gallery on Main Street, Mathews. This year’s tea will focus on a Whimsical Woodland Faerie theme that will include afternoon tea delicacies inspired by British tea traditions and faerie lore, said a press release. Participants are encouraged to dress in their prettiest frocks or inspired faerie outfits of choice and to bring their own favorite fancy teacups to use for enjoying all the hot and cold tea choices that will “delight the most discerning of palates,” said the release.

There will be activities, a prize raffle for the Best Outfit, and lots of tea and faerie lore to share, said the release. In addition, there will be faerie-inspired handmade jewelry, a watercolor painting, handmade faerie garden teacups, and vintage China tea sets to raffle off. Finally, faerie hair and crystal face adornment will be offered from noon to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 for faerie hair and \$15 for face adornment. Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance online at bayschool-arts.com. For more information, call the Bay School at 804-725-1278.



## ‘Diary of Anne Frank’

The Westmoreland Players are in rehearsals for “The Diary of Anne Frank,” which opens this week. The production runs from this Friday, April 26 through Sunday, May 12. Here, Charlotte Blackwell portrays Anne Frank while Logan Burgess plays Peter van Daan. For more about the show, which will be held at the troupe’s theater in Callao, visit [www.westmorelandplayers.org](http://www.westmorelandplayers.org).

## ‘Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder’ opens May 3

The musical farce “A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder” will be presented by the Court House Players Friday through Sunday, May 3-5, in the Harry M. Ward Auditorium at Mathews High School. Performances are at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

“Get ready for an uproarious evening of laughter and intrigue,” declared a press release from show director Amanda Adams. “This highly anticipated musical farce promises to deliver side-splitting humor and toe-tapping tunes that will leave audiences begging for more.”

Adams said the cast is led by Jim Anderson, who showcases his talent by portraying nine different characters in the eccentric D’ysquith family.

“From the stumbling to the charming, Anderson’s performances are sure to leave audiences in awe,” said Adams.

Jon Morr will play the role of Monty Navarro, the lovable yet scheming protagonist who is a distant heir to a family fortune. He sets out to jump the line of succession by any means necessary, and this quest for fortune—and love—takes him on a wild, comic journey. Peyton

Emerson shines as Sibella, Monty’s vivacious love interest, said the release, and Morgan McLarney captivates as Phoebe, the object of Monty’s affection.

The supporting cast features a lineup of “incredibly talented individuals,” said Adams, including Lara and Kiki Emerson, Eliana Fountain, Alyson Ridge as Clara, Carolyn Molly as Lady Eugenia, Tara Semanski as the Tour Guide, and Suanne Dittmeier as Marietta Shingle. The male lineup consists of Matt Williams, George Opie, Shawn Jaeger as The Magistrate, and Noah Polley as Chief Inspector Pinkney.

With catchy musical numbers directed by Heather King, “A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder” is a must-see theatrical event for audiences of all ages,” said Adams.

Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$7 for students and are available online at [courthouseplayers.org/tickets](http://courthouseplayers.org/tickets) or at one of the ticket outlets—Gloucester Office Supply in Edgehill Town Center, Franktronics on Route 17 at Hayes, or Mathews Pharmacy on Buckley Hall Road in downtown Mathews.

For more information, contact producer Trey Shinault at [jamescrew2@yahoo.com](mailto:jamescrew2@yahoo.com) or 804-366-5351.



Robbie Kerns & Friends will open the 2024 Party at the Wharf Summer Series on Friday at Williams Wharf. Performers include, from left, Jim Roberts on mandolin, Ollie Adcock on drums, Kerns, Jonathan Meyer on bass and Nelson Jarvis on lead guitar.

## Party at the Wharf Summer Series opens Friday

The Mathews Land Conservancy’s Party at the Wharf Summer Series opens this Friday at Williams Wharf Landing’s Riverfront Pavilion.

Robbie Kerns & Friends will perform from 6-9 p.m. Gates open at 5, with a \$5 cover charge for adults; children 12 and under are admitted free of charge. Backwoods BBQ will be on site for food sales and a cash bar will be available starting at 5 p.m. Some seating is available, but chairs are welcome. No coolers or outside drinks are permitted. For a list of all dates and

band information, visit [www.mathewslandconservancy.org/party-summer-series](http://www.mathewslandconservancy.org/party-summer-series). For weather and event updates, visit the Facebook page, “Williams Wharf Landing (Mathews Land Conservancy)” or call 804-725-9685.

This event series is sponsored in part by Mathews Pharmacy, East River Construction, Noble Pest Control, Burton’s Waterfront—Bernadette La Casse, Broker; Storybound Construction, Ambrose Disposal, Randy, Bill and Virginia Hudgins of Moon, and Chesapeake Bank.

## Plein Air Unleashed begins Monday in Deltaville

The ninth annual Plein Air Unleashed outdoor painting event, sponsored by Allure Art, will be held rain or shine beginning Monday and continuing through May 4 across Middlesex County.

This free six-day event is one of the largest gatherings of plein air painters in the state each year, said a press release. It features award-winning artists from across Virginia and Maryland who spend the week in the Middle Peninsula painting its beautiful scenery “en plein air.” This method is most often associated with such impressionist painters as Monet and Renoir, who realized that they could more accurately represent the colors and the light by painting in nature.

The public will be able to watch the artists working in a variety of mediums in natural settings, striving to catch the light in their interpretations of the scenery. The public is encouraged to venture out and see the art in action, said the release. The event coordinator at the Deltaville Maritime Museum will be in the Tea House to answer questions and help people find where artists might be each day.

There will be six scheduled free public opportunities to see the painters working: Monday, April 29, from 2-5 p.m., Joseph Burrough will be painting in the vicinity of the Deltaville Ball Park.

Wednesday, May 1, from 9-11 a.m., Thomas Bradshaw will be painting in the vicinity of Hurd’s Hardware in Deltaville. From 2-5 p.m., Jennifer Young will be painting at the Deltaville Maritime Museum. Thursday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to noon, Marjorie Perrin will be painting at the Urbanna Town Marina. From 2-5 p.m., Kim Hall will be painting near The Chesapeake Inn along Urbanna Main Street from 2 to 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., several artists will be painting in the vicinity of the Deltaville Community Center during the exhibit of the works.

All demonstrations are weather dependent.

The original artworks created during the event will be on display and for sale during a wet painting preview reception at 6 p.m. on Fri-

day, May 3, at the Deltaville Community Center. It is free of charge. Artists will be on hand to discuss their works. Good Luck Cellars will sell wines by the glass and bottle. The Pull Up food truck will be on the grounds selling a selection of foods.

The exhibit of the works continues at the center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, with some of artists in the vicinity painting and greeting patrons. Local community artists are encouraged to join them and paint on the grounds, as well. This community event is entirely free of charge.

The Deltaville Community Center is located at 17147 General Puller Highway in Deltaville.

More information can be found at [allureartcenter.com/events](http://allureartcenter.com/events).



Plein Air Unleashed, sponsored by Allure Art, will be held next week at various sites across Middlesex County. Shown in a previous year is Joseph Burrough painting the “JD Crockett” at the Deltaville Maritime Museum.

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# OBITUARIES

## STRUBLING WILLIAM ARMSTEAD

Strubling (Strib) William Armstead of Gloucester, was born in Wilmington, Del., on November 10, 1950, to the late William and Thelma Newman Armstead. He was married to Pamela Griffin-Armstead. Strib transitioned Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at home, with Pam by his side.

He leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife Pamela; one son, Cleon Stewart (LaTasha) of Atlanta, Ga.; one sister, Renee Gaines of Wilmington; niece, Terricia Gaines of Charlotte, N.C.; great-nephew, Travis Gaines; nephew, Wesley Gaines of Wilmington; two grandchildren; devoted aide, Violet Thompson of Urbanna, Va., and a host of cousins and friends. A special recognition goes to Clinton Tymes, and Richard and James Simmons, who visited Strib every year for the Super Bowl.

Viewing will be held Friday, April 26, 2024, from 5-7 p.m. and Saturday morning from 10-12. The funeral service will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at noon. All services will be held at St. Paul Baptist Church, Gloucester, Va.

## IVA BELVIN

Iva Belvin, age 91, of Mathews County, formerly of Gloucester Point, passed away peacefully in her home on Thursday, April 18, 2024, surrounded by family. Iva was born in Mathews to Luther and Maude Thomas of Peary. She was the youngest of four children. Iva spent 40 years at Eastern State Hospital Accounting Department; she earned her CPA degree from William & Mary College while doing so. Iva was a faithful member of Bethany United Methodist Church, Gloucester Point, where she served on numerous committees throughout the years. Towards the end of her life, she visited Locust Grove Church of Mathews. Iva volunteered at several organizations throughout Gloucester County over the last 70+ years. Although she regretted having to leave her home that she and her husband built in Gloucester Point, due to health issues, she was certainly glad to be back in Mathews County, where she said she was "back to her roots." Iva was preceded in death by her loving husband of 52 years, Warren H. Belvin; her parents; two sisters, Miriam Callis and Jeneil Rowe; her brother, Aubrey Thomas; two nephews Melvin and Keith Callis. The family would like to thank Riverside Hospice for her care at the end of her life; especially Emily, Angela, Amanda, Virginia, and Marie. In memory of Iva, contributions may be made to Locust Grove Church, 1832 Windsor Road, Dutton, Va. 23050, or to Riverside Walter Reed Hospice, 7358 Main Street, Gloucester, Va. 23061. The family received friends on Sunday, April 21, 2024, from 2-3 p.m. at Hogg Funeral Home. A graveside service was held at Gloucester Point Cemetery on Monday, April 22, 2024, conducted by Locust Grove's Pastor Booker Brown, beginning at 2 p.m.



Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home.

## JAMES ROGER CARTER

Deacon James Roger Carter, 76, of Gloucester, died on Saturday, April 20, 2024. He was a native of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, and was a member of Union Zion Baptist Church, Gloucester.

Survivors include his wife, the Rev. Betty Griffin Carter; brother, Wilton Carter, and sister, Virginia Eley. He was preceded in death by his parents, John Henry Carter and Bernice Leonard; son, Charles Gregory Artis; four brothers and one sister.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 27 in Union Zion Baptist Church with a viewing from noon until the service begins.

Howard Funeral Home, Ark, is assisting the family.



## ANNE HOOKER CLARK

Anne Hooker Clark, 85, of Gloucester, passed away peacefully on April 20, 2024, while under hospice care.

Her husband Robert Gordon Clark; parents Ray and Mary Anne Hooker, and brother Willard Hooker Jr. preceded her in death.

Anne was born in Hampton, Va. She grew up sailing, riding horses and playing sports. She loved nature, gardening and being on the water. She instilled that love in her children.

