

DESIGN OUR AD

Gloucester, Mathews and West Point students were given the opportunity to become graphic ad designers for local businesses. Enjoy the drawings.



GLoucester-MATHEWS
GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Section C

Thursday, April 24, 2025



Artist: Zoey Satterlee Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes
School: Page Middle School

AUTO MAX OF GLOUCESTER

3968 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Ordinary, VA 804-695-0660



Artist: Brooklyn Stanley Age: 11 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. McNeil
School: West Point Middle/High School

WYATT-OGG FURNITURE

727 Main Street, West Point, VA 804-843-2464



Artist: Arabella Thorne Age: 12 Grade: 7th Teacher: Kim Gardiner School: Ware Academy

PEACE FROGS

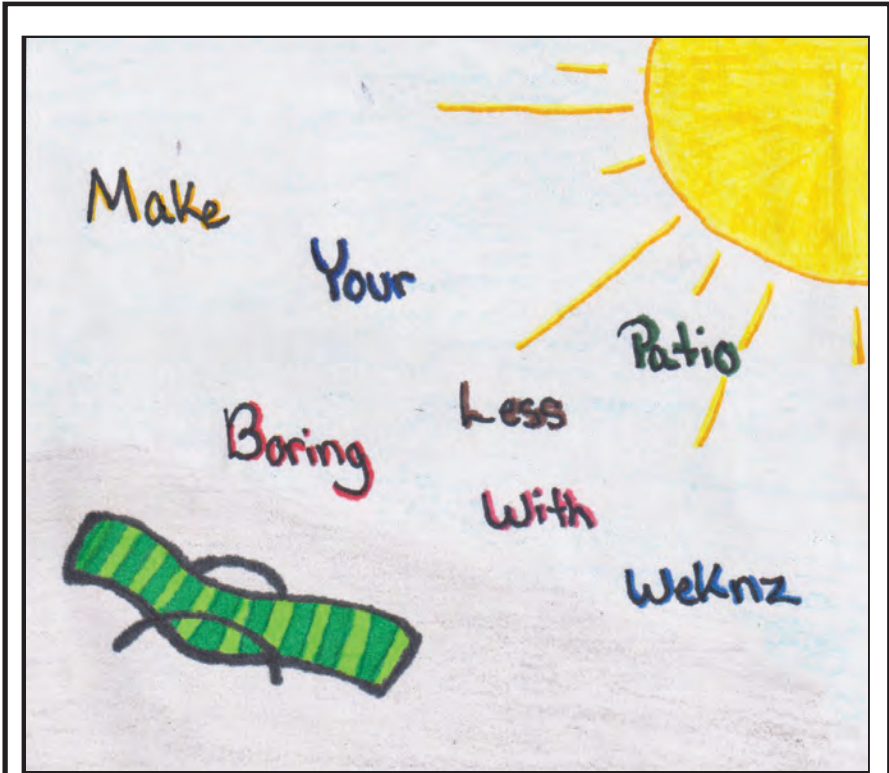
7546 John Clayton Mem. Hwy., Glou., VA 804-685-1314



Artist: Madelyn Pierce Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. McNeil
School: West Point Middle/High School

BRITT'S INC.

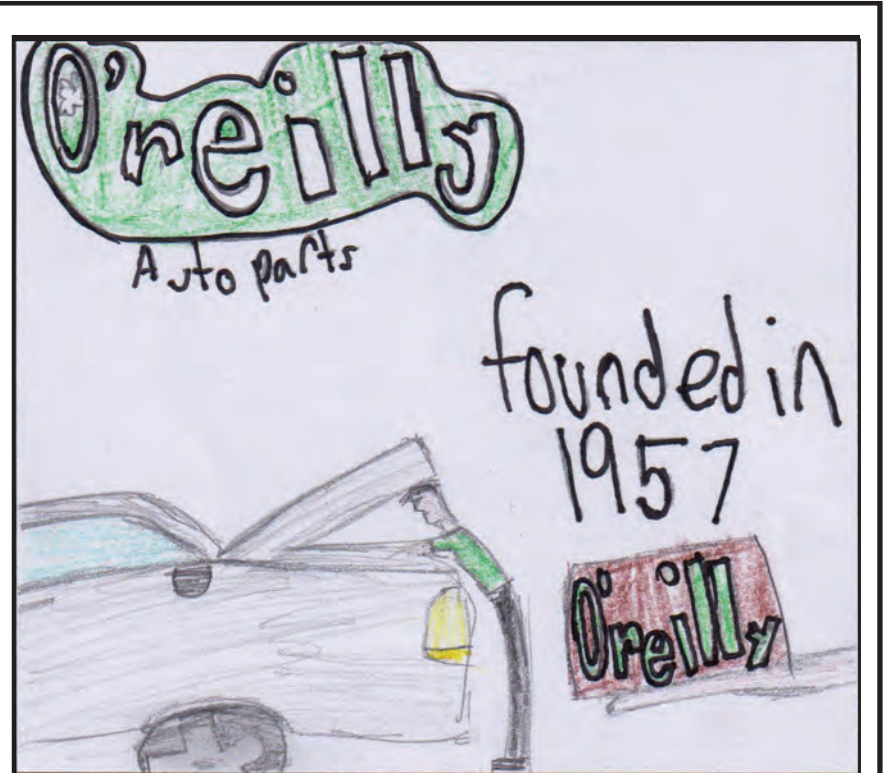
18503 Eltham Rd., West Point, VA 804-843-2853



