



GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS GAZETTE-JOURNAL

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Shirley West Hogge (left) was named the 2024 Guinea Jubilee grand marshal Sunday afternoon during Guinea Heritage Day. After introducing her, Hamilton Williams of the Guinea Heritage Association steps aside for Hogge to address the assembled crowd at the Abingdon Ruritan Club in Bena.

Shirley West Hogge named Guinea Grand Marshal

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

After 25 years of serving Guinea neighbors as a technology assistant at Achilles Elementary and as a community volunteer, and with a lifetime on the water, Shirley West Hogge was named the 2024 Guinea Jubilee grand marshal at Guinea Heritage Day, which was held Sunday afternoon at the Abingdon Ruritan Club in Bena.

"Our 2024 grand marshal has literally been giving to the Guinea community, primarily through the children and their parents, since 1998," said Hamilton Williams of the Guinea Heritage Association.

Hogge established a clothes closet at Achilles Elementary School with Martha Wiggs over two decades ago to furnish coats, shoes, socks, underwear and other clothing items for children in need.

"On special occasions party dresses or dress clothes were bought for the children," said Williams. "Electricity bills were sometimes brought up to date and food was stocked in the parents' refrigerators—all in caring for the children."

Hogge also coordinated angel trees with local churches to provide donated Christmas gifts to parents so they had

presents to give their children for the holiday.

After the significant damage caused by Hurricane Isabel in fall 2003, Hogge helped to collect and distribute furniture, clothes, water, food, beds and appliances for people impacted by the storm.

Hogge spent her early life on the water at the end of Severn Wharf Road with her grandparents, Russell and Bettie

Lee West. In 2007, she began working with her father as a crab pot-puller and cull-boy. Since her father passed away in 2013, she has been running a pot line from her 16-foot Carolina Skiff. Her watermen lines in Guinea date as far back as 1764 with Ambrose West.

"I was truly blessed to

SEE GUINEA HERITAGE DAY, PAGE 4A



Carol Dolan (left) and Nancy Moffitt look over the cakes baked for the annual Guinea Cake Silent Auction.

Mathews planners endorse change to short-term rental rule

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

After four months of wrangling over the issue, Mathews planners on Tuesday night voted to recommend to the board of supervisors that a provision in the zoning ordinance that allows short-term rentals to exceed the health department's occupancy limit should be removed.

The vote was 4-3, with members Donald Morgan, Byron Rauch, and James Meade voting against. The board of supervisors will have its own public hearing on the matter at

its October meeting.

Doug Wilton, who last month voted against removing the language allowing two additional people per dwelling beyond the two-bedroom limit allowed by the Virginia Department of Health, apologized for what he said was a mistake and voted this time to remove the language.

The decisive factor for Wilton appeared to be information shared by County Administrator Ramona Wilson, acting as planning

SEE MATHEWS PLANNERS, PAGE 7A

23 years later: Service remembers 9/11 tragedy

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

A 9/11 Remembrance and Patriotic Service held on Sunday at Gwynn's Island Baptist Church drew more than 120 people to remember the many lives lost and sacrifices made by first responders on Sept. 11, 2001.

On that day, hijacked planes crashed into the World Trade Center's Twin Towers in New York, the Pentagon in Arlington, and a field in Pennsylvania, killing nearly 3,000 people. The annual remembrance also honored the first responders of Mathews County.

"It was a beautiful day on the grounds of the Gwynn's Island Civic League for the morning worship service," said Pastor Ed Jordan of Gwynn's Island Baptist in a press release. "All present honored and celebrated

SEE 9/11 COMMEMORATION, PAGE 11A



CHARLIE KOENIG / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Never forget

As in years past, Gloucester Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad, Inc., flew an American flag atop Station 1 in Gloucester Court House on Wednesday morning in memory of the lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001.



SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Walker Williams of Mathews rolls a coconut to knock over skulls under the watchful eyes of Lady Evelyn, Ginger Soulstealer, Capt. Slackbeard, and Redbeard of the Norfolk-based pirate group Captain Slackbeard and the Cutthroat Crew on Saturday during Mathews Market Days.

Near-perfect weather prevails at Market Days

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

Two days of near-perfect weather, with temperatures in the 70s and barely a hint of rain, favored the 50th anniversary of Mathews Market Days, held on Friday and Saturday on the Mathews Court Green and surrounding areas.

Festival Chair Jennifer Roahrig said the event was

"absolutely a success," with twice as many people attending this year as last year (around 7,500), a car show that had double the number of entries, and some vendors saying it was the best weekend they'd ever had.

"It was so packed at one point on Saturday that you literally couldn't walk," said Roahrig. "It's amazing to see your hard work come full

circle."

The festival raised \$4,200 from merchandise sales (600 items sold out of 700 available) and booth rental fees, she said, and the proceeds after all bills are paid will go to After Prom, the P. Buckley Moss Foundation, the Mathews Sheriff's Office, the Mathews High School March-

SEE MARKET DAYS, PAGE 7A



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An international flair

Michaela "Mich" Lee of Mathews has used her love for preparing international cuisine in a Gloucester Parks and Recreation cooking class. For story and recipes, see page 1B.

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Y M C K



Historical interpreter tells tale of James Armistead Lafayette

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

Gloucester's colonial courthouse was packed with history buffs on Sunday as actor/interpreter Stephen Seals slipped casually into the persona of James Armistead Lafayette, an enslaved African American who spied for the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, and told Lafayette's story with wit and charm.

The free program was sponsored by the Woodville Rosenwald School Foundation and the Cook Foundation.

Dressed in a Federal-era tailcoat and trousers and decked out with a cravat and a round hat, Seals fully engaged his audience as he shared the story of Lafayette's life, from his birth into slavery to his career as a war spy to his later years as a free man of color.

James Armistead Lafayette was enslaved by the Armistead family of New Kent County. His master, William Armistead, was the commissary for Virginia's troops, thus James was tasked with delivering munitions to various units in the Continental Army.

It was while delivering musket flints that he met the Marquis de Lafayette, the famed French nobleman and military officer who served as a commander in the American Revolutionary War and played a major role in the Siege of Yorktown.

Seals told about the two men sharing a bottle of whiskey, with the marquis questioning James about his life, including personal questions such as how old he was when he first realized he was a slave, and how it made him feel. James replied that he was angry because "there's one great gift that God has given to every man, woman, and child, and that is our own free will. I felt a great God-given gift had been stripped from me."

The marquis in turn told James that he had inherited his title of nobility at the age of 2, when his father died at war, and he had always wondered what he had done to earn the respect his title



Actor/interpreter Stephen Seals as James Armistead Lafayette, an enslaved African American who spied for the Continental Army, gave a talk Sunday in Gloucester's colonial courthouse.

brought him. He told James, "I believe that a man is not meant to be judged by how he was born, but he is meant to be judged by what he does."

Seals said that, after that encounter, the Marquis de Lafayette asked the master if James could serve with him in the Continental Army, and that request was granted. However, James wasn't to serve as a soldier, but rather as a spy posing as an escaped slave to provide the marquis with information about the British army.

"I didn't think I could say no," said Seals as Lafayette. He explained that he knew he couldn't trust the Americans or the British, but he thought he could trust the Marquis de Lafayette.

Assigned to American General Benedict Arnold (a name

that brought laughter to the crowd), Lafayette slipped across the lines and became a manservant to British General Lord Cornwallis.

"I was in the room where all the conversations were had," he said, "and I took intelligence back."

Then one day, he was called in to speak with Lord Cornwallis. Fearing his spying had been discovered, he instead found that Cornwallis wanted him to spy on the Americans.

"What were the chances?" said Seals to laughter. "You can't write this!"

James shared this offer with the Marquis de Lafayette, who had him return to the British and provide misinformation. He did this until 1781, when he found out that Cornwallis was headed to Gloucester Point and Yorktown for supplies

and provided that information to the patriot army. What followed was the Siege of Yorktown and a decisive battle that ended with Cornwallis surrendering, heralding the end of the Revolutionary War.

After this, the marquis returned to France, and James petitioned the Virginia House of Delegates for his freedom. He was denied on the grounds that he had not carried arms. While black men who had served in the trenches were granted their freedom, James returned to life as a slave.

The marquis returned to America in 1784, and upon finding out James wasn't free, he wrote a letter that told of what James had done for the American cause. On Feb. 7, 1786, the Virginia legislature once again took up James's request for freedom, and the letter made the difference. The Virginia General Assembly purchased James from Armistead, and at the age of 39, he became a free man.

"It was the sweetest taste I had ever experienced," said Seals as Lafayette. Once he was freed, he chose to change his name to James Lafayette.

James got a job at a grist mill and was eventually able to purchase 40 acres of land in New Kent County. He spent the rest of his life earning money to buy the freedom of his family members—first his wife, then each of his children, then aunts, uncles, and cousins. It was not an easy task because the law required that if

he purchased his enslaved relatives, he must have enough additional money to take care of them so they wouldn't become wards of the state.

In 1818, James ran out of money and petitioned for a veteran's pension. He was

granted \$40 a year for the rest of his life.

"It was the second time this country showed tangibly the contribution I made," said Seals as James. "I hope that's something everyone comes to understand."



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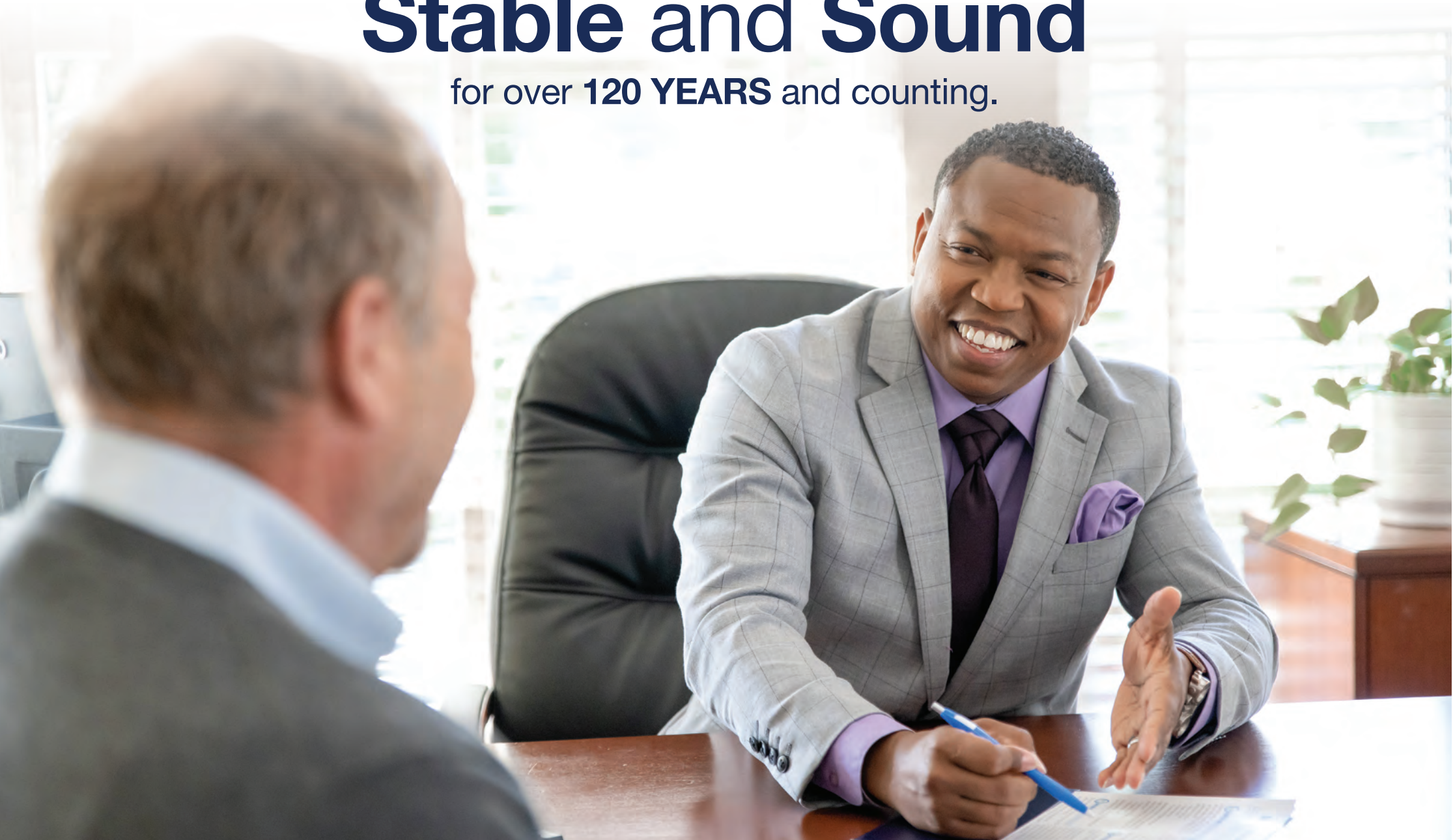


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Mathews resident takes temporary custody of Richard III seal