Anne was a devoted member of Ware Episcopal Church for over 40 years. She thoroughly enjoyed her family, and many dear friends.

Anne is survived by her children, Elizabeth (Daniel) Fisher, Alice (William) Krebs, Suzanne (Douglas) Green, and Robert Jr. (Tracie) Clark; six grandchildren, Jacqueline and Katherine Fisher (Patrick Tewey), Margaret Martien, Grace (Jonathan) Rigby; Freya and Justin Corrywright.

A service for family and friends will be held on Thursday, May 2, at 1 p.m. at Ware Episcopal Church in Gloucester. Donations may be made to CHKD or the Alzheimer's Association.



## MICHAEL O'KELLY CONNELLY

Michael O'Kelly Connelly of Mathews, Va., died on Monday, April 15, 2024, at his home. Mike was born on May 20, 1957, to Mead Lee Connelly Sr. and Elizabeth Anne Simmons Connelly of Martinsville, Va., who both predeceased him.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Lydia Tuck Connelly. Also surviving are his brothers, Mead Lee Connelly Jr. of Cumming, Ga., and James Robert Connelly (Katherine) of Collinsville, Va. Mike was also close to and survived by his cousins, Marcia Connelly Rhodes, Alvin Ray Connelly, and Margaret Connelly McCullough.

Surviving nieces and nephews include Susan Lisa Connelly (Charles), James Robert Connelly Jr., Pamela Connelly Hall (David), Colleen Barnes, and Patrick Barnes (Lydia). Great-nieces and -nephews are James Connelly III, Joshua Connelly, Hannah Connelly, Ruth Connelly, Jessica Franklin, Reid Franklin, and Zach Hall.

Mike retired from a successful professional career in the IT field, mostly in the insurance and banking industries in Richmond. In addition, Mike found a great deal of enjoyment in sports, especially golf. In high school, he lettered in both golf and football.

Mike also loved all animals and doted on his dogs and cats. In retirement, he fed deer, squirrels and birds and had a special rapport with his neighbors' cows.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 1-2 p.m. at Mathews Chapel United Methodist Church, Cobbs Creek, Va., with a memorial service to follow at 2 o'clock. Immediately after the service, a meal will be served in the social hall. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society, P.O. Box 385, Gloucester, Va. 23061 or to a charity of your choice.

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



## JUDY GRAY HUDGINS

Judy Gray Hudgins, age 82, of Hayes, passed away on Friday, April 19, 2024, at Heron Cove 2, Gloucester. Judy was born on December 7, 1941 (Pearl Harbor Day) in Newport News, to the late J. Carlton Diggs Sr. and Pauline P. Diggs. Judy grew up in Onemo of Mathews and graduated from Mathews High School class of 1960. She went to work at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, and spent 39 years at VIMS in various positions and departments, finishing her career in the Wetlands Department. Judy was an active and supportive member of Bethany United Methodist Church of Gloucester Point from 1964 until her death. Judy was a founding member of The Five Rivers Women's Club and held many positions. A fall in August of 2020 limited her mobility but her heart was still with the Women's Club. Judy was an active reader, especially John Grisham. She loved watching the squirrels, butterflies, and especially the hummingbirds. She enjoyed traveling and was fortunate to have been to all but eight states. Judy had also traveled to many foreign countries. Some of her favorite trips were to Hatteras, North Carolina, with family and friends. One of Judy's great loves was her granddaughter, Adelle. They spent many hours together during Adelle's early years and quite a few shopping trips which Adelle really enjoyed. Judy was preceded in death by her parents, and survived by her husband of 63 years, Milton Hudgins; son, Michael Hudgins (Jennifer); granddaughter, Adelle Hudgins; brother, Jimmy Diggs (Charlene); nephews, David Diggs, Ryan Brooks, and Brent White; nieces, Ellen Poynter and Krista Chase; nine great-nephews; three great-nieces; sisters-in-law, Mary Linda Brooks and Nancy White. She is also survived by special cousin, Catherine Morgan, along with other family members and many friends. The family will receive friends at Bethany United Methodist Church on Friday, April 26, 2024, from 11-11:45 a.m., followed by a Celebration of Life service, conducted by Pastor Paul Song, Pastor Arthur Wolz, and Pastor Braxton Allport, to begin at noon. The inurnment will follow in the church cemetery and a reception will be held in the church fellowship hall. A special thank you to Dr. Ronald Haggerty and his staff at Direct Access Internal Medicine for their loving care over the last 12 years. The family cannot say enough about the love and excellent care she received from all staff members at Heron Cove 2. In memory of Judy, contributions may be made to the Abingdon Volunteer Fire & Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 9, Bena, Va. 23018, and/or Bethany United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 527, Gloucester Point, Va. 23062.

Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home.



## NANCY MURLE LONG

Nancy Murle Long, 91, of Gloucester, passed away peacefully on April 14, 2024. Nancy was born on March 23, 1933 in Florida to the late Getzen and Dorothy Farnell. Nancy was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence James "Buster" Long Sr. She and Buster traveled the United States for many years with Buster's job before settling in Gloucester in the mid-1980s. Nancy worked at the Gloucester Emporium for many years and made many friends while there. Nancy was also preceded in death by her sister, Louise Hobbs (M.D.); son, Clarence James Long Jr. and wife Beverly and their daughter Brandy. Nancy is survived by her daughter, Gayle Roman (Thomas); granddaughter, Amanda Witt (Tucker); sister, Billie Hay (John); son, Michael Long (Becky); several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Inurnment will be private. Nancy's family would like to thank the staff at Charter Senior Living of Williamsburg and the hospice nurses with Traditions Health who took care of Nancy in her final days.

Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home & Crematory.

## CHRISTY HAYWOOD LOVE

It is with a heavy heart and great sadness we announce the passing of Christy Haywood Love, 76, of Mathews, who passed away at her home on April 21, 2024.

She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was predeceased by her father, Charles Benjamin Haywood Sr., and daughter, Angela Ashberry. After retiring from the Virginia ABC store, she enjoyed spending time with her family, gardening, knitting, traveling, and reading on her front porch.

She is survived by her husband, Marion "Pepper" Love; mother, Eileen Haywood; daughter, Lyndell Michele Williams (Chad) and son, Robert Love (Gina); siblings, Cindy Daly, Cheryl Cooper (Mike), and Charles B. Haywood Jr. (Annette); grandchildren, Ryan Waddell (Ashley), Amanda Schwartz (Brad), Lauren Pharr (Jerry), Zach Williams, Ana Maria Williams, and Jacob Love; great-grandchildren, Brayden, Ryker, and Vera Schwartz, Amelia Waddell, and Liam and Reagan Pharr, plus a large extended family of in-laws, nieces and nephews, and cousins.

The family will hold a private service at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Mathews Volunteer Fire Department. The family would like to thank everyone who helped care for Christy in her final days.

Andrews Funeral Home, Gloucester, is in charge of the arrangements.



## PATRICIA MAE MILLER

Patricia Mae Miller, 81, of Powhatan, formerly of Hayes, died on Thursday, April 11, 2024.

Survivors include her husband of 64 years, Richard Miller; two children, Cheryl and Brian; two grandsons and seven great-grandchildren.

She had worked at Libby Bloxom Real Estate of Newport News and then at William E. Wood Real Estate.



## VIRGINIA 'GINGER' JEANETTE RICHARDS MAY 28, 1945-APRIL 6, 2024

Virginia "Ginger" Jeanette Richards passed away peacefully in her home in Seneca, South Carolina, at the age of 78.

Ginger, Mom, Nana will be lovingly remembered as dear wife of Jim Richards, mother to Marjorie (Colin Bucknor) and Sara (Josh Jones) and Nana to Morgan (Kevin Boucher), Audrey, Simon, Toby, Isaiah, Silas, Zechariah, and Jasper. She was the loving sister to Bob (Jeanne) and Bill White (Karen); Bob is the only surviving sibling.

Ginger was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on May 28, 1945, and attended college at Drake University where she graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education. She met the love of her life, United States Navy Captain (ret.) James "Jim" Richards, at a friend's wedding in 1966 and they married in October 1967. They moved to Richmond, Virginia, after Jim served a tour in Vietnam and joined the Naval Reserve. Ginger resided in Richmond for almost 30 years where she was a member of St. Giles Presbyterian Church. She retired to Gwynn's Island in Mathews, Virginia, and became a member of Kingston Parish Episcopal Church. While living in Mathews, Ginger was elected to the County School Board where she served for several years; remaining a positive force for the public education system. She moved to Seneca in 2019 to be closer to family.

Ginger was musically talented—playing piano and singing beautifully in various church choirs and singing groups over the years. She also had a passion for education. While working full-time as a teacher and raising daughters, Marjorie and Sara, she went to graduate school at the Virginia Commonwealth University and obtained her Master's degree in Special Education. She had a passion for children who had learning disabilities and special needs. She tutored children and created learning plans that considered each child's specific learning styles and challenges. She never gave up her love of music. She continued singing in church choirs and also spent years teaching piano and giving singing lessons.

She spent a lifetime supporting philanthropic causes such as the Joslin Diabetes Center and the P.E.O. Sisterhood, a U.S.-based international women's organization. Ginger was a 50+ year member of P.E.O. that has a primary focus on providing educational scholarships for women worldwide. She most recently was a member of P.E.O. Chapter 1 in Seneca.

Ginger had a passion for the Lord and was an example to her family of the importance of the study of scripture, prayer and church attendance which has born fruit in the spiritual lives of her immediate family and grandchildren. To the end, she expressed her love and faith in God and passed peacefully with her immediate family members around her during an informal communion and prayer service. We were blessed to be able to spend her last days together and while she is deeply missed, we are at peace knowing she is with the Lord and we will see her again.

A memorial service for Ginger will be held at Kingston Parish Episcopal Church, Christ Church, 320 Williams Wharf Road, Mathews, Virginia, at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 18. In lieu of flowers, Ginger requested that donations be sent to Joslin Diabetes Center, a Harvard Medical School Affiliate: Joslin Diabetes Center, One Joslin Place, Boston, Mass. 02215.



## CARD OF THANKS

We, the family of the late Deacon Gene Edward Cooke Sr., would like to thank everyone for their expressions of love during his care and Celebration of Life. Our family appreciate the many warm words of comfort and abundance of support received. Rest in Peace, our beloved Gene. Sunrise 5/6/51 - Sunset 4/6/24 "Psalm 23"



OBITUARIES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9A)

**CAROLINE ANN SMITH**

In loving memory of our beloved Caroline Ann Smith, or "Care" as many called her, age 66, of Gloucester, mother of two, and adoring wife, received her angel wings at 1:11 in the afternoon on the 16th of April, 2024, after a courageous battle with metastatic breast cancer.