Artist: Willa Glaspell Age: 14 Grade: 8th Teacher: Mrs. Layton School: Peasley Middle School

WEKNZ PATIO FURNITURE

142 Centerville Road, Shacklefords, VA 804-785-6291



Artist: Rebekah Peters Age: 11 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Layton School: Peasley Middle School

O'REILLY AUTO PARTS

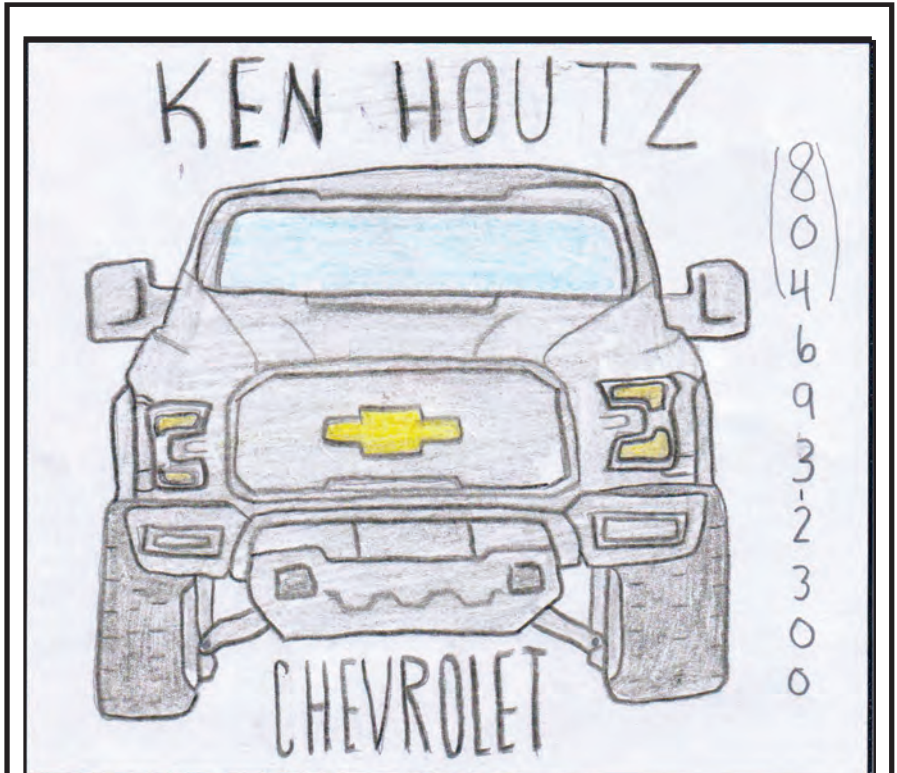
3192 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Hayes, VA 804-684-1269



Artist: Katriel Stafford Age: 8 Grade: 3rd Teacher: Mrs. Lanciani School: Abingdon Elementary School (Child of Gazette-Journal employee)