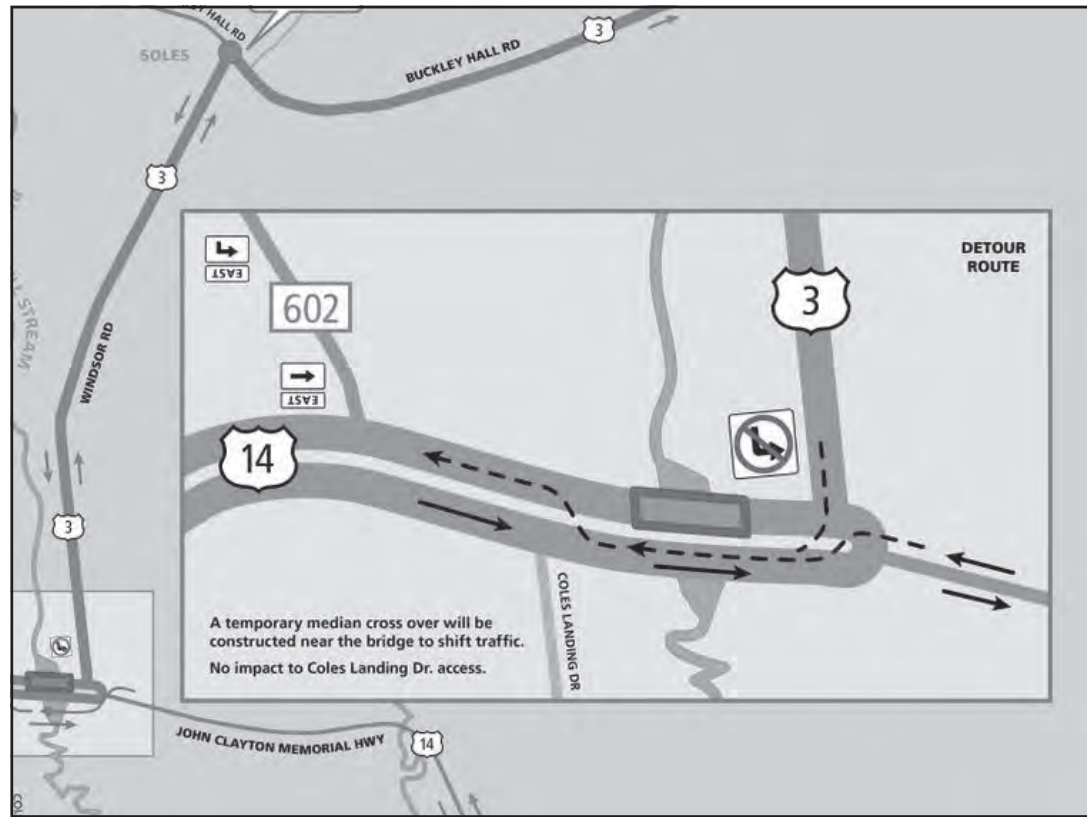
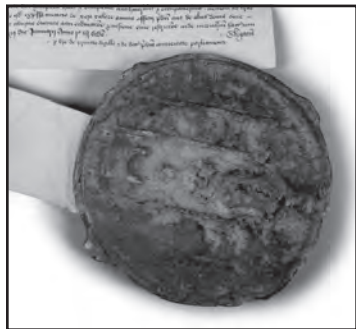
Liz Bateman of Mathews has been asked to take temporary custody of the Great Seal of King Richard III after the item came up in auction in Northern Virginia.

The seal, dating to 1485 and five inches in diameter, accompanies a Grant of Lieutenancy of the castle and county of Guise to Sir James Tyrell, a loyal knight who fought many battles at Richard III's side. It was bought at auction for approximately \$5,000 by the Richard the Third Society in the U.K.

The seal will eventually be housed at the York Museum in York, U.K. Bateman is the coordinator of the Tidewater Chapter of the Richard the Third Society, American Branch. www.r3.org



Liz Bateman of Mathews, at right, has been tasked with keeping temporary custody of the Great Seal of King Richard III after its sale at The Potomack Company in Alexandria. She is shown with auction house employees Jennifer Epley and Zachary Diaz. At left is the Great Seal.



This map shows the work area on the Route 3/14 westbound bridge over Burke Stream, and recommended detours now that left turns from Route 3 to Route 14 are prohibited.

Left turns from Route 3 to Route 14 prohibited for now

The Virginia Department of Transportation began, as of Monday, to prohibit left turns from Route 3 (Windsor Road) to Route 14 eastbound in Mathews County.

Work is underway at that intersection to improve the westbound Route 3/14 bridge over Burke Mill Stream located at the Mathews and Gloucester line.

Until the project is completed Route 3 travelers heading to Mathews can choose to travel to Route 198 or turn right onto Route 14 eastbound and proceed to the Burkes Pond Road intersection to make a U-turn. "Drivers should use the most convenient alternate route depending on their destination," said a press release from VDOT.

The \$5.5 million rehabilitation project began in July to replace the bridge deck, beams, railings, guardrails, and asphalt. The project will also improve drainage, environmental controls, and slopes near the 76-year-old structure.

Message boards and signs will be posted to alert drivers to the new restriction.

In mid-October, the westbound Route 3/14 travel lanes will close at Windsor Road. All Route 3/14 traffic will cross the eastbound bridge over Burke Mill Stream, with one lane open in each direction. This is an update to the original schedule, which had the westbound bridge closing

in late August.

The work zone traffic pattern will be in effect from fall 2024 to fall 2025 to accelerate work.

View updates and an online map of the recommended detour at vdot.virginia.gov/projects/fredericksburg-district/route-3route-14-westbound-bridge-superstructure-replacement.

One injured in Thursday collision

One driver was injured in a two-car accident that occurred at 6:10 a.m. last Thursday, Sept. 5, at the intersection of Routes 3 and 14 at Windsor Road.

Sgt. J. Dudley of the Gloucester office of Virginia State Police said a 2016 Toyota Corolla driven by a 31-year-

old Gloucester woman had been headed east on Route 14, before turning toward Route 3 Windsor Road and crossing the westbound lanes of Route 14, there being struck by an oncoming westbound 2024 Kia minivan driven by a 29-year-old woman of Port Haywood. The Toyota's driver re-

ceived serious injuries and was hospitalized, Dudley said. The Kia's driver was uninjured.

The sergeant said there is no indication that speed was a factor, but that failure of the Toyota to yield right-of-way probably caused the accident. The investigation continues.

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Genealogist to discuss restoring abandoned cemetery

A researcher will talk about "Reclaiming an Abandoned Family Cemetery: Challenges and Opportunities," in Saturday's online meeting of the Middle Peninsula African-American Genealogical and Historical Society.

The virtual meeting begins at 11 a.m. To receive an invitation email mpaaghs.va@gmail.com or call 804-651-8753. A notice said that while the meeting will not be recorded, a one-page handout will be distributed to participants.

Speaking will be Dr. Inez Tuck, a family historian and advocate for preservation, a notice said. The release noted that "Many cemeteries are abandoned over generations. This is especially true for African Americans who often did not own the land or lost the property where ancestors were buried."

The Grand Avery(a) cemetery in Johnston County, North Carolina, is one example, and due to Tuck's work, was reclaimed from abandonment, the notice said.

Tuck embraced the restoration of the family burial ground, championing restoration with family members, landowners, and local government agencies.

Tuck is Professor Emeritus at Virginia Commonwealth University and retired from academia in 2019 following her most recent positions as the dean of schools of nursing at North Carolina A&T State University and MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston, Massachusetts.

She is described as a family historian and a genealogy enthusiast for over 40 years.



Dr. Inez Tuck

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Ted and Molly Broderson (pictured here) share their love by delivering Meals on Wheels in Mathews for almost 5 years.

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Gloucester planners recommend denial of event venue

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

The Gloucester County Planning Commission met last Thursday in the colonial courthouse where members unanimously voted to recommend denial of a proposed conditional use permit to establish an event venue on Baileys Wharf Road overlooking the Ware River.

The proposed Wareview Manor Event Facility is positioned on 4.64 acres and is zoned C-2, Bayside Conservation. No new structures were proposed to be built on the property.

The property has a single-family dwelling, three-car garage apartment and a chapel. The land also has room for 56 parking spaces, which will remain a grassy area.

The applicant, Tiffany A. Hellebrandt, as well as property owners Bob and Mitch Simpson, who are brothers, proposed two to three events per month with a maximum of 140 guests per event and

all operations ceasing by 11 p.m. The current structures of the property would be in use with some temporary facilities (tents, portable toilets, etc.) being set up on an as-needed basis. There would be potential off-site parking and a shuttle service to accommodate larger events.

Planner Tripp Little said that the proposed event facility use is inconsistent with the intent of the C-2 zoning district, which is primarily intended for low-density residential development, and is also inconsistent with the character of the neighborhood.

However, conditions of approval would include meeting the design requirements for a moderate-volume commercial entrance and ceasing all outdoor activities associated with any events by 10 p.m. The project would also have a net positive fiscal impact.

"We are not trying to change this community," said Hellebrandt, "but to enhance

it for the future generations to enjoy. We are wanting to give this community a place where we can share the beauty of the Ware River that I have grown up on my entire life."

Events would include weddings, private parties, business and corporate events, bar mitzvahs, birthday parties, family reunions and local fundraisers.

"Planned occupancy is a maximum of 140 people for two to three events per month, including a wedding, not multiple weddings that are huge and large, but may be one wedding," said Hellebrandt, "and a few smaller events with minimal noise and traffic impact."

Several residents with neighboring properties spoke on their reservations with the proposed event venue, citing traffic, noise and safety concerns.

"Baileys Wharf Road is a narrow, winding road and cars must take great care when passing to avoid col-

lision," said Tina Britt. "Oftentimes, animals are in the roads just around the corner. Additional cars on our road will put all drivers at increased risk of collision with each other and with pets and with wildlife."

"I think it's a great idea, but I just think it's the wrong location," said Bob Elrod. He broached concerns about traffic, noise pollution and alcohol consumption of guests visiting the event venue.

"I am here to speak on behalf of the many neighbors who live across the river," said David Hudson. "We have already experienced some of the events at the manor. The joy of the noise gets amplified across the river, across the water. We've seen events there. It's disruptive."

A couple of people did speak in favor of the proposed event venue.

"She's [Hellebrandt] asking to bring people together," said Star Mcgruder. "The one thing that this foundation in

this community was built on: bringing people together."

"If you're talking two events a month, 12 hours of traffic time per how many hours a month," said Ryan Vanhoudt. "I don't see the disruption and your life quality going down but so much."

"I understand their concerns," said property owner Bob Simpson in response to the many comments disapproving of the event venue.

"We really are trying to work within the community to limit the noise. Like I said, the decibels, the time limit. I will enforce the time limit. And we're trying to work around the traffic. I understand everybody's concern. I think this has just been completely blown out of proportion. It's just a little simple thing we're trying to do here and I think it's good for everybody."

Members of the planning commission echoed the concerns of the public during discussion.

"Those are my concerns."

Narrow roads, one way in, one way out," said commissioner Kenneth Richardson. "Where are you going to park everybody? I don't think 56 parking spaces is enough when you talk about the staff that will be needed on the property before, during and after [events]. I just think, like it's been commented so many times before, great idea, great property, wrong location."

"All these properties are just too close together," said commissioner Chris Poulson. "You do have open river that noise, live bands, DJ speakers are going to carry everywhere. I don't see how this can be pulled off without a massive, massive impact to the neighbors on a regular basis in a residential zoned area."

The planning commission voted to recommend denial of the application to the board of supervisors by a vote of 7-0.

GUINEA HERITAGE DAY: Shirley West Hogge named this year's grand marshal

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

have worked at Achilles," saw Hogge in her statement during Guinea Heritage Day.

"Thank you again for this honor," said Hogge.

The Guinea Heritage Association received a total of 41 separate grand marshal nominations this year, which is the largest number ever received. Nominations typically range from six to 13 individuals.

Other recognitions

In addition to the grand marshal announcement, several others were recognized during Guinea Heritage Day.

The 2024 Guinea pageant winners were presented after being crowned on Saturday. They were Queen Sierra McGill, Junior Miss Zoey Smith and Little Miss Dixie Lemons. Lee Abston's artwork of a

deadrise at a seafood house was unveiled as this year's official print.

The Achilles Elementary School student art contest winners were pre-school student Aleigha Robbins, kindergarten Linley Chapman, first grader Ruby Austin, second grader Evalynn Hall, third grader Madelyn Porter, fourth grader Charlotte Elias, fifth graders Colt Jones (runner-up) and Elin Searce (first place).

A total of 32 cakes were made for the Guinea Cake Silent Auction.

The official Guinea Jubilee T-shirt was available for sale and features Browns Bay.

The Guinea Jubilee celebrates its 43rd installment this year and will be held Sept. 27 and 28.



This year's Guinea Jubilee pageant winners were announced at Sunday's Guinea Heritage Day. They are, from left, Little Miss Dixie Lemons, Junior Miss Zoey Smith and Queen Sierra McGill.



Lee Abston proudly unveils his artwork of a deadrise at a seafood house, which was selected as this year's official Guinea Jubilee print.

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Dr. Ned Blackhawk



Dr. Julian E. Zelizer



Dr. Edward L. Ayers

Jamestown Settlement's Director's Series continues this fall

Jamestown Settlement's Director's Series continues this fall featuring three diverse conversations with experts in their field that will explore topics from Indigenous history to American democracy and diplomacy.

The Director's Series, now in its third year and sponsored by TowneBank, features Christy S. Coleman, executive director of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, as she sits down with prominent scholars and public figures for lively and enlightening dialog surrounding our shared legacies of American history.

Programs will take place at 7 p.m. on Sept. 16, Oct. 18 and Nov. 20 in Jamestown Settlement's Robins Foundation Theater. A book-signing by each speaker will follow each program at 8:30 p.m., and select books are available in the Jamestown Settlement museum shop. Guests can reserve their live-in-person or virtual seats for \$10 per program. Admission is limited and tickets must be purchased in advance online at jyfmuseums.org/directorsseries.

Sept. 18: Dr. Ned Blackhawk
Ned Blackhawk, an enrolled member of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada, will discuss how the historical past impacts the shift among Indigenous communities, including population increases, political activism and social movements. He is the Howard R. Lamar Professor of History and Ameri-

can Studies at Yale University and is the faculty coordinator for the Yale Indigenous Performing Arts Program, the Native American Language Project, The Henry Roe Cloud Dissertation Writing Fellowship, and, as co-director, of the NYU-Yale American Indian Sovereignty Project. He is the author and co-editor of four books, including the winner of the National Book Award for "The Rediscovery of America: American Indians and the Unmaking of U.S. History" (Yale University Press, 2022) and "Violence over the Land: Indians and Empires in the Early American West" (Harvard University Press, 2006).