Caroline was born in 1958 in New York; in 1978, you could find her smiling brightly in her Coast Guard uniform proudly serving her country. While serving, she met the love of her life, James "Woody" Smith. The two married in 1981 and built a magnificent life together, later welcoming their two children.

She was a devout Christian who had a love and passion not only for her Lord, country, and family but enjoyed very much the world around her. You'd often find her outdoors gardening and taking in the fresh air anytime she could. She was always up to adventures with her family.

Caroline was preceded in death by her father, Robert Guyon; brother, Pete Guyon and sister, Patricia Coven.

Survived by her husband, James Smith; son, Dalton James "DJ" Smith; daughter, Krizma Alexis Smith-Arthur (Jimmy); granddaughters, Peyton and Presley Arthur.

The family would like to thank the Health Care Teams for the loving and compassionate care extended to her over the last few months.

In lieu of flowers, she has requested that donations be made in her memory to support her granddaughter, Peyton Arthur, who is currently battling leukemia. Donations can be earmarked for the Pediatric Oncology at the Children's Hospital Foundation, Box 980693, Richmond, Va. 23298.

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

**DONALD C. M. SMITH SR.**  
1925 - 2024



On March 28, 2024, at approximately 1:15 p.m., Donald Christopher McGee Smith Sr. passed away at the Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Donald was 98 years old, born May 10, 1925.

"Don" was born in Clarksburg, West Virginia, to James and Grace Smith. He grew up in Mathews, Virginia. Once married, he moved his young family to Hingham, Massachusetts, close to his cousin, Mable Diggs. He then moved his family to Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1961. He was self-employed in the dry-cleaning business. Don eventually relocated to North Brookfield where he oversaw operations and facilities at Springfield Urban League's Camp Atwater, where he gave all of himself to the camp and the surrounding community for 42 years, before retiring at the age of 91. During this time, he also worked on the North Brookfield Board of Health for 20 years. He also worked with the Historical Society. He became part of the fabric of the community of North Brookfield. He was loved, and respected in town, as he was when he resided and worked in Springfield. He was compassionate, and always willing to engage with those around him. He always spoke his mind. He enjoyed bowling, fishing, gardening, and other outdoor activities. While in his 60s he taught himself to excel with computers. He also loved playing cards, especially spades. Finally, he moved back to Springfield in January 2023, living with his son Donald "Chris" and family.

Don was a widower, who left behind two sons, Donald Christopher McGee Smith Jr. of Springfield and wife Gwendolyn, and Michael James Smith and wife Sybil, and two daughters, Cheryl Elizabeth Smith of Springfield and Adrienne Jessica Smith of Casa Grande, Arizona. He also left behind grandsons, Christian Smith of West Springfield and wife Ja'Net, and Sheldon Smith of Springfield, Mark Smith and Jeffrey Smith, both of Casa Grande, and five great-grandchildren, Giadon, Trevian, Nevaeh, Caiden and Asia. He also left behind nieces, Janice Gardner of Newport News, Virginia, and Barbara Taylor and husband George of Hampton, Virginia; nieces and nephews, grand-nieces and -nephews, cousins and many other family members and friends.

A funeral service was held Saturday, April 20, 2024, at the New Hope Fellowship Church, Hartfield. Don will be laid to rest in the family cemetery in Mathews at a later date.

Harrell Funeral Home, Springfield, Massachusetts, and J.K. Redmond Funeral Home, Shacklefords, were in charge of arrangements.

**JANICE R. 'GIN GIN' SOUTH**



Janice R. "Gin Gin" South, 90, of Mathews, Virginia, passed to her heavenly home on Sunday, April 21, 2024. She was born on July 27, 1933 to Upsher Sr. and Mary Lewis Rainier.

She was predeceased by her parents and her husband, Garnett F. South; her brothers, Upsher Rainier Jr. and Melvin Rainier; her sisters, Golden Dutton, Ruth Robins, Beulah Sadler, Lydia Rowe, Marilyn Morgan, Audrey Mitchem, and her granddaughter, Heidi Jo South.

She is survived by her two sons, Michael G. South and wife Joan, Dale F. South and wife Melanie; grandchildren, Shannon Dean (Josh), Dawn South (Donald), Laura Brandon (Andy), Blair Jarrell (Casey) and Lance South; great-grandchildren, Riley, Zach, Ryder, Tessa Jo and Ella Mae; her twin sister, Joyce Downs; sister-in-law, Florence Rainier; many nephews and nieces, and her friend, Diane Sadler.

She was a lifelong member of Gwynn's Island Baptist Church. She worked many years for the Islander Motel and D&P Embroidery. She was best known for her talent of care giving. She provided loving care to many of her sisters as they aged. Janice was a loving mother and grandmother. One of her greatest joys was taking care of her grandchildren.

The family would like to thank Riverside Lifelong Health & Rehab-Mathews for their loving care over the last year and a half.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Gwynn's Island Baptist Church with visitation one hour prior to the service. Interment will follow at Trinity Cemetery, Foster, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Gwynn's Island Baptist Church, P.O. Box 26, Gwynn, Va. 23066, and to the Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad, 94 Cricket Hill Road, Hudgins, Va. 23076.

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

**LELIA G. WHITING**

Lelia G. Whiting, 97, of Gloucester, died on Sunday, April 21, 2024.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 27, in Morning Glory Baptist Church, Gloucester.

**CAPTAIN SINCLAIR**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

the Captain Sinclair Landing "stands on a precipice of change" and that a discussion was needed regarding the changing uses of the property. The GHS crew uses the facility, practicing on the Severn River.

The club's vice president, Dr. Jeff Buswell, said that "a private, for-profit" will be using the facility six to seven hours a day, five days a week and sometimes on Saturday to facilitate outpatient counseling of patients from the Veterans Administration. He said the business had requested the crew's schedule "as rowers couldn't be there at the same time as the patients." Buswell said he questioned how the park "could possibly accommodate these treatment programs, our rowers, and also the general public."

"Who should be able to have unfettered access to these amenities," asked Buswell. He requested a public meeting or hearing to seek the approval of the locality before such programs are undertaken.

Daniel Hogge, the organization's secretary/treasurer, requested a public meeting, as well.

During the board of supervisors' discussion of the matter, Gloucester Planning, Zoning, and Environmental Programs Director Anne Ducey-Ortiz said that the recreational area is used as a park. The zoning ordinance has a broad definition for a park, she said, including a space used for historical, cultural, and natural purposes. An office for nature-based counseling "would be consistent with (park) use," she said, and her department "typically doesn't get into how a park manages itself." She said the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority, which owns and manages the property, plans to have on-site multi-family apartments for staff, and that some staff members may be veterans. There are additional parcels owned by the MPPAA adjacent to Captain Sinclair's, she said, and the PAA is proposing placing two or three additional homes as workforce housing on those parcels.

"If the public complained about Machicomoco [a state park in Gloucester], we would say you should talk to the DCR [Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation]," said Ducey-Ortiz.

Supervisors' chair Chris Hutson said all three of his children had rowed in school, and that Meridian Health, the counseling firm, should schedule its work around the students' practices, while supervisor Ken Gibson said he was "baffled how a counseling center in a park meets

zoning." He said he would support some form of public forum on the matter.

"I think there are some safety concerns that need to be addressed," said Gibson. "There are people struggling with issues that do have problems sometimes."

Supervisor Ashley Christocoe said he didn't see how it would be possible to vet everyone that uses the park when it's public access, and County Attorney Ted Wilmot responded that the county can vet the use of a park.

"If we're talking a counseling center, that's not a park," Wilmot said, "and residential is not a park."

Hutson, who is the county's representative on the MPPAA board, said that after Monday's conflict resolution meeting, the issue will go once more before the PAA board.

"It's still a long way from being settled," he said.

Lewie Lawrence, director of the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission and staff for the MPPAA board of directors, said in a telephone interview Tuesday that different user groups "all want access to the water," which is "what the PAA was created for," and that the issues raised represent a user conflict. Knott Alone has been located at Captain Sinclair's for several years "with no problem," as has the crew team, Lawrence said, explaining that the site has a public fishing pier, and "we have no idea who's coming."

"Does anyone stand at the gates and vet everyone who comes to Beaverdam," he asked. "It's a public access site that should be enjoyed by all user groups. Each entity has to play a role in maintaining these public assets in an open and fair and reasonable way."

Lawrence said Knott Alone-Hold Fast is cutting five miles of walking trails in the park, and that Meridian Health's lease includes a requirement that it help support the crew program.

"Each entity is figuring our ways to add value to the park," he said. "We have to have good, strong collaborators that are occupying this public space."

Moore said during a brief telephone conversation that the organizations are all in the middle of the conflict resolution process and that "I truly feel we will resolve any issues, or what was thought to be issues and concerns."

"We hope to resolve this next week," he said, "and we believe all parties will cooperate for the better-

**MATHEWS BOARD: Budget, tax rates set for adoption May 16**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

per \$100, and other classifications of personal property at \$2.14 per \$100.

The 2025 budget and tax rates are scheduled for adoption during the Thursday, May 16 meeting at 6 p.m. in the historic courthouse, while any amendments and the appropriation of the budget are scheduled for Tuesday, June 25.

Various adjustments to the budget resulted in an increase in revenue of \$79,958, the largest of which is a projected increase in the transient tax of \$74,000.

On the expenditure side, a full-time deputy registrar position was requested by the office of the director of elections at a cost of \$56,841, with a part-time position to be phased out. In addition, Wilson suggested an increase in funding for certification and licensing for the sheriff's office, and an increase in the contingency fund from \$12,134 to \$31,000. Supervisors Dave Jones and Mike Walls both said they were not in favor of a full-time position for the office, while Walls said the sheriff's office should pay for certification and licensing increases out of its budget. Jones objected to increasing the contingency fund because, he said, it was "once used as a backdoor way to not have to show how money was spent."

Board chair Janice Phillips said that the complexity of an election official's job has changed and that, with a part-time person leaving, one deputy registrar would only amount to a half person. She said \$31,000 didn't seem like too much for a contingency fund, but that expenditures need to be booked to the department that makes them.

Wilson pointed out that she added \$200,000 to the Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad's capital expenditures budget as a placeholder because the squad is facing a budget shortfall due to increased expenses and a change in state law. MVRSS president Scott Berman spoke earlier in the meeting, during public comment period, explaining that the change in state law prevents rescue squads from replenishing their drug boxes at a hospital. Instead, they must purchase replacements for expired drugs and use biometrics to track their use, esca-

lating costs for the squad. On top of that, he said the cost of the next new ambulance will likely be \$500,000, up from the \$375,000 cost of the last ambulance purchased.

Proposed school funding calls for a transfer of \$9.27 million from the general fund to Mathews County Public Schools, an increase of \$530,611 over last year's budget, but falling short of the \$1.05 million the schools requested. Supervisors have several times discussed finding additional funds to increase school staff raises from 3 percent to 5 percent, but no such action was proposed.

Walls said the county needs to do better for the schools, and one way to do so would be to have anyone who makes over \$90,000 a year forfeit their 3 percent salary increase. Phillips said she had looked through the budget and that "there aren't a lot of \$90,000 salaries" and that her suggestion for additional funding "is on the revenue side." Jones suggested the board needs to look at cutting back its contributions to non-profit organizations.

Finally, Wilson said that the treasurer's office had two full-time positions added in fiscal year 2023, but that only one had been filled, and that employee is part-time. Treasurer Wendy Stewart said nobody wants to work for the \$29,000 salary associated with the positions. Wilson said if Stewart can hire someone, that position will have to be added back in.

Wilson said that her proposed budget was based on current position salaries, but that several recent vacancies may not be filled at the same salary, which could affect expenditures.

**Broadband**

The board heard from Mathews Broadband Advisory Board chair Judy Rowe that Broadband Telecom consultants did numerous ride-alongs with T-Mobile representatives to adjust various pieces of equipment that weren't providing effective communications for the sheriff's office and were able to restore their effectiveness.

"We're excited about the success we've been seeing," she said.

After a presentation by Broadband Telecom Specialist Tyler Beekhoo, the board unanimously approved a re-

quest by the broadband board that it be allowed to apply for a \$25,000 Digital Capacity Grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development that would make the county eligible for a larger amount of future funding.

In other matters, the board: —Tabled a decision on a document outlining best practices for county boards, commissions and committees on the premise that verbiage requiring members of such bodies to inform the county administrator and board of supervisors before they speak to the press about their activities could violate freedom of speech and needed redrafting;

—After learning that the county has to pay a \$5 fee to the Virginia State Police for each concealed carry permit issued in addition to the \$10 it has to pay the Virginia Supreme Court, unanimously voted to change the permit fee to \$15 every five years;

—Voted unanimously to amend the FY 2023-2024 budget to add \$50,000 for the broadband consulting contract, \$73,355 for two deputies for a partial year, \$38,754 for a library position that was left out of the original budget, \$25,000 for data storage, and \$114,000 to house more prisoners than projected at the regional jail;

—Heard from the county administrator that the county is advertising several job openings, including for a planning, zoning, and wetlands director after the resignation of James Knighton; and,

—After a two-hour closed session, the board returned to open session and voted unanimously to make the county's emergency services coordinator a full-time position and to advertise for prospective candidates, with the position to become effective July 1. The board also voted unanimously to appoint Richard Marshall to a five-year term on the wetlands board.



**Marathon logo**

Mindy Gill Davis of Onemo, drew the winning logo for the Mathews Outdoor Club's 2024 Mathews Marathon, to be held Oct. 19. Davis had one of a dozen entries, which shows a clam holding a trident. Christine Johnson said this year's marathon, the fourth, will also include options for a half-marathon and five-person marathon relay. More information can be found at mocva.net.



The scarcity of fresh water in the world is demonstrated to participants in Sunday's Water for South Sudan Iron Giraffe Challenge by Thomas Hunter Middle School students, from left, Justus Boyd, Abigail Henry, and Summer Hayes.



Thomas Hunter Middle School science teacher Jerry Ligon, at left, enlisted the help of the Mathews Rotary Club to hold a fundraiser for the Water for South Sudan Iron Giraffe Challenge, held at the school on Sunday. Shown with him are Rotarians Bill Stearns, president, and Ron Lambert.

## THMS students raise \$2,000 in South Sudan water fundraiser

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

In spite of the chilly, drizzly weather, seventh graders at Thomas Hunter Middle School in Mathews held a successful fundraiser on Sunday, bringing in \$2,000 for the Water for South Sudan Iron Giraffe Challenge.

Science teacher Jerry Ligon said around 75 people turned out to haul gallons of water through the "jungle" of the nature trail at the school, making stops at stations

along the way to learn about the problem of the dwindling water supply that's facing the world.

Ligon said that participants could watch a demonstration of African drums being played at one station, while another station had a graphic depiction of the amount of water being lost to pollution, increased population uses, and the melting of freshwater glaciers into the saltwater sea. At a third station, students told the trail walkers

about the little girls in Sudan who have to walk for hours each day to collect water from ponds because their villages have no wells.

There were additional stations, as well, and all along the way, Bluetooth speakers were playing jungle animal sounds—lions, elephants, chimpanzees.

Gallons of water were donated for the fundraiser, said Ligon, and those gallons were then donated to Hands Across Mathews for local use by

Mathews residents who have no safe fresh water to drink.

"People were having a good time," said Ligon. "It was just a joyous occasion."

The Mathews Rotary Club partnered with Ligon for the effort, with Rotarians Ron Lambert and Bill Stearns, president, providing on-site assistance.

The fundraiser was THMS's first effort to raise funds to help the beleaguered residents of South Sudan, whose plight was brought to atten-

tion by one of the "lost boys of Sudan," Salva Dut. Dut's life was upended by war, but he was taken in by an American family and, as an adult, made it his mission to help provide wells for clean water in his home country.

Author Linda Sue Park then wrote a book, "A Long Walk to Water," about the little girls of Sudan, who are responsible for collecting water for their villages during the dry spell—water that isn't clean and leads to diseases such as

one that affected Dut's father. Ligon said his students hope to raise the entire \$20,000 it costs to build a well in South Sudan.

To help in this effort, send donations to THMS, 387 Church Street, Mathews, Va. 23109, ATTN: Iron Giraffe Challenge 2025. Donations may also be made directly to the organization online at waterforsouthsudan.org. Iron Giraffe Challenge 2025, team: Seahawks for South Sudan.

## School board makes personnel appointments

The Gloucester County School Board made a number of personnel appointments and staff reassignments, as well as accepting some resignations at its April 9 meeting, held in the T.C. Walker Education Center auditorium.

Stephanie Hautz of Yorktown was appointed as Interim Director of Human Resources, effective April 9, and Curtis Rowe Jr. of Yorktown was appointed to a groundskeeper position, effective April 9.

For 2024-2025 school year appointments, Ami McCullough of Midlothian was appointed to a math intervention position at Abingdon Elementary School; Sadie Melago of Mathews was assigned to a fourth-grade teaching position at Petsworth Elementary School; Elizabeth DeWitt of Yorktown was assigned to an elementary teaching position; Keisha Hill of Centreville was assigned to a school psychologist position; and Cindy Earwood and Michelle Norman

were both appointed to substitute teaching positions.

In contract reassignments, Bryan Hartley was reassigned from Chief Operations Officer to Deputy Superintendent, effective March 15; Katarina Keener was reassigned from Student Services Coordinator to Associate Director of Student Services, effective March 15; and Sara Elliot was reassigned from administrative associate to operations specialist in the operations department, effective April 1.

Contract reassignments for the 2024-2025 school year are as follows:

Shauquetta Jones was reassigned from a special education position at Abingdon to the same position at Page Middle School; Heather Morgan was reassigned from a fourth grade teaching position to a fifth grade teaching position at Botetourt Elementary School; Colleen Roady was reassigned from a third grade teaching position to a kindergarten teaching posi-

tion at Botetourt; Meghan Wymer was reassigned from a first grade teaching position at Petsworth to a sixth grade English Language Arts teaching position at Page; Brianna Navarre was reassigned from a special education position at Abingdon to the same position at Achilles Elementary School; Jeri-Lee Russ was reassigned from a special education position at Abingdon to the same position at Petsworth; Alicia Hahn was reassigned from a third grade teaching position to a kindergarten teaching position at Achilles; Rachel Musick was reassigned from an associate kindergarten teaching position to a kindergarten teaching position at Bethel Elementary School; Kristen Dennen was reassigned from a kindergarten teaching position to a first grade teaching position at Petsworth; Kathryn Johnson was reassigned from a third grade teaching position to a computer resource teaching position at Petsworth; Lynette Johnson was reassigned from a special education position to a kindergarten teaching position at Petsworth; Carey Kipper was reassigned from a fourth grade teaching position to a second grade teaching position at Petsworth; Tiffany Harding was reassigned from an elementary teaching position to a third grade teaching position at Petsworth; and Madelyn Junker was reassigned from an elementary teaching position to a third grade teaching position at Petsworth.


The following separations were also approved:

Tracie Larkin retired from teaching kindergarten at Abingdon, effective March 1; Patricia McMahon retired as Academic Support Coordinator, effective Nov. 1; Teresa Lukasik retired from a librarian position at Achilles, effective July 1; Patricia Harris resigned from a first grade teaching position at Achilles, effective March 31; Kierra Gray resigned from a paraprofessional position at Gloucester High School, effective March 14; Keith Nuttall resigned from a security officer position at Petsworth, effective July 1; Nina Carr resigned from a special education teaching position at Achilles, effective April 30; Sherrye Lovelace resigned from an assistant principal position at Achilles, effective

May 1; Tawaun Jones resigned from a bus driving position, effective April 5; Kimberly Kozenski resigned from a building level substitute position, effective July 1; Vilmarie Velazquez resigned from a special education teaching position at Bethel, effective July 1; Amy Nolte retired from a school nurse position at Botetourt, effective July 1; Kathryn Dency retired from a bus assistant position, ef-

fective May 1; Shaylin Gibbs resigned from a bus assistant position, effective July 1; Michelle Alexander resigned from a bus driver position, effective April 5; Madison McNeil resigned from a third grade teaching position at Abingdon, effective July 1; Michelle Norman resigned from an associate fifth grade teaching position at Abingdon, effective June 7; Charity Schnadenberg resigned from

a paraprofessional position at Petsworth, effective April 25; Jennifer Haley verbally resigned from a cafeteria worker position, effective April 19; Alexis Shinabery-Pelfrey resigned from a Spanish teaching position at GHS, effective July 1; Shinabery-Pelfrey resigned from coaching JV cheer, effective April 4; and Haley Ladner resigned from a third grade teaching position at Abingdon, effective June 7.



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Dad, Mom, Ashlyn and Dylan



# Honor rolls announced

## Mathews High

The Mathews High School guidance department recently released its honor rolls for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year. Students receiving all As during the marking period were:

**Seniors**—Savannah Collins, Ethan Deptola, Libbie Hospodar, Claire Kramer and Mason Patrick.

**Juniors**—Jaxon McDonald, Katherine Murphy, John Stephen Shaw and Hannah Stillwaggon.

**Sophomores**—Elizabeth Congrove, Felicity Hartlove, Rayann Helbig, Sterling Hudgins Jr., Kristen Hudgins, Ivan Schaible, Emma Skaza, Nora Sutherland and Ella Ward.