Oct. 16: Dr. Julian E. Zelizer
Julian Zelizer, a pioneer in the revival of American political history, will explore the most pernicious myths of the American past and how myth is formed around national narratives, for better or for worse. He is the Malcolm Stevenson Forbes, Class of 1941 Professor of History and Public Affairs at Princeton University and a CNN Political Analyst and a regular guest on NPR's "Here and Now." He is also the Distinguished Senior Fellow at the New York Historical Society. He is the author and editor of 20 books including, "The Fierce Urgency of Now: Lyndon Johnson, Congress, and the Battle for the Great Society" (2015), the winner of the D.B. Hardeman Prize for the "Best Book on

Congress." His most recent book, "Myth America," co-edited with Kevin M. Kruse (2023) is a New York Times bestseller.

Nov. 20: Dr. Edward L. Ayers
Ed Ayers, a two-time Bancroft prize-winning historian and author, University of Richmond professor and president emeritus, and former University of Virginia Dean of Arts and Sciences, will touch on his work in digital history and how this reimagining helps others to fully understand and visualize the past. He has been honored as National Professor of the Year, a recipient of the National Humanities Medal in 2012, president of the Organization of American Historians, and was a founding board chair of the American Civil War Museum. He is the executive director of "New American History," an online project based at the University of Richmond, designed to help students and teachers to see the nation's history in new ways. Ayers is the author of numerous books, most recently the award-winning "American Visions: The United States, 1800-1860" (2023).

Jamestown Settlement, open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, is located at 2110 Jamestown Road near Williamsburg, near the Colonial Parkway. For more information, call 757-253-4838 or visit jyfmuseums.org.

Local fiber artist invited to participate in Smithsonian show

Barbara Brecher of Northumberland County, a fiber artist and owner of I Felt Fine Design, has been invited to participate, for the second time, in the Smithsonian Craft2Wear show in Washington, D.C.

This is considered one of the finest wearable art shows in the country, a release said. It features American contemporary wearable craft and design including jewelry, leather, and clothing.

Brecher will show her silk and wool one-of-a-kind fiber work which she transforms into jackets, wraps and scarves. Over the last 20 years, she has worked to develop a felting process and dyeing techniques. She layers fibers and silk on a base of silk and attaches everything by wet felting the materials together with fine merino wool.

The "First Dibs" opening reception of the show takes place Friday, Sept. 27, from 5 to 8 p.m. The show continues Saturday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. to 4



PHOTO BY MICHAEL GEISSINGER

Local fiber artist Barbara Brecher will take part in a Smithsonian show later this month. Here is one of her creations, a swing jacket with viscous fiber and merino wool felted onto a silk base.

p.m. at the National Building Museum, 401 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. For more information, visit smithsoniancraft2wear.org.

After Oct. 1 Brecher's work will be available at RAL Art Center in Kilmarnock, where she is an exhibiting artist and

has won numerous awards. In addition, her work will be for sale at Pearl Boutique in Kilmarnock as well as at the C'ville Arts Cooperative Gallery in Charlottesville.

For more than 20 years Brecher owned a graphic design and marketing firm in Old Town Alexandria, where she produced award-winning designs.

Until 2021 she served as the Executive Director of the Steamboat Era Museum in Irvington for 7+ years. During that time, she directed the restoration of the Potomac pilothouse, designed the museum's exhibits and created and designed a coffee table publication, "Steam-Driven: How Steamboats Shaped the Future of Virginia's Northern Neck."

Brecher, who grew up in Boston, Mass., lives in Lottsburg with her husband Michael Geissinger, a photojournalist, and Marvin, a Northern Neck rescue dog and "Mayor of Doctors Point Road."

To see more of her work, visit IFeltFineDesign.com.

Irvington UMC to hold Distinctive Bazaar

Irvington United Methodist Church will hold its 27th annual Distinctive Bazaar of the Northern Neck on Saturdays, Oct. 5 and Nov. 2. The bazaar coincides with the Irvington Farmers' Market. Doors open at 9 a.m. both days and close at 1 p.m.

Cash donations will be accepted at the door for The Link and the Kilmarnock Food Bank. Gift items and baked goods will be available for purchase.

The church supports a Lancaster High School senior with a \$1,000 scholarship. The balance of the proceeds will go into the church treasury to fund the church and its numerous mission projects during the year.

The church is located at 26 King Carter Drive, Irvington. For more information, visit the church's Facebook page.

'Get Out the Vote!' postcard-writing party planned

A "Get Out the Vote!" postcard-writing party, hosted by the Joint Peace and Social Justice Committee of UUF (Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock) and the Heathsville Quaker Worship Group, will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 25.

The gathering starts at 5 p.m. with a supper. Postcards will be provided, and participants are asked to bring postcard stamps. The group will write personal messages about the importance of voting on Nov. 5.

UUF is located at 366 James Wharf Road, White Stone. Respond by Saturday, Sept. 21, for a head count. RSVP by email (Quakers.NNK@gmail.com) or by text ([443-903-4439](tel:443-903-4439)).

Aviation group meets next week

Northern Neck-Middle Peninsula Chapter of the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society will hold its monthly buffet lunch meeting next Thursday, Sept. 18, at the Pilot House Restaurant, located on Route 3 beside Hummel Field, Topping.

The program will begin with a meet and greet segment at 11:30 a.m., with lunch at noon and the program beginning at 12:30

p.m. September's topic has yet to be determined. Everyone interested in aviation is invited to attend.

The group meets on the third Thursday of the month and holds presentations about current and historical civilian and military aviation and some other topics.

For more information, email NelsonJody@verizon.net. Include "VAHS" in the subject line.

Presidency of John Adams topic of Sept. 19 talk

Historic Christ Church & Museum's 2024 Summer Speaker Series "The First Three: From Washington to Jefferson" concludes next week with a look at the presidency of John Adams.

Historian Lindsay Chervinsky will give her talk on "Making the Presidency: John Adams and the Precedents that Forged the Republic" at 5 p.m. next Thursday, Sept. 19, at the Lancaster County site.

Chervinsky will investigate the leadership and legacy of Adams, whose presidency marked a period critical to the survival of the American republic and helped define the office for those who followed, said HCC&M executive director Robert Teagle. According to Chervinsky, Adams faced enormous challenges at home and abroad alongside impossible expectations as Washington's successor in a new nation unsure if the presidency could even work without the father of the country at the helm. Relying on his own ideas about executive power and the Constitution, Adams defended the presidency from his own often obstructionist cabinet, protected the nation from foreign attacks, and forged trust and dedication to election integrity and the peaceful transfer of power between parties despite the costs to his political future.

Chervinsky argued that "Adams's presidency was absolutely instrumental in shaping the executive branch more broadly but also the office of the Presidency. He was really the one that actually set the precedents for all of those that followed because whatever Washington did if not one else repeated them then they would be really interesting little historical anomalies that are in footnotes in history books."



Lindsay Chervinsky

"Instead," she said, "when John Adams started to recreate the activities that Washington did, to reaffirm the precedents that Washington had already established, it started to craft norms and customs that served as the scaffolding of the political system and especially of the institution of the presidency. And that was essential because so little of our political system is actually written down and instead it depends on the people in office and the people outside of office upholding those norms and customs and expectations."

Chervinsky was recently named Executive Director of the George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon. She is author of "The Cabinet: George Washington and the Creation of an American Institution" (2020). Earlier this month Oxford University Press published her latest book, "Making the Presidency: John Adams and the Precedents that Forged the Republic." Chervinsky regularly appears on the Listening to America podcast and news programs around the country.

Tickets are \$25 and include a wine and cheese reception before the presentation and a book-signing after (books not included). For tickets, visit ChristChurch1735.org. Historic Christ Church & Mu-

seum is located at 420 Christ Church Road, Weems.

The series is made possible in part by a grant from VA250 Commission in partnership with Virginia Humanities. The J. Edwin Treacle Foundation also helped fund part of the series.



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Voting 102

The 2024 Election Day is now less than eight weeks away. It's sooner than that if you decide to vote early, either in person or by mail-in ballot.

We're assuming you checked everything off your list from our "Voting 101" editorial last week, that you meet all the state requirements, are registered to vote and have gone online to verify that you are in good standing, just to be sure.

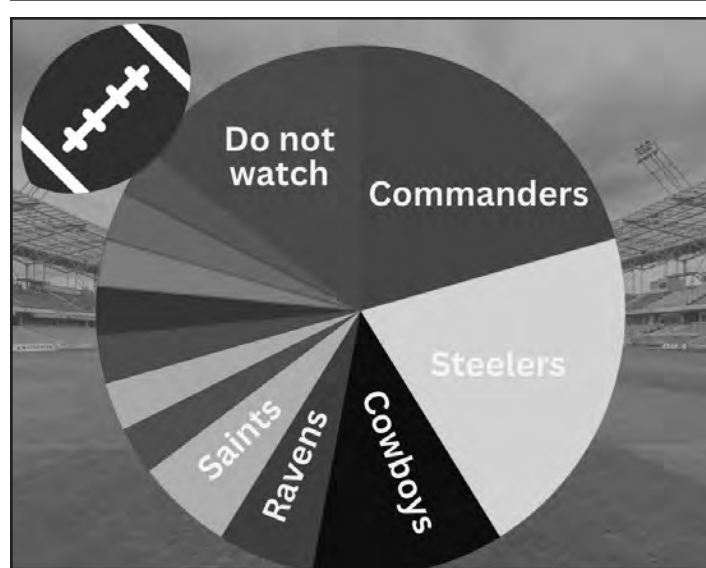
Say that you have already decided how you're going to cast your ballot and you just want to get it over with. Well, you're in luck. Not too long ago, Virginia expanded its early voting opportunities.

The General Assembly enlarged access to early voting ahead of the 2020 elections in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to that, Virginians had to meet one of a number of criteria (such as being out of town on Election Day or being at work all day) in order to qualify for an absentee ballot. The change opened up excuse-free early voting, both in person and by absentee ballot.

Beginning next Friday, Sept. 20, registered voters can simply stop by their county's registrar's office at their convenience, present their driver's license or other acceptable form of ID, get their ballot and cast their vote. The last day of early in-person voting will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2, with special extended hours at registrar's offices set up as that deadline approaches.

You can also request an absentee ballot. Friday, Oct. 25 is the last day to ask that a ballot be mailed to you. Once you receive that ballot, you can return it by mail (must be postmarked on or before Nov. 5 and received no later than noon on Friday, Nov. 8), dropped off before Election Day to the voter registration office (Gloucester also has a special drop box set up for this purpose) or on Election Day (by 7 p.m.) at the voter registration office or any polling place.

Of course, you can go old school and cast your ballot on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5. Polls are open that day from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. As with early in-person voting, be sure to bring an acceptable form of ID. To find your polling place, visit elections.virginia.gov/Voterinfo.



NFL picks

The National Football League began its regular season last Thursday with a match-up between the Baltimore Ravens and the Kansas City Chiefs, where the Chiefs took a 27-20 victory over the Ravens. We polled our Facebook followers for the team they root for every season. The Washington Commanders and the Pittsburgh Steelers tied for the top spot with 20.6 percent of the vote each, followed by the Dallas Cowboys (11.8 percent) and the Baltimore Ravens and the New Orleans Saints (tying at 5.9 percent of the vote each). Other choices among our survey takers were the Buffalo Bills, the Detroit Lions, the Green Bay Packers, the Indianapolis Colts, the Kansas City Chiefs, the Miami Dolphins and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. A total of 14.7 percent of our voters indicated that they do not watch football. This survey was conducted on Facebook through Google Forms. The chart was made using Canva.

Letters To The Editor

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

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

We will refrain from printing more than one letter per month from an individual.

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

GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS GAZETTE-JOURNAL

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Charles E. Koenig | Editor

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READERS WRITE

The Bookers' hope

Editor, Gazette-Journal:
Two interesting letters recently (Mrs. Joseph on August 15 and Mrs. Crittenden on September 5), critical of Gloucester's board of supervisors for deciding not to fund a study of future Fire and Rescue needs. This all stems from Gloucester Fire and Rescue's purchasing of the former Booker property to build a new station.

In both letters both ladies were very complimentary of all the services our two departments provide for Gloucester's citizens. That was good to hear.

These two ladies, especially Mrs. Joseph, have done many things to enhance the arts and our Main Street small businesses. Their contributions are greatly appreciated.

What's not being mentioned is that the Booker family wanted to sell their property to Gloucester Fire and Rescue. That decision should be respected. The Booker family goes way back in our Court House history. Only Roane Booker and Al's wife Janice remain. Hopefully they can see this taking place in the future.

With all the turmoil taking place in our society, we don't need these petty differences in Gloucester. I hope Mrs. Joseph and the Main Street Association continue to be the good citizens they are and become supporters of Gloucester Fire and Rescue.

**Buddy Rilee
Gloucester, Va.**

Great support in Mathews

Editor, Gazette-Journal:
Wow! What a night at the February 2024 8th Annual Mathews Rotary Chili Cook-Off! Nearly 500 people, great chili and a true team effort by all five of the "competing" organizations! This annual winter event is one of the most community-oriented in Mathews County.

We are currently soliciting Competing Organizations for the 9th Annual Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, February 8, 2025 (Super Bowl Saturday), 4:30-7 p.m. at the Piankatank Ruritan Club. We are hoping to have an All-Star line-up of groups who only have helping others as their total mission. Keeping with that mission, all of the net funds raised go back in some form to help the Mathews community.

Please help our great citizens by becoming a competitor in this wonderful community event. It's requested that your response to participate be received no later than September 30, 2024 and should you have questions please do not hesitate to ask.

**William E. (Bill) Stearns
Mathews Rotary Chili Cook-Off
bstearns4646@gmail.com
Cobbs Creek, Va.**

Wittman, Mehta should debate

Editor, Gazette-Journal:
The First District of Virginia has seated Rob Wittman for 17 years. Currently he is following the practice of having focused topics for his presentation. What is missing is the GOP's Project 2025.

Trump has said he doesn't know about this and Wittman has said nothing about this, but it is important to the life of the Republic. This Project is alive and needs to become a deciding factor in the election.

This should bring a debate with Leslie Mehta, the running Democratic candidate. It is imperative for the citizens of the First District to understand their standing on this topic.