**Freshmen**—Kaitlyn Ball, Adam Greve, Addison Griffith, Charles Hyde, Hunter Owens, Lilyana Respress, Jordan Sadeq, Zora Sawyer, Samuel Tomcany and Brandon Webb.

Those named to the A/B honor roll were:

**Seniors**—Emersyn Duff, Kylie Dyer, Emilee Jarvis, Angelina Justice, Norfeet Lewis, Brandon McKee, Chloe Schaible and Alexis Williams.

**Juniors**—Shaleigh Conrow, Jordyn Cosby, Vic DeForge, Hailey Denkinger, Gavin Dustin, Grayson Griffith, Haley Hoell, Marissa Hudgins, Jerrell Johnson, Layla McBurney, Patrick Norris, Angel Shultz, Noah Stanley, Riley Tripp and Suki Zheng.

**Sophomores**—Hannah Davis, Lyla Duff, Toby Eskins, James Gray III and Anna West.

**Freshmen**—Chase Ambrose, Savannah Bass, Lily Bell, Vanessa Boyd, Ivar Golden, Alex Kellum, Maddison Lowe, William Marshall, Mark Ouma, Zac Salvadori, Henry Sowers, Ashley Stillwaggon and Chloe Winters.

## Thomas Hunter

Thomas Hunter Middle School recently released its honor rolls for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year. The following students received all As during the marking period:

**Eighth graders**—Charlotte Bailey, Delaney Boatman, Isabella Hockenberry, Mia Marrero, Ayla Martinez, Emily Moughon, William Penick, Mya Schroeder, Alexandra Walker, Emily Ward, Michael Wiatt and Corey Zheng.

**Seventh graders**—Cole Christensen, Finn McKinster and Colten Sadler.

**Sixth graders**—Ryleigh Eskins, Eloise Leslie, Julien Moore, Paige Morris, Marvin Ouma, Atticus Schursky, Jessica Taylor, Liam Tiller, Harper Tomcany, Keegan Walls and Charlotte West.

**Fifth graders**—Madison Ball, Ariy Easters, Charlotte Fielding, Naomi Gomez Vincente, John West and McKinley Wiatt.

The following students were

named to the A/B honor roll:

**Eighth graders**—Calianna Bourque, Marley Brock, Aurora Celona, Audrey Christopher, Alexis Haywood, Joann Lloyd, Annabelle Miller, Elizabeth Moore, Evelyn Welsh, Francis West, Ethan White and Lincoln Williams.

**Seventh graders**—Justus Boyd, Keira Cannon, Cara Christopher, Greyson Clements, Falon Cook, Ian Hartbarger, Carter Hayes, Leah Hyde, Naomi Jessuph, Grace Keel, Vivian Kollar, Bryce Larson, Grace McCurry, Jean Payne and Jameson Segalini.

**Sixth graders**—Emily Cardenas Flores, Joseph Davis, Aubrey Dean, Sophia Eno, Trenton Hall, Grace Hellebrandt, Allayisha Hill Epps, Kadin Inabinet, Chloeyana Jordan, Lillian Meadows, Devi Morrison, Kaden Ormsby, Avelia Payne, Weston Pierce, Dominic Rainville, Jackson Ramsey, Logan Ramsey, Katherine Small, Korra Swanson and Leah Taylor.

**Fifth graders**—Madison Balderston, Ada Barnes, Harper Bourque, Dean Christensen, Camden Clements, Riley Colchick, Abigail Collins, Aleya Fields, Lars Golden, Marie Hudgins, Liliana Jaeger, Natalie Jessuph, Landon Lawrence, Faith McCurry, Lillian McDaniel, Brandy Minor, Garrett Plessinger, Austin Sadler, Tate Shorts and Ellie Sowers.

## Page Middle School

Page Middle School has released its honor rolls for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year. Students receiving all As during the marking period were:

**Eighth graders**—Atian Alvarez, Chase Chesterfield, Schuyler Clements, Caleb Collett, Kryshire Cooke, Logan Eltzroth, Jacob Escamilla, Alexia Hefner, Taylor Hudgins, Bryson Johnson, Zachary Jonas, Sherice McCray, Rylee Perry, Khloe Rothenberger, Calum Small, Natalie Turner, Kelsie Williams, Addison Wymer and Sydney Yarbrough.

**Seventh graders**—Alastair Bourdutha, Teagan Gallaher, Abby Gone Caceres, Jakob Johnson, Lauren Kresovich, Conner Lee, Austin Mullins, Pari Ray, Declan Schneider, Brooklyn Smith, Nina Sweitzer and Mays Trice.

**Sixth graders**—John Abbott, Berlin Boykin, Makenzie Brannon, Athena Brooks, Irene Bruno, Theo Cechnicki, Mackenzie Chapman, Luke Cottee, Emma French, Leirun Gong, Taliyah Herring, Kaylin Hunt, Peyton King, Melanie Pryor, Allison Salinas-Plancarte, Makayla Santiago, Jackson Scalf, Malory Simpson, Charlotte Small, Sutton Stocki, Xilin Wang, Anna Wells, Nicholas Westerman and Evelyn Wright.

Those named to the A/B honor roll were:

**Eighth graders**—Alyssa Bishop, Natalie Bos, Keaira Bryant, Chayden Burnett, Bailey Chabrier, Daniel Cunha, Carson Curtis, Rona Dawson, Christian Dickerson, Alfonso Escamilla III, Kinsey Green, Kayla Hall, Cameron Hazelwood, Ayden Hernandez, Camden Hoercher, Isla Hogge, Logan Howard, Aubrey Jenner, Jordan Johnson, Kacey

Johnson, Graison Jones, Bryce Keeton, Halea Korte, Hayden Ladner, Taylor Lewis, Anthony Martin, Landon Monroe, Lia Neilson, Noah Potter, Layla Santellanes, Stella Santiago, Olivia Scheck, Mark Siefke, Katlyn Thompson, Malaya Thompson, Carolina Valenzuela, Noelle Watson and Jackson Wilson.

**Seventh graders**—Violet Adams, Sammy Ayer Jr., John Beckner II, Savannah Blankenship, Joseph Boulay, Logan Brown, Synclaire Cahilly, Kage Chavalia, Zardeia Couvington, Isabella Diggs, Bayleigh Dominguez, Joshua Farmer, Anna Gatling, Summer Goede, Almudena Gone Caceres, Kendall Hall, Kailah Jimoh, Miranda Jordan, Kierra Knuth, Eliza McCampbell, Landon Kiley, Baron Motley, Hunter Nelson, Emily Noehl, Piper Oberndorf, Brianna Peet, Kingston Perkins, Rogan Perry, Naomi Pitts, Abbygail Polk, James Porter, Carson Promersberger, Nancy Randazzo, Jazmyne Smith, Kassandra Tarantino, Faith Timbal, Josephine Williams and Mason Wood.

**Sixth graders**—Cypress Adams, Christopher Albertson, Ellie Bennett, Maria Bloom, Zackery Bogert, Deanna Boggs, Nevaeh Boyd, Mallory Bruno, Lan-Anh Bui, Gabriel Cheske, Skyler Collins, Skylar Cottee, Olivia Cupp, Brycen Davis, Markus Davis, Virginia Dawson, Maverick Elston, Uriah Evans, James Farmer, Yuxuan Ge, Marcos Gomez, Aubriana Green, Liam Hackney, Christopher Hanuska, Riley Hicks, Collin Hudgins, Jennavee Hunger, Annaliese Hunley, Anya Hunley, Madison Killion, Kaydence Latario, Brinlee Lindsay, Kahlan Lindsay, Mary Madison, Laila Martin, Catelyn McPherson, Madilyn Meadows, Chase Mitchell, Annabelle Neal, Easton Nelson, Mackenzie Page, Kaitlyn Parrott, Mackenzie Reayburn, Andru Reynolds, Dominik Sales, Christian Stark, Lawrence Stippich, Laniah Thompson, Tiana Thompson, Reese Walker, Krisna Whiting and Lorelei Wymer.

## Peasley Middle School

Peasley Middle School recently released its honor rolls for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year. The following students received all As during the marking period:

**Eighth graders**—Lincoln Alcorn, Noah Ashley, Claire Blake, Isabella Brodsky, Gabriella Byser, Payton Causey, Isabella Doss, Jaden Elliott, Lukas Falkenberg, Michelle Field, Carter Flip-pin, Gabriel Gates, Jamie Harris, Lawrence Harshfield Jr., Audrey Hartney, Addison Hoover, Kyle Hudson, Gabriel Hypes, Sophia Levitov, Delisha Minor, Kezia Moragne-El Henry, Allaina Morales, Bianca Mosher, Anthony Nester, Paula Ochoa Zepeda, Hayden Parsons, Marcos Puente Rosario, Brendan Riffe, Sara Shao, Cara Smith, Emmitt Smith, Izak Smith, Kaelyn Southworth, London Spencer, Jacob Stump Jr., Naomi Stump, Rylee Taylor, Seth Thompson and Frank Zoll.

**Seventh graders**—Sarah Carlton, Rowan Copeland-Garcia, Logan Creel, Everlee Dawkins, Lacey Donnelly, Wesley Falkenberg, Sean Finkel Jr., Madalyn Gray, Kenleigh Hall, Brielle Hicks,

Aidan Houtz, Samuel Howlett, Devyn Hurling, Aiden Moffatt, Brooke Moore, Melanie Mueller, Jordan Quenville, Ryleigh Rondeau, Jonathan Talbot, Camden Thompson, Abigail Valentine and Molly Walters.

**Sixth graders**—Joshua Beckett, Caragan Brooks, Weston Brown, Marc Coleman, Hailey Conley, Gage Copeland-Garcia, Emma Crist, Nayelee Cruz-Velazquez, Dexter Daly, Alyssa Davis, Joshua Dize, Tara Goodrich, Joyce Greene, Joseph Hill, Brendyn Laster, Sydney Martin, Dahlia McMullen, Ali Morelli, Shane Mosher, Jack Nelson, Olivia North, Caleb Ponce, Shyann Sanford, Benjamin Sawyer, Logan Smith, Allie Turner, Delaney Wiggs and Harper Willis.