**John Bonner
Gwynn, Va.**

Wittman's contributions

Editor, Gazette-Journal:
I was both surprised and disappointed by the recent letter titled "Who will represent us best?" (Aug. 22 Readers Write). The criticisms aimed at Congressman Rob Wittman are not only misguided but also overlook the significant positive contributions he has made to our community.

As a longtime advocate for workforce education, I was



Shameless hypocrisy

Editor, Gazette-Journal:
I can't help but see more and more erratic political posturing and shameless hypocrisy from our current Democrat U.S. Senator, Tim Kaine.

This time, Senator Kaine's Communications Director, Michael Beyer, is saying that U.S. Senate candidate "Hung Cao's radical plan to defund local law enforcement and cut federal law enforcement personnel is devastating to the livelihoods of Virginians who serve in law enforcement and could jeopardize the safety of every Virginian across the Commonwealth," when no such plan from Hung Cao exists.

Now why would the slippery Kaine campaign make such a bogus claim? Because they are trying to run cover for Tim Kaine's own attacks on Virginia's law enforcement officers and families.

Tim Kaine would like nothing more than for Virginia voters to forget that he, and his radical cohorts Cory Booker and Kamala Harris, co-authored and led the push for the Justice for Policing Act of 2020 that called for job-inhibiting restrictions and mismatched punishments for police across America.

If Tim Kaine had his way, those professionals in the most hazardous profession across the country would be even further handicapped in their job of keeping Americans safe. This is just another example of Democrats revealing their thirst for power, as seen by their absurd political posturing, at the expense of the well-being of American citizens.

**Randall Casciello
North, Va.**

**Michael B. Watson
Founder, former CEO, Control Automation Technologies Corporation
Former member House of Delegates, 93rd District
Member, Virginia Manufacturing Development Commission
Gloucester, Va.**

Mehta for Congress

Editor, Gazette-Journal:
I had the pleasure of meeting candidate for the House of Representatives, Leslie Mehta, last week in Gloucester. Mrs. Mehta is quite impressive and has an equally impressive curriculum vitae.

Her priorities include reproductive freedom and affordable health care for all. She's a strong supporter of public education and common-sense gun laws.

Based on personal experience, the sickness of her daughter, Mrs. Mehta became an advocate for children's health and family support. She continues her bipartisan advocacy despite the death of her daughter. She has served Virginia under both Governors Northam and Youngkin.

As an ACLU attorney, she defended the free speech rights of the Unite the Right group but not their criminal violence. She is a fierce advocate for free speech protection. Mrs. Mehta has always shown she puts principle above partisanship.

This is the person we need representing us in the United States Congress.

**Ted Broderson
Mathews, Va.**

A monumental choice

Editor, Gazette-Journal:
We are going to the polls for a monumental election.

Take a moment and review your choices. Trump is 78 and would be 82 at the end of his term. I would not want him holding the keys to the nuclear codes. However, his advanced age is not why I am voting against Trump. There are more obvious reasons.

America is built on the backs of small businesses and unions. Trump is against both these institutions. He led his businesses into bankruptcy six times ... his history includes Trump Casino, Trump Airlines, Trump University ... and the "Cons" go on. Is this the guy you want shaping our economy ... maybe he can sell more Bibles or gym shoes?

Trump is misogynistic. If you're a woman or know a woman...then understand Trump is disrespectful to women. If you think he is the better choice, then take a moment and "Google" the things that he has said about women over the past 20 years (remember the Billy Bush interview). If you are still making excuses for Trump, then maybe you need to ask yourself why. He is a "Flim-Flam" Man that has many people fooled.

As a veteran, I am outraged that Trump has disrespected our military. He disrespected Senator John McCain, a hero who served in Vietnam; and Trump most recently denigrated our National Cemetery. The Cheneys, true patriots and 100% conservatives, have made it clear how they will be voting—Harris! Do you support our Country, or do you support someone who considers themselves above the law?

I understand that you don't like our choices but that doesn't mean we elect an opportunist intent on taking instead of contributing to our great Nation. First and foremost, we must maintain our democracy. Our founding fathers are counting on us. One more thing: America is Great!

**James Davis
Gloucester, Va.**

Safer under Trump

Editor, Gazette-Journal:
If anyone is inclined to vote for the Harris-Walz ticket, please consider the following:

Inflation: VP Harris is a San Francisco ideologue and a borderline illiterate on economics. In her role as VP, she was the tie-breaking vote in the Senate on the greatest inflation-causing bill (oppositely named!), the Inflation Reduction Act in August of 22. Hence, the Biden-Harris administration's inability to "fix" inflation in 3½ years. Inflation, which was at 1.4% in January 2021, when Biden-Harris took over from Trump, 5% in May of that year, rising to a high of 9.1% in June of 22. Since then, they have bragged about "lowering" it!

Crime: is skyrocketing in cities and even suburbs. (Democrats claim the rate has diminished statistically, but that's because people are either fearful or discouraged from even reporting it.) Our entire criminal justice system has been sabotaged too.

**Patrick J. Cooney Sr.
MCPO, USN-ret.
Gloucester Point, Va.**

READERS WRITE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6A)

long by district attorneys in our cities who “feel sorry” for criminals instead of their victims. The results of their policies are the reasons for all the riots, shoplifting, murders, drugs, etc., we watch with horror here in Gloucester. Have you seen all the reports on the Venezuelan gangs in Aurora, Colorado, taking over apartment buildings with guns, terrifying residents and staff? If not, your news source is defective. It’s been all over conservative news.

Illegals: Millions (10-20) of illegal migrants pouring across our southern and northern borders for 3½ years from all over the world, including terrorist countries, never mind the “gottaways.” We don’t even know who or where most of them are. A ticking time bomb, to my mind. We have got to be the most stupid country in the world.

I could go on, but my 300 words are up. This is my first letter to the editor! One last thought: Not only this country, but the world, was a far safer place under President Trump—for four peaceful years.

**Jean Dudley
Gloucester, Va.**

A ‘make or break’ decision

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

Friends, we face a “make or break” decision. Our ongoing experiment in representative government is in peril. If you don’t believe that, you haven’t been paying attention.

This election is not about bragging rights. The American dream is slipping away, and “the powers that be” are standing in the wings applauding. They believe We the People will not challenge them.

Be honest. Did you ever think you would witness:

—Erasure of our Southern border

—Entry of 30 million illegals, from 100+ countries—including 30,000 Chinese nationals. Note: Only 19 terrorists toppled the Twin Towers, crippled our economy and sent our leaders into bunkers.

—A \$35 trillion deficit, 3.5 years of record inflation, with free housing, food, and health care for millions of non-citizens. The solution? Social Security and Medicare for all and cancellation of student debt. It’s only money!

—Police and military recruitment at all-time lows.

—Voting rights for non-citizens. Where else in the world is that happening?

—The shameful withdrawal from Afghanistan—leaving U.S. citizens and allies defenseless, injured or dead. And, \$8 billion in arms left behind for Al Qaeda.

The state of our Union is not good, and the left has promised to:

—Implement the gargantuan Green New Deal.

—Eliminate Trump tax cuts—raising income, capital gains and inheritance taxes.

—Outlaw combustion engines.

—End fracking, drilling, pipelines and energy independence.

—Deliver amnesty for non-citizens.

Reminder: taxes never generate prosperity. Look at Europe. Only revving up the American business engine will bring us back from the brink. We’ve seen how that works. It was only four years ago. Remember?

Thoughtfully consider what the Harris team wants for America. If the socialists gain power, we’re finished. Trump’s call to Save America is a rally cry for unity and common cause. Join me and vote for America.

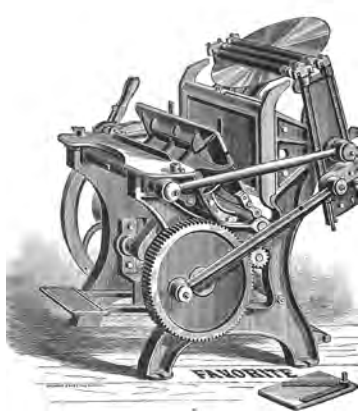
**Dawn Hall
Deltaville, Va.**

Congressional children

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

Senator J.D. Vance, who aspires to be vice president, has opined that people with children should have more votes than those who do not. In essence, this gives children a vote.

Well, why not? They are already in Congress. These Congressional children call themselves “Republicans” and they slavishly follow every dictate of a large, egotistical bully named Trump. Now



this Trump fellow is a real piece of work. He is the Republican candidate for president even though he is a convicted felon, a habitual liar, abuser of women and, above all, an insurrectionist.

He is the consummate con man and has convinced many that he has been sent by God to help them. He has embellished this by selling Bibles (and sneakers and T-shirts, too). Good grief.

But it can be easily solved in November by voting the “children” out of office, electing adults to take their place and exiling Trump to his golf course in Dubai.

**Arthur H. Jennette, M.D.
Williamsburg, Va.**

It all comes down to Jan. 6, 2021

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

For me, it all comes down to January 6, 2021.

It started earlier, of course, with Donald Trump’s claim that the 2020 Presidential election had been stolen from him. He was lying. Evidence spread over more than 60 legal complaints shows he lost the election. But even today he lies about it.

Then came January 6 and the insurrection. I watched it online in real time, along with millions of people across the nation, across the whole world. It was violent, there was a gallow, police were attacked, and people died. And it was all for Trump, all because of Trump, all because of Trump’s lies.

All because Trump wouldn’t admit he had lost the election.

And out of that big lie came another lie, the lie that says there was no insurrection, just a peaceful protest, and that all those people convicted of the crimes they committed as part of the insurrection were just peaceful protesters.

But I saw the insurrection. I, along with millions of people worldwide, watched it in real time. Later I saw the evidence presented systematically by the Select Committee of the January 6 Commission showing that the insurrection was fomented by Donald Trump in an effort to stop the peaceful transfer of power to a duly elected president.

The peaceful transfer of power is a hallmark of elected government. The procedure followed by this nation is specified by the U.S. Constitution. If we give that up, what do we become?

And yet Trump tried to overturn an election. He fomented an insurrection by telling lies which he continues to tell.

Can you vote for someone like that? I can’t.

For me, the Presidential election of 2024 all comes down to January 6, 2021, and the willful, purposeful, dangerous lies of a loser.

**Molly Hoffman
Gwynn, Va.**

Affordable Housing

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

Affordable Housing has become the mantra of the Democrats and indeed, the influx of many thousands of illegals has led to a housing shortage, as have high interest rates, the added construction costs (23%) required by regulations, and the increased cost of materials. Although the idea of bountiful affordable housing seems wonderful, the Democrat approach warrants a closer look.

In 2015, the Obama Admin-

istration instituted the Affirmatively Furthering Affordable Housing Act which promoted “high-density/low-income” development. Any grants for HUD funding—including in rural communities like ours—required rezoning actions to allow multifamily structures to be built in suburbs with existing single-family zoning.

The Trump Administration rescinded that act and replaced it with the Preserving Communities and Neighborhood Choice rule which allowed suburban areas to retain their zoning for green spaces.

In July 2021, the Biden Administration cancelled the Trump rule and reinstated the Obama requirements. And this is what the Harris/Walz Administration is pushing. At the DNC Convention, Kamala Harris promised to build 3 million housing units.

Government-funded solutions with cumbersome DEI requirements and red tape seldom work. One need only drive into Richmond from the east on I-64 to see acre upon acre of cheaply constructed developments full of small apartments along the interstate. People are crowded into these shoddy structures with no pride of ownership and no healthy green space. The average American who wants a lawn and garden and plenty of space for children to run and play will no longer have that choice as high-density/low-income housing is put in their backyard.

Trump, a builder all his life, also addressed the housing shortage, presenting common-sense solutions. First, remove illegal occupants from existing housing. Then cut excessive regulations and reduce costs of materials and construction by lowering energy cost with fossil fuels, thereby making the American dream of home ownership accessible once again.

**Rosemary Smith
Moon, Va.**

How to vote

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

Briefly, I am an octogenarian (84) and as such have lived through 1/3 of American history.

I observed and read over six decades of what may be described as the Rise and Decline of the greatest Constitutional government ever devised by man.

My purpose is to make, how to vote, easier.

After these six decades of observing political and social issues, my opinion is thus:

Vote Democratic (liberal, behavior without limit) and our nation continues its six-decade decline, or

Vote Republican (conservative, constitutional) and our national decline is once again on pause.

That is all I have to say.

**Frank Sardina
Hudgins, Va.**

Socialism

Editor, Gazette-Journal:

Remember years ago when Barack Obama promised to “fundamentally change America”? Well, he’s done it.

The proof is right in front of you: candidates for the highest offices are avowed Socialists, without merit, documented liars on an epic scale, without a shred of honor. Democrat big-wigs have pushed them forward and the media has played along, and we’re supposed to think they’re of the same class as Washington or Lincoln? They’re nothing but liars and buffoons—and it’s obvious to all of us! That’s not the “change” anyone wanted.

It’s time for you Democrats to admit it. You’ve been played for suckers and chumps for 16 years. It’s time to assert your individual voices and reject these two clowns who want to claim the authority to be your “leaders.” Neither of these two are worthy of your vote or your support. If a Kennedy can make the break, so can you. So do it.

You can vote Socialism in, but you can’t vote it out.

**Charles Selph
Hayes, Va.**



Shawn and Savannah Carter of Cobbs Creek take a short break for a photo op while enjoying the children’s area at Mathews Market Days on Saturday.

MARKET DAYS: Near-perfect weather prevails

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

ing Band, and LoveWorks, the organization raising funds to put a LOVE sign on the court green.

Two longtime Market Days volunteers were honored during opening ceremonies—Terry Dixon, who has 25 years of service, and Linda Hernandez, with over 30 years.

“We couldn’t do it without these guys,” said Roahrig.

Opening day on Friday had steady attendance during the day, said Roahrig, but “once the schools let out and kids showed up, it was amazing.” All of the activities in the children’s area were free to participants, from games with Captain Slackbeard and the Cutthroat Crew pirate reenactors to balloons, facepainting, pony-painting, an archaeological dig, and lots of crafts. Out of 400 birdhouses provided for children to complete, there were two left, she said, adding that 35 generous sponsors provided \$7,540 to pay for the children’s activities, and “we spent it all, and then some.”