The following students were named to the A/B honor roll for the third quarter:

**Eighth graders**—Shyanne Allison, Adriana Bercot, Robert Bridges III, Kensington Chenette, Aiden Cottee, Skylar Cox, Brayden Creech, Katie Dale, Avani Davis, Payton Dean, Elroy Delaney Jr., Alvaro Dodier-Fernandez, Chloe Dubose, Leinadsha Escalera-Cuevas, Addison Fallin, Calem Fleming, Caleb Ford, Jewels Forrest, Autumn Gildea, Jessica Gronlund, Matthew Hensley, Charlotte Honchak, Khloe Hudgins, Tristan Hypes, Colton Jablonski, Karmyn Johnson, Bailey Kittrell, Jackson Koch, Roan Kosakowski, Wyatt Linsmeyer, Aidan Luechauer, Parker Mahnke, Yaunder McElrath, Sidney Miller, James Nuckols, Brandon Rice, Jenna Seaton, Brennon Sellers, Jayden Sheffield, Ava Smith, Hugh Smith, Kaleb Smith, Bryce Southall, Sophie Starnes, Pearce Stippel, Carlee Sullivan, Sophie Thorpe, William Trueblood, Levi Yanno, Alexis Veasey, Carodie Walker, Graecyn Waller, Lilli Watts, Andrew West and Cayden Yaeckel.

**Seventh graders**—Gavin Abner, Savannah Altland, Bryden Beierly, Brady Bell, Issac Buchanan, Mackenzie Carpenter, Josie Chambers, Andrew Chatten, Ryan Jay, Tatianna Cockburn, Rachel Dowdy, Piper Dumas, Nykee Edwards, Kalleigh Erickson, Hakeem Erjaji, Colin Fary, Andrew Ford, Evan Gaskins, Caitlyn Gayle, Harper Hardaway, Joseph Jenkins III, Elijah Johnson, Lendyn Laster, Moriah Luechauer, Liam McCullough, Hayven Melendez, Mason Merrill, Xavier Milawski, Zachary Miller, Gwendelyn Mixon, Richard Morrison, William Nash, Benjamin Peters, Kenli Rosado, William Rousseau, Gabriel Schwartz, Carlie Smith, Rainie Smith, Cheyenne Snell, Kaleb Sproston, Katelyn Sproston, Kameron Starcher, William Trotman, Aiden Vaughan, Kylar Veasey, David Washington, Nichelle Williams, Gianna Wilson, Jacob Wojtaszczyk and Peyton Worrell.

**Sixth graders**—Connor Addleman, Payton Brantley, Levi Briggs, Teagan Brown, Lauren Chapman, Arianna Corey, Gabriel Damico, Sutton Earwood, Michael Harbick, Joseph Harper II, Steven Harris, Lily Jenkins, Addison Ketel-hut, Joslyn Kosakowski, Emily Kozenski, Addison Lance, Aubrey Lord, Adalyn Martin, Ryan McAllister, Jamison Miller, Trent Mills, Layla Moore, Olivia Moore, Camden Napier, Kenleigh Patton, Bradley Price, Mark Redding, James Robinette, Ryleigh Sewell, Khaidyn Spencer, Jakob Spradling, Brianna Stately, Austin Sutton, Bryce Washington, Jesse Wauhup and Colton Yaeckel.

## SCHOOL BRIEF



Charles F. McKeller Jr.

Charles F. McKeller Jr. of Gloucester, was recently selected as the recipient of the Outstanding Contributions by a Music Minor or Non-Major Award in the music program at Virginia Tech. This award recognizes students who have made an impact in the school's ensembles, outreach and music courses. McKeller has worked with the Virginia Tech Philharmonic and has made numerous contributions to the Virginia Tech String Project.

## Thomas Hunter to showcase elective courses on May 16

All community members, civic organizations and families are invited to attend The Art of Living from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, at Thomas Hunter Middle School, Mathews.

The program was originally scheduled for March 28, but postponed due to an issue that evening with plumbing in the school.

This free event is a celebration of the elective courses that help bring a wholeness to the educational experience of Thomas Hunter students, a release stated. Art, Music, Physical Education, Technology, and Family and Consumer Sciences students

will demonstrate some of the activities and lessons that students have enjoyed in these classes so far this year.

Family Life and Consumer Sciences will provide light fare food options prepared by students. Art will offer a Make and Take craft while there will be musical highlights in the Band Room. Engineering will present interactive exhibits, and Health and Wellness options will be offered in the gymnasium.

"This event will focus on the ways that we enhance our lives with a little bit of spice to make life more enjoyable," principal Cindy Gray said.

## Textbook reviews underway at MES, THMS

Textbook reviews are underway for grades K-5 Virginia Literacy Act core materials and grades 6-8 science. The review periods began on April 8 and will continue until Wednesday, May 8.

Mathews County Public Schools reviewed options from the VDOE approved core instructional program guide that provided continuity of instruction for grades K-5 in accordance with the Virginia Literacy Act.

Print samples are available for review at Mathews Elementary School. Call the main office to make an appointment, 804-725-2580.

Comments may be submitted via paper forms at the review site or by completing an online form.

MCPS reviewed options from the VDOE approved science textbook list that provided continuity of instruction for grades 6-8. Print samples are available for review at Thomas Hunter Middle School. Call the main office to make an appointment, 804-725-2434.

Detailed information can be found on a link at the top of the division's homepage: www.mathews.k12.va.us.

## Deadline approaches for Kids Craft Market

Next week is the deadline for youth to register for a booth in the upcoming Gloucester Parks, Recreation and Tourism Kids Craft Market.

The market will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 18 in the court circle. Youth ages 18 and under may rent a booth to sell their crafts/art; the fee for each 10'x10' space is \$25 and the deadline to register is May 1.

If space is available after May 1, there will be a \$10 late fee.

**HOMESCHOOL ADVENTURES:** Homeschool Park Adventures for local homeschool families is held on the second Wednesdays of the month at Beaverdam Park from 10 a.m. to noon. Meet on May 8. The fee is \$10 per child and the deadline to register is May 1.

For more information on these and other activities, call PRT at 804-693-2355, email prt@gloucesterva.info or stop by the office at 6382 Main Street. For online registration, visit https://gloucesterva.info/civrec.



## Bay Transit—RCC Scholarship

Bay Transit, the public transportation division of Bay Aging, announced the three winners of its 2024 Bay Transit—Rappahannock Community College Scholarship in a ceremony held at the school's Warsaw campus on April 15. This year's recipients (who each received \$700 scholarships) are Bay Transit Mechanic's Assistant Trinity Puckett, who is continuing coursework in support of earning her Diesel Electronic Certification; Bay Transit Dispatcher/Scheduler Kaitlyn Allen, who is taking biology and other prerequisite courses in pursuit of a diagnostic medical sonography degree; and Ava Oliff, granddaughter of Bay Transit bus operator Wayne Oliff, who is taking classes for a degree in graphic design. Shown here at the ceremony are, from left, RCC alumnus and RCC and Bay Aging board director Stanley Clarke; Bay Aging board director Cynthia Talcott, Bay Transit Operations Manager Pat Sanders, Allen, Puckett, Oliff, Towne Insurance Senior Account Manager Teresa English, Towne Insurance Senior Vice President Brittany Totty, and RCC Vice President of College Advancement Sarah D. Pope. The scholarships are paid for from sponsorships of Bay Transit's "Art in Transit" competition, as well as a \$1,000 match from the RCC Educational Foundation.



## First place

Ware Academy kindergartener Chase Harris of Gloucester won first place in the environmental category for WHRO's 2024 PBS KIDS Writers Contest for his original work, "Spy Cub Saves the Savannah." His submission had to meet the criteria of 50-200 words, a minimum of five illustrations and was judged on originality, creative expression, storytelling and integration of text and illustrations. Harris will be recognized with other WHRO PBS KIDS award recipients at a ceremony next month.

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CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Lady Devil Addy Lowe slides into home base to score the only run in Tuesday's 12-1 loss to the visiting Middlesex Chargers.

## Dukes drop two

The Gloucester High School varsity baseball team suffered two losses this past week, breaking its previously undefeated winning streak.

The Dukes lost, 5-1, to Menchville on the road last Thursday. Gloucester had four hits and two errors, while Menchville had five hits and one error. Duke Brayden Enoch had two hits in four at-bats.

Gloucester traveled to Bethel on Tuesday and lost to the Bruins, 4-3. Bethel had six hits and two errors, while the Dukes had six hits and no errors. Chandler Howlett had two hits for three at-bats.

The Dukes have a current record of 10-2 and are scheduled to face off against Bethel again this afternoon at home.

## Lady Dukes shut out Menchville

The Gloucester High School varsity softball team beat Menchville, 14-0, last Thursday on the road.

Autumn Cookson, who has a 7-0 record on the mound, pitched a three-hit shutout, striking out seven batters.

Gloucester put five runs on the board in the second inning. Alivia Bruce drove in the opening run of the game when she walked while bases were loaded. Kaia Hutton followed with a double to clear the bases. Cameron Palas drove in Hutton with a

triple to centerfield.

In the third inning, the Lady Dukes added three more runs as Samantha Carlton hit a double to drive in Tessa Carteret and Cookson. Bruce then hit a double to bring Carlton home.

For the game, Carteret had three hits for three at-bats with two doubles and three RBIs. Hutton also contributed three hits, including a double and three RBIs. Carlton had two hits with a double and drove in

three runs. Alexis Dishman also had two hits for two at-bats.

Gloucester has a three-game lead over Menchville and Kecoughtan for the Peninsula District championship with nine games left on the schedule.

The Lady Dukes will play Bethel at home this afternoon. Gloucester will travel to Denbigh on Monday for a make-up game and be on the road again Tuesday to face Phoebus.



CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

## Blue Devil baseball

Mathews pitcher Justin Jones was the starting pitcher on Tuesday night, as the homestanding Devils faced Middlesex. Mathews fell to the Chargers, 14-1, in the Pink Out game. Danny Hogge, Cam Matthews, Colin Moore and Jones each made one hit for the team. Timmy Dehoux drew a pair of walks. Blake Hunley had the team's only RBI. Jones was the winning pitcher last Thursday as the Devils defeated West Point, 16-4. Noah Wright and Hunley each had three hits in that game; Wright, Hunley, Moore and Dehoux had two RBIs apiece. The team will play next at home against King William. The MHS boys will host King William tonight, Thursday, April 25, beginning at 6.

## MHS girls beat Lafayette in 23-18 slugfest

In a busy week for the Mathews High School varsity softball teams, the Lady Devils faced West Point, Lafayette and Middlesex. The highlight of the week for Mathews was Monday's game at Lafayette; in a thrilling, three-plus hour contest, Mathews beat the Rams, 23-18.

Unfortunately for Mathews, that win was bookended by a pair of lopsided losses to West Point last Thursday (11-0) and Middlesex (12-1).

In the Lafayette game, Angel Shultz drove in five runs on four hits to lead the Lady Devils. As a team, Mathews collected 22 hits, to 14 for the Rams in the high-scoring affair.

A single by Alivia Garrett put Mathews on the scoreboard in the top of the first. Mathews exploded in the second inning for 12 more runs on nine hits, including a single by Addy Lowe that scored two.

Mathews added to its lead in the third inning after Laura Rowe singled and

Emily Coons laid down a sacrifice bunt, each scoring one run. Lindsay Coons, Garrett, Addison Griffith, Lowe, Harmony Smith and Hannah Davis each collected multiple hits for Mathews. Lowe, Rowe and Shultz each stole multiple bases.

Shultz was the winning pitcher for Mathews, striking out nine. Lindsay Coons appeared in relief.

Mathews fell to West Point last Thursday, 11-0. Contributing hits for the Devils in that game were Lowe (double, single), Shultz (two singles) and Garrett and Griffith (one single each).

Shultz collected eight strikeouts from the circle.

In Tuesday's 12-1 loss to Middlesex on Tuesday, Shultz went 2-for-3 at the plate, getting the team's only run as she drove in Lowe.

Mathews is scheduled to host King William tonight, Thursday, April 25, beginning at 6 o'clock.

## Co-rec softball, women's basketball leagues forming

Gloucester Parks, Recreation and Tourism is sponsoring a summer co-rec softball league for ages 15 and older at Ark Park. Each team fields five men and five women.

Games will be held on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. from June 2 through Aug. 4. The team fee is \$650 and the deadline for teams to register is May 5.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:** A women's basketball league for ages 18 is also forming. Games will be played from 5 to 7:30 p.m. every Thursday from June 6 through Aug. 1 at the Ark Park basketball court. The fee is \$15 per person and the deadline to register is May 26.

**BELLY DANCE:** Belly dance classes for ages 16 and older will be held from 7-8 p.m. on Mondays, June 3 through July 29 at the Stewart Building. This beginners' class is a good place to learn basics or brush up on your technique. The fee is \$65 and the deadline to register is May 27.

**SPECIALTY INSTRUCTORS:** Gloucester PRT is seeking individuals interested in teaching classes for youth or adults. Dance, gymnastics, yoga, exercise, crafts, arts, games, knitting, carving, and just about anything else you are interested in sharing. Visit the county's webpage and look for job opportunities; all applications must be online.

For more information on these and other activities, call PRT at 804-693-2355, email prt@gloucesterva.info or stop by the office at 6382 Main Street. For online registration, visit <https://gloucesterva.info/civirec>.

### WEATHER

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

DATE	MAX	MIN	Prec.	Wind
4/16	69	55	.01	16nw
4/17	77	53	0	19wsw
4/18	72	52	0	18w
4/19	60	50	0	10ese
4/20	67	52	0	13nnw
4/21	61	45	.30	21ne
4/22	57	42	0	25n

### Summary

The National Weather Service, as of Wednesday, issued a fairly nice week-end outlook for this area: partly sunny on Saturday, night around 68; sunshine and a high of 79 degrees on Sunday, capping a warming trend that started mid-week.

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GHS BOYS' SOCCER  
GAVIN BLANKS      KOHLBY WILSON

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## GHS boys' soccer posts wins over Manor, New Kent

BY RUBY WILLIAMS

The Gloucester High School varsity boys' soccer team shut out the visitors from Manor last Thursday, 8-0.

Five of the GHS goals came in the first half. Kohlby Wilson opened the scoring with an assist from Tyler Welch. Wilson would go on to score once more in the first half, picking up his hat trick in the second.

Tanner Bailey also scored two first-half goals, with assists from Max Bell and Carter Thompson; Gavin Blanks scored the other first-half goal.

In addition to Wilson (whose second-half goal came off an assist from Jess Manheim), Bell and Manheim also scored to complete the shutout. Manheim and Justin Pence shared goalkeeper duties, holding Manor scoreless.

### New Kent

The Dukes returned to the field on Monday, where they snagged another win, 3-1,



RUBY WILLIAMS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

GHS boys' soccer player Ryan Williams kicks the ball in last Thursday's game against Manor. Gloucester shut out the visiting Mustangs. On Monday, Williams scored a goal in Gloucester's 3-1 win over New Kent.

against New Kent in an away game.

In the first half, Ryan Williams scored a goal with an assist from Gavin Seitz.

In the second half, GHS continued their lead with a

goal from Kollin Wilson and a goal from Gavin Blanks with an assist from Corey Skay. New Kent scored a goal, but GHS was able to maintain the lead. Manheim was the goalkeeper for the night.

This leaves the Dukes' season record at 5-1-1.

Gloucester was scheduled to face Bethel on the road Tuesday night.



CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

### MHS soccer

Varsity Blue Devil player Franklin Cardenas vies with a Northumberland player for control of the ball in Friday night's soccer game against the visiting Indians. After a scoreless first half, Northumberland went on to win the game, 2-1.

## GHS girls beat Warwick, fall to Menchville, New Kent

BY RUBY WILLIAMS

The Gloucester High School girls' varsity soccer team defeated Warwick, 4-1, in an away game on Tuesday, April 9.

In the first half of the game, Warwick scored the first goal and only goal of the half.

In the second half, Rylee Amaral scored the first goal for GHS with an assist from Ava Santellanes. Amaral then scored two more goals to continue the Lady Dukes' dominance. Lilyan Wright racked the Lady Dukes' final goal for the evening.

### Menchville

On Tuesday, April 16, the GHS girls were shut out by the visiting Menchville Monarchs, 4-0.

In the first half, the Lady Dukes stayed strong and allowed Menchville to score

only one goal with saves from Santellanes and Wright.

In the second half, Menchville scored three more goals to seal the win.

### New Kent

On Monday, the GHS girls lost a 3-1 game to New Kent. In the first half of the game, New Kent scored the first goal of the night. In the second half, New Kent scored two more goals.

GHS then responded with a goal from Emily Baker. GHS fought hard until the very end for a comeback, but New Kent maintained its lead.

"I was proud of how hard they battled until the end. This team has not hit its potential yet, but it is coming," said GHS head coach Scott Haley.

The next match was an away game Tuesday night against Bethel.



RUBY WILLIAMS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Lady Duke Lilyan Wright eludes a couple New Kent players in Monday night's home game. Gloucester fell to the visiting Trojans, 3-1.



CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

### Lady Devils' soccer

Mathews High School girls' varsity soccer player Kat Murphy attempts to outrun a pair of Northumberland players in Friday's home game. The Devils fell to the visiting Indians, 6-2. Mathews was scheduled to host West Point last night. Today, the girls travel to Bethel for a 5 p.m. game.

## Baystars recap

**HAMMERHEADS:** The Baystars Hammerheads traveled to Elizabeth City, N.C., on Saturday to play the CUSA Lightning to a 4-1 victory. The first half resulted in a one-point lead off a sneaky volley into the goal from Aaron Hines. In the beginning of the second half, the opponents put a direct kick into the upper 90 to tie the game.

Soon after, Cam Bower received a long pass and with a few skillful touches was able to find a slot to connect for a goal. Hines expertly placed a direct kick just above the hands of the goalie from distance as the result of a foul. The final score was placed by Haydin Arquette with a laser shot through the hands of the goalie into the back of the net. Great offensive support was provided by Cole Christensen, Owen Steele and Milo Despinis.

In a dramatic clash of the last two unbeaten teams, the Hammerheads met the Beach FC Grizzlies back home on Sunday at Woodville Park. The Baystars found themselves down one goal at the half. The team recovered by scoring two in quick succession early in the second. Zane Williams drove in the first, imposing himself into the opponents' defense after a corner kick from Hines. The second goal was scored by Bower after breaking free of arguably Beach's best player. Bower then scored the final goal to seal the 3-1 win. Goalie Drew West led the defense who put together many dramatic defensive stands.

**WHITE CAPS:** The U9 White Caps traveled to Chesapeake on Saturday to take on the CSC U9 Galaxy soccer team.

Noah Ford and Fett Kutch each scored two goals and Donnie Wolford and Ryan Seay each scored one goal.

Ryan Seay and Triffon Luechauer split time in the goal, with one and three goals

blocked, respectively. On the pitch, Graham Kittrell had a standout performance being constantly aware of where his teammates were to move the ball forward. On back-to-back drives, he marked assists to Kutch who scored two of the White Caps' six goals.

The White Caps hosted the VA Legacy Wizards on Sunday.

Colton Bergstrom scored two goals and Bryce Dautzenberg, Jack Sheridan, and Graham Kittrell each scored one goal.

Donnie Wolford and Fett Kutch shared time defending the White Caps' goal, making a total of seven stops, only allowing one goal each. Ryan Seay owned the head-to-head challenges, winning the ball repeatedly and making solid passes to build the offensive attack.

**ADMIRALS:** The Baystars FC U15 Admirals team won, 7-2, against Smithfield on Saturday at Woodville Park.

Ian Peralta scored three goals, Logan Mueller scored one goal, Josgar Ramos scored one goal, Tanner Janisko scored one goal and Elton Hudgins also scored one goal.

The U15 Admirals returned to play the Beach FC Torres-Hornets on Saturday, which ended in a 2-2 draw.

One goal was scored by Owen Wilcox and one goal was scored by Maddox Newman.

The Admirals had a great first half of the game, working together to get the ball up the field. Wilcox and Newman both scored in the first half.

The second half the opposing team came out ready to even the score. Both teams fought hard and played a tough game with great sportsmanship on both sides. In the end, the Admirals walked away with a tie, leaving its current season at 2-1-1.



### U13 Swordfish

The Baystars U13 Swordfish youth soccer team finished the weekend with a 1-1 tie against Virginia Beach on April 13 and a 3-0 win against Suffolk the following day. Madalyn Grey scored the first and only goal the Virginia Beach game for the Gloucester team. Against Suffolk, Grey, Melanie Mueller and Mallory Bruno each scored while Skyler Collins had two assists and Grey added one. It was a complete team effort both days with excellent goalkeeping by Riley Gale. The team took on Smithfield at home this weekend in the rain, winning 5-1 with two goals each from Mueller and Charlotte Small, and one from Bruno. Team members include, in front from left, Madalyn Grey, Riley Gale, Greylyn Sewell; standing, coach John Sewell, Skyler Collins, Mallory Bruno, Leah Hyde, Charlotte Small, Melanie Mueller, Carley Phelps, Aubrey Lord, Lacey Donnelly, Ryllyn Wilmoth, Lilli Watts, Emma French, Caragan Brooks, Berlin Boykin, coach Tyler Windley and, not pictured, Peyton King.



### U15 Admirals

The Baystars FC U15 Admirals soccer team defeated Smithfield by a 7-2 margin on April 13 at Woodville Park. Team members include, front row from left, Tanner Janisko, Logan Mueller, Elton Hudgins, Brycen Hogge, Emil Ramos, Nikko Medeiros, Chad McNeill, William Hubbard, Josgar Ramos; back row, Owen Wilcox, Ian Peralta, coach Kaden Williams, Chase Lawson, assistant coach Austin Williams and Maddox Newman.