The first-ever youth block party and dance on Friday evening was well-attended, said Roahrig. The festival had purchased 600 glow sticks to hand out for the event, and had only around 50 left over. Morningstar Marinas gave out free cotton candy during the entire party, held from 5-8 p.m.

On the down side, Roahrig said the Mathews Lions Club, a perennial favorite food vendor, didn’t have the manpower to participate this year, and two registered food vendors canceled at the last minute due to illness, so there were no doggy treats or funnel cakes. In addition, not much interest was shown in the Crab Races, she said, so next year’s festival might see a different spin on the traditional favorite activity, perhaps with hermit crabs instead of blue crabs.

MATHEWS PLANNERS: Solar farm hearings canceled

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A)

and zoning director in the absence of an employee to fill the position, about Virginia’s status as a Dillon Rule state. The Dillon Rule, said Wilson, “is a legal principle that local governments have limited authority and can pass ordinances only in areas where the General Assembly has granted clear authority.”

“The state only gives us authority to make certain rules,” said Wilson. “We can be more restrictive, but never less restrictive.” “We must follow state law,” said Wilton.

Meade had earlier moved to table the matter because he said the Dillon Rule had not come up before in the decision-making process, he was not familiar with the rule, and he wanted to seek legal counsel to help determine whether there were any exceptions to the rule. But commission chair Billy Cook argued that the



James Givens of Mathews digs for artifacts at the Fairfield Foundation archaeological dig adjacent to Tompkins Cottage on Saturday during Mathews Market Days.



Dianne and Glenn Scatchard of Mathews from left, opt for crabcakes for lunch, provided by Ruritan volunteer Hannah Reid on Saturday at Mathews Market Days.

The entertainment throughout the festival “was amazing,” said Roahrig, from the Mathews High School Marching Band to The Detonators, the band that performed for Saturday’s street dance. She said all the volunteer help was greatly appreciated, including CERT volunteers who helped with road closures, the church-affiliated LIFT group, ROTC, the YMCA and the Mathews High School Blue Devils football team.

The traditional Saturday Night Street Dance was well-attended, as well, said Roahrig, with nearly 150 people

there, and the first-ever sale of alcoholic beverages at the dance was a hit. The only trouble encountered was “a handful of teens who were just doing too much” and were asked to leave, she said.

Roahrig, who served as chair this year for the first time, said the festival has been “a full-time job” since April for her and co-chair Casey Pisarek.

“It’s like planning the ultimate birthday party,” she said.

For information about Mathews Market Days, visit mathewsmarketdays.org.

sanitized at the residential site.

No one from the public raised any objections to the proposal, and Rick Carson of Onemo, a neighbor of Flippin’s at her current residence, praised the way she manages the business.

“They do such a wonderful job,” he said. “Any questions of cleanliness or hazardous conditions are baseless. She keeps them clean, in a row, and looking nice.”

Public hearings canceled

Two public hearings originally scheduled for Tuesday night’s meeting were canceled by the applicants earlier in the day. Both hearings involved controversial requests for conditional use permits to establish solar farms in the county, one on a parcel on Buckley Hall Road at Hudgins and one on a parcel fronting partly on Route 14 and partly on Church Street in Mathews. No reason was provided to the public for the cancellations.

DRUSSELLA (DRU) ADKINS

Drusella (Dru) Adkins was born on June 1, 1948 in Newport News, Va., to Emmett D. (Buddy) Smith Jr. and Ann P. Smith.

She attended Jane H. Bryan Elementary School in Hampton, Va., until 1957, when the family moved to Long Island, N.Y. Dru attended elementary and junior high in Hauppauge from 1957-1964. She started playing clarinet in the elementary school band and then played oboe in the junior/senior high school band.

The Smith family returned to Hampton in 1964, where Dru attended Hampton High School and worked part-time evenings and weekends as a telephone operator for Bell Atlantic (now Verizon). Following her graduation in 1966, Dru continued to work part-time as a telephone operator while attending classes at Christopher Newport University.

In 1967, Dru left college to accept a full-time telephone operator position with Bell Atlantic in Newport News. She retired as a service representative in 1993 with 28 years of service.

In 1968, Dru married Elvin (Butch) Adkins and celebrated 48 years of marriage until his death in 2017. While living in Hampton, they built a house in Gloucester and moved there in 2000, where Dru became a member of St. Therese Catholic Church.

Dru was an active retiree; she was a member and officer for the local Bell Atlantic (Verizon) Pioneers, where she served as president in 2007. She sang in the St. Therese choir and was a member of the Theresians. She also completed over 2,000 hours of volunteer service with the Master Gardeners.

Due to her failing health, she spent her last 14 months at Heron Cove in Gloucester where she passed away in the company of family and friends on September 4, 2024. She is survived by her sister, Nancy Steelman (Roger); brother, Dr. Martin F. Smith (Joyce); nephew, Thomas Antonio (Tony) Vigilante; cousins, and many friends.

The family received friends at the funeral home on Monday, September 9, 2024, from 4-5:30 p.m. A Mass was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 12 p.m. at The Church of St. Therese. Interment was Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Parklawn Memorial Park in Hampton. Memorial donations may be made to Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society, The Shriners Children's Hospital, or to the Arbor Foundation.

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

**JAMES LITTLETON MASON**

James Littleton Mason, age 94, of Gloucester, was born on March 21, 1930. He died on Friday, September 6, 2024.

His parents were Rennie Shackelford and Benjamin North Mason. He was preceded in death by his brother, Benjamin North Mason Jr. (Allene). He spent most of his life in Hopewell, Virginia.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Carole Preddy Mason; two sons, Deane Lipscomb (Maggie) and Scott Lipscomb (Wendy); two stepsons, Travis and Garrett Lipscomb; two brothers-in-law, James Donald Preddy (Lynn) and Gregory Preddy.

Jim's life passions were flying, tennis, boating, bird hunting with his dog, Beau, and playing gin rummy or poker at the Westwood Club in Richmond.

Jim retired from Sovran Bank, which is now Bank of America, as an Executive Vice President in charge of commercial real estate lending. He served his country as a Marine Corps Reservist and was later drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War conflict.

All services will be private.

**GLEN HADEN NULL**

Glen Haden Null, 86, of Hayes, died at his home on Sept. 5, 2024.

He was born in War, West Virginia, on Feb. 14, 1938.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Nancy; his daughters, Courtney of Hayes, and Cari of Neenah, Wis.; his son, Tony of New Kent; seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his parents, Arthur and Myrtle Null; sisters, Shirley, Vera, Freda, and brother, Cecil.

A Celebration of Life will be held by the family at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Riverside Health Hospice Care, 701 Town Center, Suite 1000, Newport News, Va. 23606 or Abingdon Volunteer Fire & Rescue, P.O. Box 9, Bena, Va. 23018.

MERLIN RAY STEIDER

Merlin Ray Steider of Gloucester, beloved father and grandfather, went home to his Lord and Savior on Friday, August 16, 2024, after a long illness. Merlin was born on March 24, 1943 in Meadville, Pa. He was one of nine children born to Ray and Ruth Oswald Steider. In 1973, Merlin married Barbara Linski, and together they raised five children. Merlin was a loving father to his children, a devoted husband and a kind, supportive presence to his family, friends, and community.

Merlin attended Eastern Mennonite College and pursued graduate studies at Wayne State University. Throughout his career, he served as the administrator of Sanders Nursing Home in Gloucester, Va., worked in private practice, and owned his own practice, Steider and Associates.

Merlin dedicated his life to counseling, offering kind words and help to others in need.

Merlin was preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Ruth Steider, and his brothers, Dean Steider and Don Steider.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara (Linski) Steider, and his children: Kyle Steider (Emma) of Richmond, Va., Lee Steider (Carol) of Yorktown, Va., Jeremy Steider of New Kent, Va., Jonathan Steider (Jamie) of Annandale, Va., and Melinda Moore (Will) of Bumpass, Va. He also leaves behind six adoring grandchildren, Ethan Steider, Jackson Steider, Annabelle-Virginia Steider, Logan Steider, Alexa Steider and Jeremy Steider.

Merlin is also survived by his siblings: Arliss Ketchum (Steelman) of Gloucester, Va., Alice Stoltzfus (Merlin) of Cory, Pa., Wilma Hadlock (Bill) of Ellicott City, Md., Carol Henigh (Ron) of Meadville, Pa., Larry Steider (Judi) of Cable, Ohio, and Jim Steider of Conneaut Lake, Pa.

On October 13, the family will receive visitors at 3 p.m. and a Celebration of Life service will follow at 4 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Church, located at 2243 Buckley Hall Road, Cobbs Creek, Va. 23035.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Riverside Walter Reed Hospice, 7358 Main Street, Gloucester, Va. 23061 or Cornerstone Fellowship Church, 2243 Buckley Hall Road, Cobbs Creek, Va. 23035.

**JAMES ANTHONY PAVIK SR.**

June 19, 1956-Sept. 5, 2024

This is the testimony of a man who has lived a full life.

Born in Faribault, Minn., on June 19, 1956 to Janice Elaine (Huskamp) and Malvin Anthony Pavik (Bonita Bay, Fla.). Brother to Alan Charles (McKinney, Texas), Paul Thomas (Naples, Fla.), Debra Porter (Mike) (Fredericksburg, Va.), Joan Geckle (Steve) (Parkton, Md.), Linda Kuligowski (Ted) (Ellicott City, Md.), Douglas Todd (Kriss) (Redwood Falls, Minn.), and Kimberly Pavik (Fairfax, Va.).

Husband to Deona Bailey, whom I have loved since the first moment I saw her in Atlanta, and who has been my confidant, conscience, best friend, and lover for 41 years. Together, we have shared a brilliant life together, and the beauty of a baby's first breath five times. Father to Nicholas Andrew (Mathews, Va.), Marla Lavon Pizzicara (John) (Anchorage, Alaska), Christian Thomas (Arlington, Va.), Amanda Elaine (Duncanville, Texas), and James Anthony Jr. (Dallas, Texas). Proud Grandfather, "Grumpy," to Alya, Elijah, Annika, and Samson.

I have seen the sun rise and fall on three continents. I have swum with dolphins in the Atlantic, Pacific Gulf of Mexico, Mediterranean; and with wildlife in countless lakes and rivers across this great country. I have bent knee and prayed in steeped churches with Cardinals, and on the street with the homeless. I have confessed my sin in St. Peter's Basilica, and alone in the desert. I have admired the endless big sky of the West, the fog shrouded valleys of Appalachia, experienced the warmth of the Everglades, and the coldness of early morning fishing on the Lake of the Woods on the Canada/Minn. border. I have hiked parts of the John Muir Trail in Yosemite, Bright Angel trail in the Grand Canyon, the Amalfi coast of Italy, Stanley Park in Vancouver, Imperial Palace Park in Tokyo, the Cotswolds in England, and the Tahoe Rim and Appalachian Trails; while feeling at home with the thousands of laps walking around the track at Mathews High School.

I spent the first part of my business career with 17 years in the automotive industry with corporate positions for Ford, Audi, Range Rover, Lexus and Toyota. I spent the remainder of my working life creating two successful entrepreneurial practices: The Pavik Group, Inc. and Pavik Wealth Management, Inc. I have felt the need to volunteer and assist when and where I could: Chairperson of the Mathews County Library Board of Trustees, President of Concerts By The Bay, Board member of the Mathews Historical Museum, Worshipful Master for Oriental #20 AF&AM, Deputy Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus Lady by the Bay Council, Finance Chairperson for Francis de Sales Catholic Church; while providing my services when and where I was asked for the betterment of the communities in which Deona and I lived.

I have been blessed to know many wonderful people (some of whom may be reading this now) whom I call great friends. I have known a few who have become part of my personage. Some of those closest to me were called to the Lord before me, far too early in human time. Now, it is my turn to stand before and be judged by our Lord, Jesus Christ. My heart is full. My Lord has called me home on eagle's wings.

God bless.

A funeral mass will be held on Friday, September 13, 2024, at 11 a.m. at the Church of Francis de Sales, Mathews. Interment with Masonic rites will follow at H.C. Smither Memorial Cemetery, Hudgins. The family will receive friends on Thursday, September 12, 2024, from 5-7 p.m. at Faulkner Funeral Homes, Foster-Faulkner Chapel, Mathews.

FREDA JOYCE WINSLOW

Freda Joyce Winslow, 85, of Gloucester, died at her home on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024.

Full obituary to follow. Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home & Crematory, Gloucester Point.

SADIE B. COOK

Sadie B. Cook, 93, of Gloucester, died on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024. She was a native of Gloucester and member of Bethel Baptist Church.

She is survived by a son, Charles Wythe Cook Jr. and sister, Ruth Palmer.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Leroy and Sadie Stubbs Johnson; stepmother, Edith Green Johnson; husband, Charles Wythe Cook Sr.; siblings, Marshall, Mildred and Catherine.

A funeral service will be held at noon Saturday, Sept. 14 in Bethel Baptist Church on Hickory Fork Road, Gloucester. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Mrs. Cook will be placed in the church at 11 a.m. for viewing.

Howard Funeral Home, Ark, is assisting the family.

MILEE SUE FREEMAN

Milee Sue Freeman, mother of David Freeman, 62, of Hayes, died on Monday, Sept. 9, 2024.

Services are private and under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home & Crematory, Gloucester Point.

CATHERINE VIRGINIA HUDGINS KING

Catherine Virginia Hudgins King passed away on Saturday, September 7, 2024, at 1:13 p.m. Born in Mathews, Virginia, on May 31, 1926, she recently returned from Tampa, Florida, to reside in Gloucester, Virginia.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Walter Hayes King Jr.; son, Aubrey King; daughter, Iris King Johnson.