## Knights beat Bulldogs, Broncos

The Gloucester Youth Football and Cheer League Knights 12U team beat the Suffolk Bulldogs, 20-19, in recent action.

Offensively, Tyrell Daisy had 166 total yards, one touchdown kick return and 12 passing yards. Caleb Beyer had 29 rushing yards and two touchdowns. Durrall Daisy had 61 rushing yards and Alijah Pluim had 19 rushing yards.

On defense, Jacob Lewis led the charge with 13 tackles, followed by Jeremiah Woolfork with nine tackles. Tyrell Daisy, Declan Schneider and Pluim had five tackles each.

For 6U and 8U cheer, Genesis Pluim was named most spirited and Thea Oast had the best technique. For 10U, 12U and 14U cheer, Elizabeth Daisy was named most spirited and Cassidy Smith had the best technique.

The Knights also defeated the Community Broncos, 13-8, over the weekend.

Durrall Daisy led the offensive effort with 101 total yards and one touchdown. Tyrell Daisy had 56 yards and 16 passing yards. Declan Schneider had an interception and scored a touchdown.

Defense was led by Jacob Lewis who had 10 tackles and a sack. Jeremiah Woolfork had five tackles, Tyrell Daisy had an interception, Alijah Pluim had five tackles and Caiden Baumgartner had two sacks.

Saige Pierce was named most spirited for 6U and 8U cheer. Amelia Flewelling had the best technique.

For 10, 12 and 14U cheer, Sophia Smith was named most spirited and Maddy Lewis was named for the best technique.



The GHS girls' doubles team of Casey Billings and Janaye Oberlin, from left, faced off against Grafton on Monday.

## GHS tennis falls to Menchville, Grafton

The Gloucester High School girls' tennis team fell to Menchville at home last Thursday, 8-1.

Casey Billings posted the only win for GHS in her singles game after going into a tiebreaker. Kearney Palas, Janaye Oberlin, Sam Wooldridge, Ally Bishop and Julianna Ward also played singles matches that evening.

The three doubles teams that played for GHS—Palas and Ward, Wooldridge and Haylee Hartleben, and Billings and Oberlin—all lost their matches as well.

### Grafton

On Monday, the GHS girls fell to Grafton, 9-0. The team's next match will be against

Bethel today, Thursday, April 25, at 3:30 p.m. at Bethel High School.

## GHS athletes compete in Peninsula District meet

BY RUBY WILLIAMS

The Gloucester High School track team competed in its second Peninsula District meet at Gloucester High School on Wednesday, April 17, hosted by Bethel High School.

On the girls' side, the 4x800 meter relay of Hannah Symmonds, Peyton Price, Hannah Ridings, and Hailee Jorgensen placed second with a time of 11:53.51. In the shot put, Jahdai Donald placed second with a throw of 30'4", Payton Timmons placed 16th with a throw of 23'10.5" and Alyvia Wermter placed 22nd with a throw of 20'3". Jenna Seaton placed first in the JV 100-meter dash with a time of 14.28.

In the varsity girls' 100-meter dash, Deziray Bellinger placed fourth with a time of 13.06, Amari Hunt placed 17th with a time of 14.06, Tai Sewell placed 23rd with a time of 14.31. In the 1600-meter mile, Mya Baker placed first with a time of 5:30.95, Kayla Turner placed fourth with a time of 6:11.99 and Rachel Blittle placed sixth with a time of 6:18.67. In the 400-meter dash, Shyanne Carlton placed fifth with a time of 1:07.11 and Ellary Miller placed seventh with a time of 1:07.93. In the 800-meter run, Mary VanFossen placed third with a time of 2:39.76 and Avalynn Hutton placed fifth in 2:42.08. In the 200-meter run, Jenna Seaton placed 18th with a time of 29.48 and Ellary Miller placed 23rd with a time of 30.19. In the 3200-meter run, Mackenzie Alcorn placed fourth with a time of 14:32.10.

On the boys' side, Elroy Delaney placed eighth in the JV 100-meter dash with a time of 14.20. In the shot put, Austin Halterman placed 10th with a throw of 33' and Jaylen Dale placed 18th with a throw of 35'4". In the varsity boys' 100-meter dash, Xavier Johnson placed 16th with a time of 12 seconds flat, Sean



RUBY WILLIAMS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

In the girls' shot put, Gloucester's Jahdai Donald placed second with a throw of 30'4".

Briggs placed 26th with a time of 12.26, and Jackson Taylor placed 30th with a time of 12.42. In the 1600-meter run, Aiden Pincince placed second inf 4:53.66, Erik Waters placed fourth in 5:04.96, and Cesar Gomez placed eighth with a time of 5:28.65. In the boys' 400-meter dash, Gavyn Talbot placed 12th with a 55.96 and Izak Smith placed 20th with a 57.28.

In the 800-meter run, Rylan Allcorn placed second with a time of 1:59.93. In the 200-meter dash, Gavyn Talbot placed eighth in 24.16. In the 3200-meter run, Joel Taylor placed fifth running 11:27.13. The boys' 4x400 meter relay of Allcorn, Johnson, Briggs, and Taylor placed sixth with a time of 3:46.57.

The Gloucester boys' and girls' track and field teams will compete in the Denbigh Patriots Track Classic on Saturday. The field events start at 8 a.m. and the running events begin at 9.

## MHS girls blank West Point, Denbigh

The Mathews High School girls' tennis team defeated West Point last Thursday, blanking the visiting Pointers, 9-0. Leading the way in singles play with victories were Lyla Duff (8-1), Brooke Fulford (8-2), Liberti Carter (8-1), Lily Jarosz (8-0), Ella Ward (8-0) and Jayda Thomas (9-7).

The doubles teams of Duff/Carter, Fulford/Jarosz and Ward/Thomas posted wins to complete the shutout.

On Friday, Mathews traveled to Denbigh, defeating the Patriots, 9-0, losing only three games in the process. Exhibition wins were also posted by Delaney Boatman and Charlotte Bailey.

The win streak ended Monday with the Lady Devils falling at home to Rappahannock, 7-2. Ward came away with a dramatic 6-3, 3-6, 10-7 tiebreaker win, then teamed up with Jayda Thomas for a 6-2, 6-2 doubles victory.

On Monday afternoon, the MHS girls are scheduled to host Northampton, starting at 4.



CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Lady Devil Liberti Carter posted an 8-1 singles victory last Thursday against her West Point opponent as Mathews defeated the visiting Pointers, 9-0

### LOCAL TIDES

	HIGH	LOW
Thursday	10:42 a.m.	4:46 a.m.
4/25	10:55 p.m.	4:34 p.m.
Friday	11:18 a.m.	5:22 a.m.
4/26	11:33 p.m.	5:10 p.m.
Saturday	11:58 a.m.	6:01 a.m.
4/27		5:50 p.m.
Sunday	12:16 a.m.	6:47 a.m.
4/28	12:43 p.m.	6:38 p.m.
Monday	1:05 a.m.	7:39 a.m.
4/29	1:33 p.m.	7:35 p.m.
Tuesday	1:58 a.m.	8:37 a.m.
4/30	2:27 p.m.	8:39 p.m.
Wednesday	2:55 a.m.	9:36 a.m.
5/1	3:18 p.m.	9:49 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.
- Plankatank River, Cherry Point—Add 1 hour.
- Plankatank River, Dixie—Add 1 hour, 33 minutes.
- Urbanna—Add 2 hours, 50 minutes.

### THE SUN THIS WEEK

	Sunrise	Sunset
4/25	6:17 a.m.	7:49 p.m.
4/26	6:16 a.m.	7:50 p.m.
4/27	6:15 a.m.	7:51 p.m.
4/28	6:14 a.m.	7:52 p.m.
4/29	6:13 a.m.	7:53 p.m.
4/30	6:12 a.m.	7:54 p.m.
5/1	6:10 a.m.	7:55 p.m.

### THE MOON THIS WEEK

	Moonrise	Moonset
4/25	9:54 p.m.	6:57 a.m.
4/26	10:59 p.m.	7:33 a.m.
4/27		8:16 a.m.
4/28	12:02 a.m.	9:09 a.m.
4/29	12:59 a.m.	10:11 a.m.
4/30	1:49 a.m.	11:19 a.m.
5/1	2:31 a.m.	12:31 p.m.

### APRIL MOON PHASES

Last quarter	4/1
New moon	4/8
First quarter	4/15
Full moon	4/23
Last quarter	5/1

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### Together We Fight!

The Mathews High School baseball and softball teams held their Pink Out games on Tuesday afternoon, honoring those who have died in the community, those who have survived, and those who are currently struggling with cancer. The observance was held before the start of the two teams' games with Middlesex, as Mathews players all wore pink shirts under their game jerseys in the activity organized by MHS softball player and sophomore Emily Coons. Unfortunately for Mathews, both teams fell to the visiting Chargers.

### RYZ OBUCHOWICZ REGATTA: GHS, MHS DO WELL

#### Gloucester

Following a series of weather-related cancellations, the Gloucester Rowing Association made a triumphant return to competition over the weekend at the Ryz Obuchowicz Regatta at Sandy Run Regional Park, Fairfax, clinching victories in several events.

Gloucester's rowers secured three first-place finishes, three second-place finishes and three third-place finishes at the regatta.

One of the standout performances came from Braxten Abelar and Dannie LaCosa who powered their way to first place in the women's double event.

Jacob Gross, Mason Dominguez, Tristan Buswell and Ezra Ward combined their talents to secure first place in the men's four event, showcasing precision and synchronization throughout the race.

Abelar, Maylaya Thompson, Cameron Micket and LaCosa took second place in the women's four event. Also in second place was Carter Blankenship in the men's single race. Zachary Hudson and Cooper White worked together to achieve second place in the men's double event.

Hannah McAllister, Layla Woodall, Hannah Mullis and Scarlett Morrison took fifth place in the novice women's four event. Caroline Valenzuela served as the coxswain.

Gloucester will compete again this Saturday at the EVBASRA Championships in North Carolina.

#### Mathews

Members of the Mathews High School crew traveled to Sandy Run Regional Park in Northern Virginia on Saturday for the Ryz Obuchowicz Regatta, where they competed against 40 other rowing teams in four events.

First to race was the MHS Women's Junior double of Anna West and Lillianna Humbles, who placed third behind Justice and Gloucester high schools.

Next was the Men's Junior double of Bradley Murphy and Ray Hudgins, who placed first against Gloucester and Garfield.

The Men's Varsity double of Jaxon McDonald and Sam Tomcany also placed first against Hylton and Mount Vernon.

The team's last event was the Women's Varsity double of Scarlet Johnson and Sydney Kollar who placed first against Hylton and Briar Woods.

This weekend, the MHS crew will travel to Elizabeth City, N.C., for the Eastern Virginia Scholastic Rowing Association Championships.



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