She attended Thomas Hunter High School in Mathews, and earned her high school diploma from Douglas High School in Baltimore, Maryland. Catherine earned a number of certificates and higher education credits at a number of business schools and universities from Baltimore to Virginia. She remained grounded in her spiritual relationship with God and the church, at Antioch Baptist Church, Susan (Mathews), and at Shepherdsville Baptist Church, Gloucester.

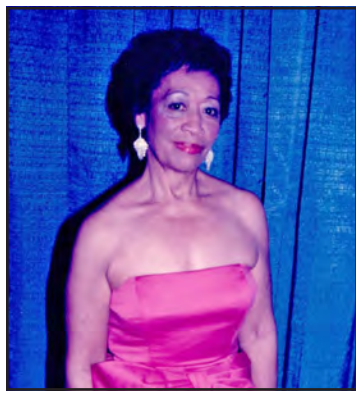
Throughout her life and career, while raising her family, she remained an integral part of the Gloucester community. She worked in various positions in Gloucester Public Schools, the Virginia Workforce Network, and provided volunteer support for various organizations.

She leaves to cherish fond memories, her son, Cornelius "Bubba" King (daughter-in-law, Eva); daughter, Yvonne King Booker; grandchildren, Lynette King, Aubrohn King (Monica), Katrina King (Darren), Anthony King; great-grandchildren, Nathan, Christian, Michael, Jonathan, Joylynn, Makayla; nieces, nephews, cousins, and many other loved relatives and friends.

Memorial services will take place at Shepherdsville Baptist Church, 8729 Farys Mill Road, Gloucester, Va. 23061 on Saturday, September 14, 2024, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes your kind expressions be donated to the American Heart Association in honor of Catherine King at <https://www.heart.org> and the Gloucester Retired Educators Association (GREA)/Caris Harris Scholarship, P.O. Box 221, Hayes, Va. 23072 c/o Wylonna E. Harris.

Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home.

**IN MEMORIAM**

First Day of Fall Walk to be held Sept. 22

Registration is open for a First Day of Fall Walk sponsored by Friends of Dragon Run. It will be held in the woods of Big Island beginning at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 22.

"Soon we will feel the refreshing approach of cooler temps, falling leaves, and migrating birds," said a press release. "The time is ripe to walk the forest as it prepares to shed its summer raiment and rest for next year's spring awakening."

For details about the walk and signup instructions, visit dragonrun.org.

Friends of Dragon Run is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose mission is to protect, preserve, and encourage the wise use of the Dragon Run watershed through education, stewardship, and citizen science.



Happy Heavenly Birthday

Brice Master

9/13/87 ~ 1/6/2008

We Miss You So Much!

Love,

Dad, Mom, Kris, Samantha, Nathan, Rylan and Brinley

COMING EVENTS

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

THURSDAY

UTILITIES COMMITTEE: The Gloucester County Utilities Advisory Committee will meet at 6 o'clock today, Thursday, Sept. 12, in the County Office Building One press room, 6467 Main Street, Gloucester.

PARKS & REC: The Mathews County Parks and Recreation Commission will meet at 7 o'clock tonight, Sept. 12, in the historic courthouse on Court Street.

SUNDAY

ALTER EAGLES: The Eagles tribute band Alter Eagles will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Harry M. Ward Auditorium at Mathews High School. Tickets are \$30 at the door or in advance at the Mathews Visitor's Center. Youth admitted free of charge.

MONDAY

NAACP: The Mathews Branch of the NAACP will meet at 6 p.m. Monday at Mathews Chapel United Methodist Church, 4185 Buckley Hall Road, Cobbs Creek. Guest speaker Errick D. Jones, MBA, Principal Broker of A Mother's Care Financial Group, Richmond, will discuss Medicare. All are welcome. For more information, contact mathewснаacp@gmail.com.

TUESDAY

NARFE: Chapter 1757 of National Active and Retired Employees will hold its monthly luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at Damon & Company, 7104 George Washington Memorial Hwy., Gloucester. Deputy Bill Adams of the Gloucester County Sheriff's Office will discuss how you can protect yourself from phone, email and personal scams and fraud. All members and their guests are encouraged to attend. Contact chapter president Bob Howe at 804-642-2659 for more information.

SUPERVISORS: The Gloucester County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the colonial courthouse.

4-H OPEN HOUSE: An open house for people interested in becoming involved with 4-H, either joining a club, starting a new club, or volunteering as a club leader, will be held from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday in the T.C. Walker Education Center cafeteria, 6099 T.C. Walker Road, Gloucester. There is no cost to join a club.

WEDNESDAY

ROMCA: The September luncheon of the Retired Officers of Mathews County will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 18, at Fiorillo's Italian Restaurant, 4938 George Washington Highway, Hayes (White Marsh Shopping

Center), from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Reservations are not required.

SOCIAL SERVICES: The Mathews County Social Services Board will meet at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 18, in the Human Services Building on Church Street.

STATE OF THE YORK: Cirse Gonzalez of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve will give an update on the "State of the York" at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 1039 Williams Wharf Road, Mathews, as part of the Mathews Land Conservancy's 2024 Lecture Series. It is free and open to the public.

NEXT THURSDAY

SOCIAL SERVICES: The Gloucester County Social Services Board will meet at 7:30 a.m. next Thursday, Sept. 19, at 6641 Short Lane, Gloucester.

SUPERVISORS: The Mathews County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. next Thursday, Sept. 19, in the historic courthouse.

MIDDLESEX GOP: The Middlesex County Republican Committee will meet at 7 p.m. next Thursday, Sept. 19, at the Cook's Corner Office Complex, 2693 General Puller Hwy., Saluda. Retired U.S. Constitutional lawyer Brian Chilton will be the guest speaker, followed by the group's regular business meeting.



Livestrong

LIVESTRONG, a free, 12-week program for those surviving and fighting cancer, begins this month at the Mathews Family YMCA in Hudgins. Classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Sept. 17 and ending Dec. 12. The free program will focus on building muscle mass and strength; increasing flexibility, endurance, and balance; and improving confidence and self-esteem. The program "focuses on you—the whole person—not cancer," a release said. The program is open to those living in Middlesex, Mathews and Gloucester counties. Caregivers and spouses are also eligible for the program. To register or learn more information, contact Livestrong instructor Tracy Battilla at 804-316-9191 or Tracy.Battilla@ymcavp.org. Shown here are, from left, Livestrong instructor Hope Lowe, Deb Buchanan, Kitty Wilkinson, Pat Heath, and Livestrong instructor Michael Joyce.

Plant Extravaganza to be held Friday, Saturday at Moose Lodge

The Gloucester Master Gardeners 22nd annual Plant Extravaganza will be held on Friday and Saturday at the Gloucester Moose Lodge, 6565 Moose Drive.

The Master Gardeners will have a variety of native plants, perennials, herbs, houseplants and gently used garden tools and books for sale. All the plants are grown by Master Gardeners or donated by local nurseries.

The Plant Extravaganza

runs from 3-7 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday. In addition, on Friday night the Gloucester Ruritan Club will be present, taking donations for hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks.

Master Gardeners will be on hand to sharpen your neglected gardening tools while you shop, as well as answer your gardening questions and provide expert advice on which plants to buy.

There are activities for the young gardeners in a family. There will be a booth full of activities and a playground to occupy children while you shop.

Accepted forms of payment are cash, check or credit card. A portion of the proceeds will go to scholarships for students at Gloucester High School, while the rest supports ongoing gardening projects in the community.

Kickball tournament team sign-up is underway until Sept. 19

For the fourth year, the Mathews Outdoor Club will hold its annual fall Coastal Virginia Kickball Tournament, on Oct. 5 this year.

MOC president Christine Johnson said, "this tournament has become very popular with local residents and is beginning to draw attention outside of Mathews County."

COVA Kickball is open to teams of 10 or more players, ages 14 and over, and is played at the Mathews Little League fields at the Piankatank Ruritan Club in Hudgins.

Johnson said the tournament is scheduled around and in conjunction with other events held at the fields and club.

In prior years, the COVA Kickball Tournament has fielded anywhere from five to eight teams, she said. "It has been incredible to see the enthusiasm rolling in."

Reigning champs from Dominion Energy are expected, along with many local clubs and businesses. "For example, Peninsula Heating Air has confirmed sponsorship of a team for their third year," Johnson said.

Players who are interest-

ed in the tournament and may not have a team can register individually and be assigned to a roster. Sign-up deadline is Sept. 21. "Each player and their one volunteer receive a team shirt—and that order will be placed two weeks before tournament date."

As soon as all teams are registered, the MLL will create the tournament schedule. "The tournament will be run as double-elimination," said Johnson. "We don't have separate categories for men, women or mixed teams. All teams are placed on the schedule randomly. An effort will be made to pair up teams with similar demographics if possible. The emphasis will be on good fun, great sports-

manship and fair play," Johnson notes.

Teams or individuals who are interested in COVA Kickball 2024 can register online at mocva.net/kickball. Games will begin after noon on Oct. 5 and last 45-50 minutes. Tournament play will continue on the lighted fields until the championship match is over. Trophies are awarded to the top three teams and all proceeds benefit the MOC's vision of amplifying sports tourism in the Middle Peninsula, Johnson said.

October is a busy month for the outdoor club, which is also sponsoring its annual marathon and half-marathon on Oct. 19. Details can be found at mocva.net.

Gloucester BOS to meet Tuesday

The Gloucester County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the colonial courthouse.

On the work session agenda is the 2024 floodplain management plan five-year adoption, as well as initial discussions of legislative agenda topics for the 2025 General Assembly session.

Legion breakfast on Sunday

American Legion Post 75, Gloucester, will hold its monthly community breakfast from 8-11:30 a.m. Sunday at the post home, 5849 American Legion Way.

The breakfast is \$12 for adults; \$6 for children ages 5-10 (children under 4 eat free). Take-out is available. A release said all proceeds are used to assist local veterans. For more information, call Paul Miller at 804-854-1358.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Mathews County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice that on **Thursday, September 19th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** or soon thereafter, the public may be heard, at the Historic Courthouse located at 27 Court St, Mathews, Virginia, the Board of Supervisors will hold a joint public hearing, as follows:

Application #10-CUP-24: Request by Elizabeth M. Tatterson, Norman Merritt, III, Property Owners and Trudy L. Flippin, Applicant, for a Conditional Use Permit pursuant to Section §175-5.3 (7) of the Mathews County Zoning Ordinance, to allow the applicant to reside in the existing residence and operate a portable toilet rental business. The subject residence is located at 15967 John Clayton Memorial Highway, Mathews, VA 23109 and the existing garage is located at 15987 John Clayton Highway, Mathews, VA 23109. The property is identified as Tax Map Parcels 14-A-28 & 14-2-5A and zoned Rural (R-U).

The applications, supporting documentation and Ordinances are on file in the Administration Building, 50 Brickbat Road, Mathews, Virginia, Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Any written correspondence or telephone inquiries concerning these matters should be directed to the Administration Office, P.O. Box 839, Mathews, VA 23109, (804) 725-7172 or via email mcadministration@mathewscountyva.gov. Those persons with physical disabilities requiring assistance order to participate in the hearings may request such assistance by contacting the Administration Office.

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Artist of the month

The Bay School Community Arts Center's featured artist of the month is painter Eddie Thiel. His work is on display throughout September in the Art Speaks Gallery, 279 Main Street, Mathews. About 20 years ago, Thiel began painting seriously, starting out with still life, then portraiture, then western scenes. Now, "he's completely focused on painting cars," said a press release. Thiel's parents inspired him on his artistic journey. His father taught him about cars, and his artist mother "inspires him daily," said the release. For more information and to shop the collection, visit bayschool-arts.com.

Painting classes offered at AOM

Three artists will offer three dramatically different approaches to painting in upcoming classes at Arts on Main in Gloucester.

On Saturday, Rebecca West will show students how to create large impasto palette knife paintings with oil and acrylic paints. The class will be held from 4-8 p.m. at a cost of \$60. Students are required to bring oil or acrylic paint, a 24" x 30" canvas, a paintbrush assortment, and a few palette knives.

Later that night, from 7-8, Hanah Hailey will show students how to use the "Flip Cup" method of acrylic pour painting during her popular Paint & Sip class. The cost is \$45, with all materials provided by the instructor. A cash bar will be available.

Finally, Jan Finn-Duffy will teach beginner watercolor techniques as students create a sunflower painting during "Sunflower Power," a class to be held from 6-8 p.m. next



Rebecca West is one of three artists who will teach three different methods of painting during upcoming classes at Arts on Main in Gloucester. Shown here is one of her impasto paintings.

Thursday, Sept. 19. The cost is \$45, with all supplies provided by the instructor. Ages 14 and up welcome.

To register, visit gloucestertarsonmain.org/events or call 804-824-9464.



The Tidewinders will headline the Virginia Homegrown Bluegrass Festival, to be held Saturday at Flat Iron Crossroads in Gloucester. Band members are, from left, Jared Lawson, Michael Gregg, Chris Smith, Doug DeForge, and Pete Liljeberg. Also performing will be Bill Jenkins & The Virginia Mountain Boys, and Rappahannock Crossing.

Tidewinders headline bluegrass festival at Flat Iron Crossroads

The Tidewinders, a locally-based band that plays hard-driving bluegrass, poignant ballads, and classic favorites, will headline the Virginia Homegrown Bluegrass Festival, to be held beginning at 4:30 p.m. Saturday at Flat Iron Crossroads, Gloucester.

Known for its traditional instrumentation of banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar, dobro and bass, the Tidewinders create a classic sound of blue-

grass, but with a modern flair, said a press release.

Also in the lineup are Bill Jenkins & The Virginia Mountain Boys, and Rappahannock Crossing.

Bill Jenkins & the Virginia Mountain Boys has been performing for over 40 years, said the release. Jenkins was inducted into the Virginia Music Hall of Fame in 2014 for his many contributions to the preservation of traditional, old time, and gospel music.

The band brings to life the authentic folk music of the southern Appalachian Mountains, playing unique harmonies and captivating arrangements to create "a rollicking good time."

Rappahannock Crossing began in 2011, when five ex-

perienced musicians, three from the Middle Peninsula and two from the Northern Neck, got together for a jam. The musical synergy was apparent, and a new bluegrass band was formed. The group plays traditional and contemporary bluegrass with classic country, rock 'n roll, and original tunes, along with a Jimmy Buffett tune "now and then."

Doors open at 3:30 p.m. with Island Time Delights, a food truck serving classic Filipino dishes. There will also be a few Virginia-based vendors.

The venue is pet- and family-friendly, and children 12 and under attend free of charge. Tickets are \$30 at flatironcrossroads.com.



Author and animal lover Gwen Keane will be the guest speaker at the Sept. 14 Second Saturday Social at the RAL Arts Center in Kilmarnock.

Keane is featured at RAL speaker social

Lancaster County author Gwen Keane will be the featured speaker at the Second Saturday Social series at 5 p.m. on Saturday, at the RAL Art Center, 19 N. Main Street, Kilmarnock.

The series is a joint effort of RAL and the Writers Guild of Virginia. It is open to readers, writers, artists, and anyone with an interest in the local creative arts community.

Light refreshments and drinks will be provided, and there will be live music, books to browse, and a short program focused on Virginia authors.

For more information, visit writersguildva.com or the Writers Guild Facebook page.

About the author
Keane is a supporter and board member of Northern Neck Partners for Pets, an organization focused on providing a no-kill shelter for local homeless animals. Her book "Cowboy Finds a Home" tells the story of her own shelter rescue dog.

Keane's body of work also includes "Local Color," a humorous and thoughtful memoir about growing up in the Northern Neck in the 1950s.



Kilmarnock author publishes 'Cold As Ice'

Kilmarnock author Susan Robertson has been writing for years, but just recently published her first novel, "Cold As Ice," which is planned to be the first in a romance/mystery series.

Robertson began writing over a decade ago and finally decided the series that begins with "Cold As Ice" was good enough to submit because of encouragement from so many people she'd asked to read the series, a release stated.

Each story in the series came to her from listening to the song lyrics that the titles are based upon. "Cold As Ice" will be followed by "Gold Dust Woman," then "Killing Me Softly," followed by "Black Hole Sun," and then "After The Hurricane." When not writing, Robertson works as the classified advertising manager at the Rappahannock Record.

Visit www.susanrobertsonauthor.com to see how to purchase "Cold As Ice" and view titles and descriptions of the next books in the series to be published by clicking on the "Upcoming Books" tab. If you would like to purchase an autographed copy of the book, sign up for the contact list on the website and send a message.



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MHS girls beat Charles City, 3-0

BY GRAYSON GRIFFITH

The Mathews High School varsity volleyball team picked up its first win of the season on Tuesday, beating the Charles City Panthers in straight sets, 3-0.

The Blue Devils took an early lead in the opening set, only giving the ball away on small mistakes and winning, 25-18. In the second set, the Blue Devils got even better and didn't give the Panthers many opportunities to score points and won, 25-15. In the third set, the Blue Devils put the ball away and won, 25-10, to complete the victory.

Kristin Blake, Addy Lowe, Kaitlyn Ball and Addison Griffith all had 100 percent serving rates. Nora Suthard served 11 aces. Grayson Griffith had the highest passing average with a 2.0 out of 3. Blake also had the highest hitting percentage with a .545.

Northumberland
Last Thursday, the Blue Devils traveled to Northumberland to face the Indians. Mathews fell in straight sets, 3-0. The first set was close, point-for-point until the Indians started to pull away to win, 25-19. The second set was scary to watch. The Indians gained an early head start getting 15 points and the Devils only having 8. The Blue Devils worked hard and caught up but not enough to win the second set, 25-17. The Blue Devils were under a lot of pressure to win the third set to keep the game going but cracked and only got 10 points that set, giving the Indians the win. Hailey Denkinger and Lindsay Coons both had 100 percent serving over and in the court. Coons also had the highest passing average with a 1.2 percentage. Lowe hit the best out of the group with a .750 hitting percentage.

Mathews travels to King William tonight to face the Cavaliers. The varsity game is set to begin at 7 o'clock.



MELANY SLAUGHTER / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

The Gloucester High School boys' varsity volleyball team had a tough week on the court, falling to both Warwick and Menchville. Libero Tabb Hogge is shown getting a dig on the ball during last Thursday's home match against Warwick.

Dukes drop two on the court

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

The Gloucester High School boys' varsity volleyball team had a tough week on the court, falling to both Warwick and Menchville in three straight sets for both matches.

The Dukes lost to Warwick last Thursday at home in three sets (25-17, 25-21 and 25-21).

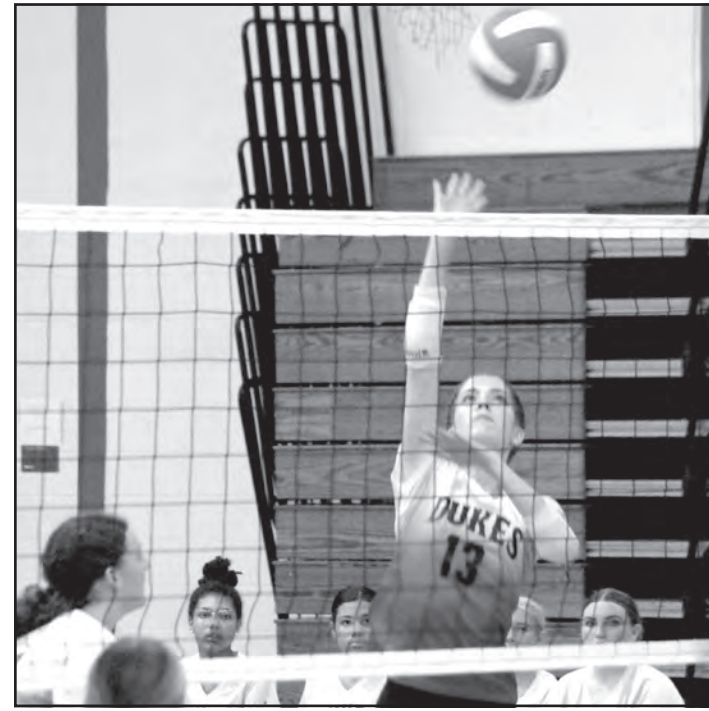
During the match, Grayson Shield had 10 assists, one kill two digs one solo block and one block assist; Ryan Williams had four kills; Gavin Blanks had two kills, one dig and two block assists; Colter Callis had two kills, five assists, four digs, one block assist and one solo block; Hayden Simmons had two aces, seven kills, four digs and one block assist; Bruce Miller had one kill and one block assist; Tabb Hogge had six digs; and Ryan

McCullough had two aces and four digs.

GHS traveled to face Menchville Tuesday, falling again in three competitive sets (25-21, 26-24 and 25-19).

Shield had 17 assists and one block assist; Williams had two kills and three block assists; Blanks had one ace, one kill, two assists and seven block assists; Callis had one ace, four kills, one assist, five digs and three block assists; Simmons had 11 kills, five digs and one block assist; Miller had three kills; Hogge had one ace and eight digs; McCullough had one ace and six digs; Jesse Manheim had one kill and one dig; and Bryce Fischer had one dig.

The Dukes return to their home court tonight as they face the Bethel Bruins. Gloucester will host the Phoebus Phantoms Tuesday night.



MELANY SLAUGHTER / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

The Gloucester High School girls' varsity volleyball team has won two matches and lost two since starting its season late last month. Amanda Stafford is shown hitting from the outside during the Lady Dukes' first home game of the season against the Warwick Raiders. Gloucester lost to Warwick, 3-2, in this match held last Thursday.

Lady Dukes pick up two, lose two

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

The Gloucester High School girls' varsity volleyball team has won two matches and lost two since its season started late last month.

The Lady Dukes defeated the Hampton Crabbers, 3-1, in an away game on Aug. 29. Samantha Carlton had four aces and four kills, Shyanne Carlton had three aces, Ava Hutton had seven aces, Carlee Miller had four aces, Nadia Oberlin had one kill, Coral Santos had four kills, Amanda Stafford had one ace and five kills, Keira Tidwell had six aces and three kills and Fallon Wills had three aces.

GHS players used the jump-serving technique as their primary form of serving during the Hampton match and all were able to achieve aces. According to head coach Sean McNash, this is an advanced technique commonly used at the upper levels of high school and regularly used in collegiate and professional volleyball.

Gloucester is the first team in Peninsula District history to have all of its servers using this technique. Others have had one or more servers using the technique, but never all, he said.

McNash said this technique has been a point of emphasis in the GHS girls' volleyball program since the spring 2023 off-season conditioning program. Players who did not participate in serving during this match are also capable of

this skill and include Emma Lynch, Jenaye Oberlin, Nadia Oberlin and Santos.

Denbigh

The Lady Dukes traveled to face the Denbigh Patriots on Sept. 3, winning the match, 3-0. During the game, Samantha Carlton had nine aces, Shyanne Carlton had two aces, Miller had one ace, Jenaye Oberlin had one kill, Nadia Oberlin had two kills, Santos had five kills, Stafford had four aces and one kill, Tidwell had seven aces and four kills and Wills had three aces.

Warwick

During their first home game of the season, the Lady Dukes fell to the Warwick Raiders, 3-2, in a long, hard-fought match last Thursday.

Samantha Carlton had two aces and two kills, Miller had two aces, Hutton had seven aces, Jenaye Oberlin had six kills and six blocks, Nadia Oberlin had four blocks, Santos had one kill and three blocks, Stafford had four kills and one block, Wills had two aces and Tidwell had three aces, nine kills and three blocks.

Menchville

The Lady Dukes also fell to Menchville Tuesday night while on the road. During the match, Samantha Carlton and Santos had one kill each, Shyanne Carlton had one ace, Stafford had one block and Keira Tidwell had one ace, one kill and two blocks.

GHS football falls to Falcons, 21-6

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

The Gloucester High School varsity football team lost to the Yorktown Falcons, 21-6, during Friday night's away game at Bailey Field.

Preston Prentiss scored Gloucester's lone touchdown on defense, running back an interception for the Dukes' only points. Prentiss also completed one pass on offense for eight yards. Jayden Ganzenmuller was 4-for-7 in passing for 17 yards.

M.J. Roberts provided much of the Dukes' ground game, with 96 yards on 13 carries. Tyler Welch (four carries for five yards), Corey Skay and Xavier Johnson (each two yards on one carry) provided the rest of the rushing offense. Skay caught two passes for seven yards, while Gavyn Talbot (eight yards) and Maliq Jackson (three yards) had one reception each.

Leading tacklers for Gloucester were Prentiss and Welch. Prentiss ended the day with 12 tackles, while Welch had 10. Scott Klais (six tackles, one pass breakup), Brad Bellinger (five tackles and one pass breakup), Johnson (four tackles, one interception, two pass breakups), Jackson (three tackles) and Roberts (one tackle for a loss of yards) accounted for the rest of the defense.

The 1-1 Dukes will look to get back in the win column on Friday against the 1-1 Crabbers when they travel to Hampton for a 7 p.m. game.

MHS hosts homeschool team in scrimmage Friday

After a week off, the Mathews High School football team returns to the gridiron on Friday, when the Devils scrimmage at home with a team from the Central Virginia Homeschool Athletic Association, starting at 7 p.m. The Devils (0-1) will play its next regular season game on Friday, Oct. 11. That game, also at Ken Brown Field, will be against the King and Queen Tigers.

JV Lady Devils beat Panthers

BY ADDISON GRIFFITH

The Mathews High School JV volleyball team picked up its first win of the season on Tuesday at Charles City, beating the Panthers two sets to one.

In the first set, Emily Ward, Marley Brock, Mya Schroeder and Harmony Smith each had a kill. Carter Hayes served four aces in a row. Smith and Brock had two aces apiece as the Mathews girls won, 25-13.

Charles City came on strong

in the second set, winning 25-22 and forcing a third and deciding set. Mathews made it first to 15 points to win the set and the game.

Northumberland

Last Thursday, the MHS girls visited Northumberland, falling to the Indians in straight sets. Mathews started off strong in the opening set, with Hayes serving an ace and leading Mathews to a 5-1 lead until Northumberland scored a kill to take control. Schroeder, Hayes and Ward also earned some kills,

but the girls ended up losing the first set, 25-21. The second set was also a close one with the score going back and forth, but Northumberland pulled out the win.

Tonight, the MHS girls travel to King William to face the Cavaliers. The JV game is scheduled to start at 5:30.

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RUBY WILLIAMS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Members of the Gloucester High School varsity field hockey team show off their medals after winning all three games in their pool at the GHS Field Hockey Jamboree on Aug. 24. Team members are, front row from left, Addy Zabicki, Reese Miller, Charlotte Houtz, Mckayla Clark, Aaliyah Maddox, Peyton Sutton, Emily Farrar, Ayelou Mason, Kaylee Hall, Abigail Junker, Aurora Duffie; back row, Mackenzi Reece, Rylie Jeffery, Mary Vanfossen, Chloe West, Maddie Kadel, Hannah Symonds, Caroline Kink, Ellary Miller, Maddie Rowe, Adyson Wymer, Hailee Johnston and Ady Jeffery.



RUBY WILLIAMS / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Members of the Gloucester High School JV field hockey team proudly wear their medals after winning their pool at the Aug. 24 GHS Field Hockey Jamboree last Saturday. Team members include, front row from left, Brooke Moore, Elle Adams, Dani Burgess; middle row, Isabella Brodsky, Ryleigh Beddingfield, Ryleigh Rondeau, Amelia Santiago, Ayla Fernandes, Jojo Williams, Kenleigh Hall, Lila McCullough; back row, Violet Adams, Lacey Carpenter, Skylar Cox, Kali Sheridan, Jenna Seaton, Piper Oberndorf, Colbie Russ, Aubrey Chase and Peyton Price.

Dukes improve to 5-0 in field hockey

BY RUBY WILLIAMS

Gloucester High's field hockey team took wins this week over Grafton and Oakton to move to a 5-0 record.

The team traveled to Grafton High School last Thursday to face the Clippers, coming out on top with a commanding 5-0 win.

The Dukes outshot the Clippers, 30-3, and earned 16 penalty corners to five for Grafton. The team spread the ball around quite a bit with precision.

The Dukes were led with Reese Miller's two goals and two assists. Charlotte Houtz pitched in a goal and added her team-leading ninth assist early. She has scored in each of the first four games. Mackenzi Reece also scored her fourth goal of the season and has scored in each game. Hannah Symonds scored in her third straight game to close out the scoring.

Houtz had an assist from Ady Jeffery, Peyton Sutton and McKayla Clark each recording one each. Ellary Miller stepped in and added two assists.

The midfield played tremendous with possession and aggression led by

Miller, Houtz and Chloe West. The Dukes made an adjustment on defense in response to Grafton's forward pressure. They were led by Caroline Klink, Clark, Abby Junker, prior to an injury, Ellary Miller and Aaliyah Mattocks. Addy Zabicki earned her second shutout of the young season with three saves.

Next up will be the Cougars of Oakton on Saturday at the Regional Training Center in Virginia Beach.

Oakton

The Dukes squared off against the Cougars of Oakton from Vienna at the Regional Training Center during the Ring of Honor Invitational over the weekend, coming out on top, 3-0, in a very defensive game.

The Dukes were outshot, 17-5, and had 16 penalty corners earned against them, only earning two. Defensively, the Dukes prevailed with an outstanding effort on corners. They adjusted the line-up moments before the game with their strategy. All credit goes to the defenders of Caroline Klink, Ellary Miller, McKayla Clark and the goalkeeper who made 17 saves, Addy Zabicki.

The game had post season air all around it. The Dukes were content to show their defensive prowess and ability to stave off other teams' chances. Each pushed away corner allowed them to gain more confidence.

GHS capitalized on offensive opportunities and converted on one of the penalty corners and converted two others in transition with goals by Peyton Sutton, Mackenzi Reece, and Ellary Miller. Miller started off the scoring with a shot behind the goalie on the only corner of the first half. All of the goals were scored by the forwards and assisted by the midfield and aggressive forwards. Those with assists were Reese Miller, Reece, Sutton, West and Symonds with two.

The midfield did an outstanding job in holding its own while being double-teamed by the Cougars. Once the midfield broke the pressure led by Miller, Charlotte Houtz, West and Hall, provided opportunities in transition. This was a huge game in a very challenging stretch of games for the Dukes.

The Varsity Dukes played the Titans of Trinity Episcopal School at home in the GHS stadium Wednesday.

JV Dukes post 2 field hockey wins

BY RUBY WILLIAMS

The Gloucester Dukes JV Field Hockey team won in an away game against the Western Branch Bruins, 5-2, on Friday, Aug. 30.

In the first half, the JV Dukes started off strong with three goals. Two goals were scored by Kenleigh Hall and the other being from Jenna Seaton.

In the second half, the JV Dukes' Dani Burgess and Colbie Russ scored two more goals to secure the win.

Clippers

The JV Dukes returned to play last Thursday in an away game against the Grafton Clippers. The JV Dukes shut out the Warriors, 7-0.

The JV Dukes started the first half off strong with four goals. Jenna Seaton scored one goal, Kenleigh Hall scored two goals, and Ryleigh Beddingfield scored one goal.

In the second half, the JV Dukes scored three more goals leaving the score 7-0. Lacey Carpenter and Seaton scored goals and Hall completed her hat trick.

The jayvees were scheduled to face the Trinity Episcopal Titans yesterday at home.

Mathews runners dominate at first meet

BY MELANY SLAUGHTER

The Mathews High School boys' and girls' cross country teams both placed first in their season opener last Wednesday, Sept. 4, at Beaverdam Park with team total of 18 and 15, respectively.

Gavin Dustin placed first overall with a finishing time of 18:06, followed by Seth James in second with a time of 18:07 and Blake Hunley in third at 18:13.

Next for Mathews was Jaxon McDonald with a time of 18:44, followed by Zachary Salvadori (19:00), Jon Jenkins (19:01), Adam Greve (19:53), Samuel Miranda (20:17), Cole Christensen (20:26), Ivar Golden (20:27), Colin Moore (21:23), James Morgan (22:39), Lincoln Williams (23:54), Hunter Horsley (24:38) and Marvin Ouma (25:42).

For the girls, Elizabeth Moore placed first overall with a time of 23:26, followed by Lorena Carballo in second with a time of 25:16 and Paige Morris (JV) in third at 25:29.

Next for the Lady Devils was Baylee Bell with a time of 26:20, followed by Morgan Stearns (26:34), Jordan Sadeg (26:47), Lyla Duff (27:52), Shalan Dease (31:40) and Rayann Helbig (33:54).

Invitational

The Mathews cross country teams also participated in the Woodside XC Invitational at Newport News Park over the weekend, where the boys placed first overall with a team score of 49.

Dustin placed third overall with a time of 16:59. Next for Mathews was Chance Higginbotham with a finishing time of 17:14, followed by James (17:44), Hunley (17:46), McDonald (18:23), Salvadori (18:30) and



MELANY SLAUGHTER / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

The Mathews High School boys' and girls' cross country teams dominated at their first meet last Wednesday, Sept. 4, at Beaverdam Park with both teams placing first. Baylee Bell, who finished with a time of 26:20, is shown competing in the race.

Jenkins (19:06).

The Mathews girls finished with a team score of 133. Moore finished with a time of 23:22, followed by Carballo (24:00), Johnson (24:54), Bell (25:39), Sadeg (25:42), Stearns (25:59) and Duff (27:33).



Citation catch

Morningstar Marinas, Hudgins, had a citation-sized sheepshead brought in on Monday. The fish, caught by Ron Belbin of Yorktown, weighed 13.2 pounds and was caught around York Spit Reef.

Big fish are citation winners

Hagan Witt of Hayes, received a citation in the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament for a 57-inch cobia that weighed 58 pounds and 11 ounces. He caught the fish on Aug. 10 in Baltimore Channel.

Another citation reported last week in vasaltwater-journal.com went to Taylor Browder of Gloucester, for a 10-pound, 6-ounce sheepshead caught on Aug. 14 at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel.

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Gloucester Baystars youth soccer news

U9 Hurricanes

The Baystars U9 Hurricanes played their first game as a team against the Smithfield Vipers on Saturday at Carrolton Nike Park in Isle of Wight. The Hurricanes won, 10-1. They played well and kept their opponents at bay. The Hurricanes finished the first half with six goals, scored evenly by Theo Collins and Jack Sheridan. The opposing team only managed to get past the keeper once, scoring their only goal during the first half. The second half started off quickly with a goal by Oliver Graham, Sebastian Newman and two more goals by Sheridan. The Hurricanes will play again this Saturday at Woodville Park at 11 a.m.

U10 White Caps

The Baystars U10 White Caps youth soccer team traveled to the Churchland Soccer Complex on Saturday to take on the OBX Storm U10 Cyclones in their first game of the fall season. The

White Caps won, 5-2.

Playing through a steady rain-fall, the Cyclones scored early on a free kick. The White Caps rebounded quickly with Donnie Wolford and Colton Bergstrom each finding the net. Tied at the half, the White Caps rallied as Ryan Seay, Noah Ford and Graham Kittrell each scored one goal with Triffon Luechauer assisting once. Luechauer and Wolford split time in the goal, both marking three saved goals each.

U12 Stingrays

The Baystars U12 Stingrays won its season opener against Arsenal FC, 3-1, in a hard-fought battle in the rain at Churchland Soccer Complex on Saturday. Charlie Sheridan scored a hat trick, with assists from Hadli Sellers and Ellis O'Mara. Solid teamwork and aggressive play in unfavorable conditions gave the Stingrays a solid start to the fall season. Each player from the team contributed on the pitch, some called

to play in unfamiliar positions, and doing so with a fire that could not be extinguished. The Baystars U-12 Stingrays will play again at 2 p.m. this Saturday at Woodville Park.

U14 Ospreys

The Baystars U14 Ospreys played against the Beach FC Zimmer-Storm on Saturday at the Hampton Roads Soccer Complex, where they won, 3-0, in their first game of the season. Gavin Brown scored two goals and Jackson Scalf scored one goal. The offense was unstoppable and ended with a 3-0 shutout for a great start to the season.

U14 Swordfish

The Baystars U14 Swordfish traveled to Chesapeake to play the Wolves and won, 2-0. Greylyn Sewell scored both goals. Mallory Bruno and Skyler Collins were captains. Leah Hyde and Sewell earned the game pins.



Members of the U9 Hurricanes include, from left, assistant coach Jace Ellison-Gonzalez, Theo Collins, Gabriel Franklin, Sebastian Newman, Julien Sotello, Oliver Graham, Adam Ramocki, Bentley Tomlinson, Blaise Katsuki, Braiden Fry, Jack Sheridan, Audrick Martinez and coach Cody Sheridan.



The U10 White Caps include, from left, Triffon Luechauer, Graham Kittrell, Arimus Stevenson, Donnie Wolford, Noah Ford, Ryan Seay, Colton Bergstrom, Wyatt Brockenbrough and Fett Kutch.



The U12 Stingrays include, front row from left, Braylin Brochu, Piper Codekas; middle row, Ellis O'Mara, Charlie Sheridan, Hadli Sellers; back row, Camille Carter, Brooklyn Robinette, Jill New, Louisa Doley, Brynlee Grigonis and Aubrey Jones.



The U-14 Swordfish include, front row from left, Mallory Bruno, Emma Jo French, Charlotte Small and Leah Hyde; back row coach Joseph Lenderman, Carley Phelps, Lacey Donnelly, Riley Gale, Greylyn Sewell, Skyler Collins, Rylyn Wilmoth, Melanie Mueller and Coach Reinaldo Miquelarena.

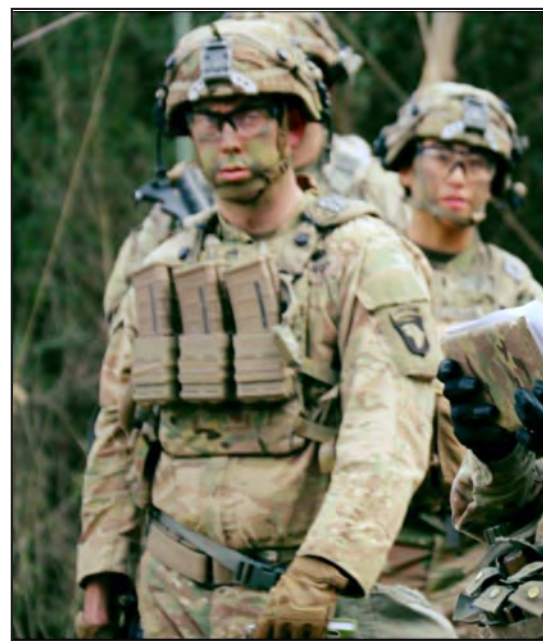


The U14 Ospreys include, in front, Gavin Brown; standing from left, coach Tyler Guy, Noah Kellum, Max Ferguson, Jackson Scalf, Logan Brown, Ryan McAllister, Randy Schwartz, Carter Nash, Bryce Carter, Carter Jackson, Lyam McCullough, Triston VanHoudt, Lacey Donnelly, Aubrey Lord, Melanie Mueller and assistant coach Brent Jackson.

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This is all he has accomplished since he joined the Army.



A native of Gloucester, Virginia, Justin Horsley, age 35, a graduate of Gloucester High School in 2006, has made it to Master Sergeant! Left high school to work for an electric company, but that wasn't for him, he said. Mom, there's nothing here for me. I know what I'm gonna do. I'm going to join the Army. I'm going to be a United States soldier. And so he did. He has accomplished all he went for. In October, he will have done 14 years and he has made it to Master Sergeant! E8. Wow! So proud. You can accomplish whatever you want in life. Give it your all. Put your whole heart into what you want to accomplish and you will make it. A lot of hard work mentally and physically. Proud to serve in the United States Army, Master Sergeant.

Thanks for serving our country. Keep moving to the top until you become Sergeant Major.

Love you, son! Your Mom Lora Ayers and sis Hope Ayers

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Save the Date

FREE Estate Planning Seminar

- ✓ Learn why Virginia Powers of Attorney and Medical Directives are must have documents during times of crises.
- ✓ Learn why there is no such thing as a "simple will" and how to avoid the expense and delay of court supervised administration.
- ✓ Learn how a Revocable Living Trust can avoid probate, minimize taxes and protect assets for multiple generations.
- ✓ Learn why joint ownership, payable on death and beneficiary designations are dangerous ways to pass wealth.
- ✓ Learn about the new Secure Act and how it affects the transfer and administration of retirement plans.

**Tuesday, September 17, 2024
6:30 p.m.**

**Hampton by Hilton
6638 Forest Hill Ave.
Gloucester, VA 23061
Refreshments Served**

**Thursday, September 19, 2024
6:30 p.m.**

**The Tides Inn
480 King Carter Drive
Irvington, VA 22480
Refreshments Served**

*This educational class is free; however, reservations are required.
To make your reservation or for more information call 800-966-2889 or 757-877-2248*

The Buxton Family has been serving Greater Hampton Roads in law and medicine since 1906. Attorneys Chip Buxton, Wake Buxton and Lori Buxton combine nearly 100 years of estate planning and elder law experience. Together, they have assisted over 8,500 clients and prepared over 12,000 estate plans. When results matter, count on TrustBuilders Law Group for all of your wealth preservation needs.



Joseph T. Buxton, Esq.
Certified Elder Law Attorney



G. P. Wakefield Buxton, Esq.
Master of Laws in Estate Planning



Lori Ann Buxton, Esq.
Master of Laws in Corporate Finance

**Remarkable – very
informative – excellent
speaker!**

— Don F.

**Very well presented and
thoroughly held my interest.
Terrific delivery!**

— Dean F.

**Great info and very
understandable!**

—Catherine H.

- Wills and Revocable Trusts
- Powers of Attorney
- Estate Administration
- Asset Protection



- Dynasty & IRA Trusts
- Medicaid and Long-Term Care
- Charitable Giving
- Family Business Succession

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