HOGGE REAL ESTATE

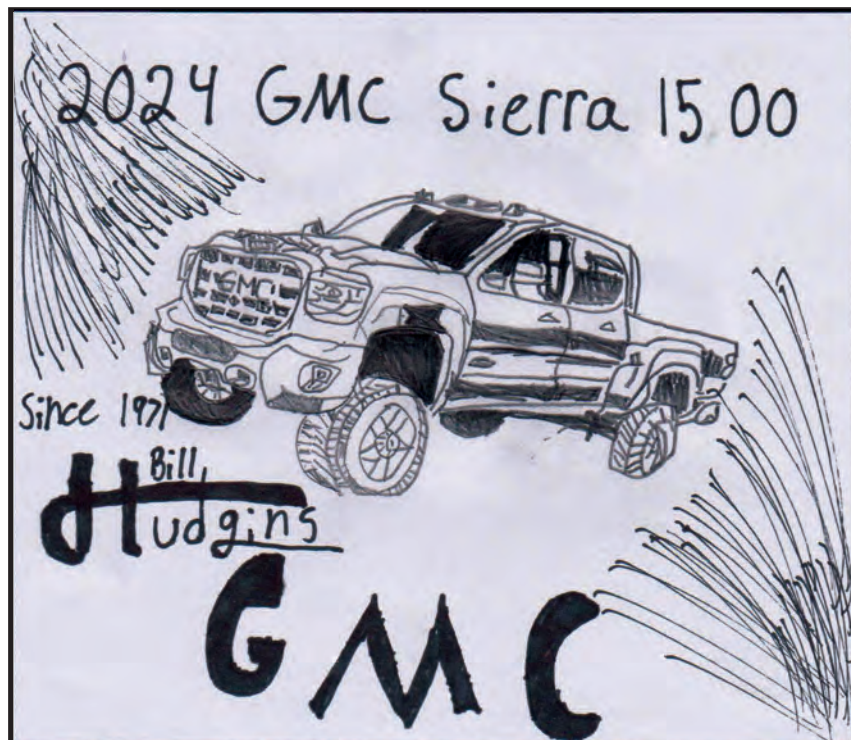
6800 Main St., Gloucester, VA 804-693-5410



Artist: Kylie Nuttall Age: 16 Grade: 10th School: Gloucester High School (child of Gazette-Journal employee)

KEN HOUTZ CHEVROLET

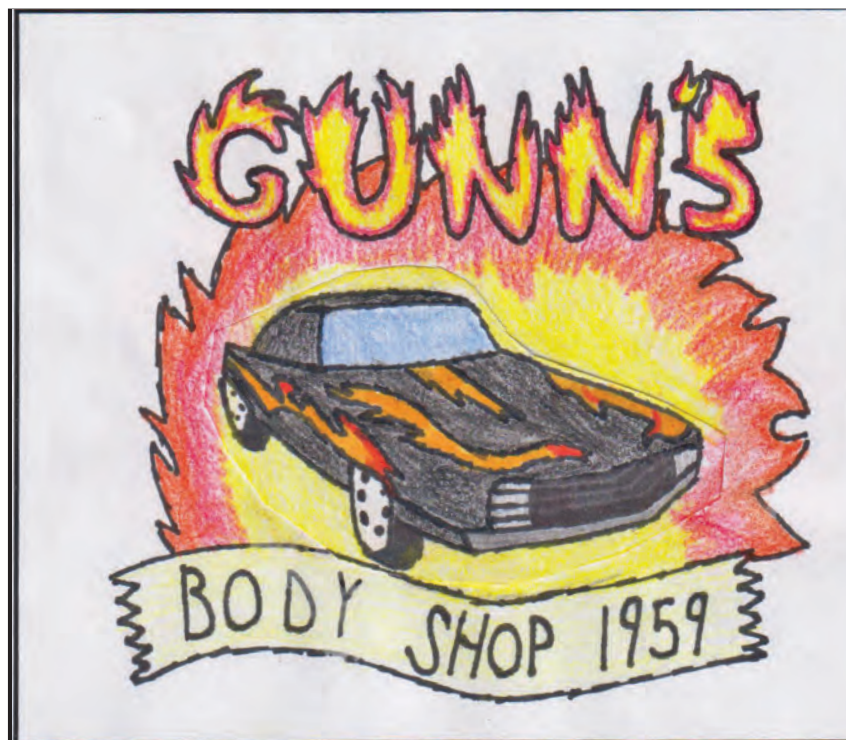
6404 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Gloucester, VA 804-693-2300



Artist: Bella Schultz Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Layton School: Peasley Middle School

BILL HUDGINS GMC

6907 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Gloucester, VA 804-693-2828

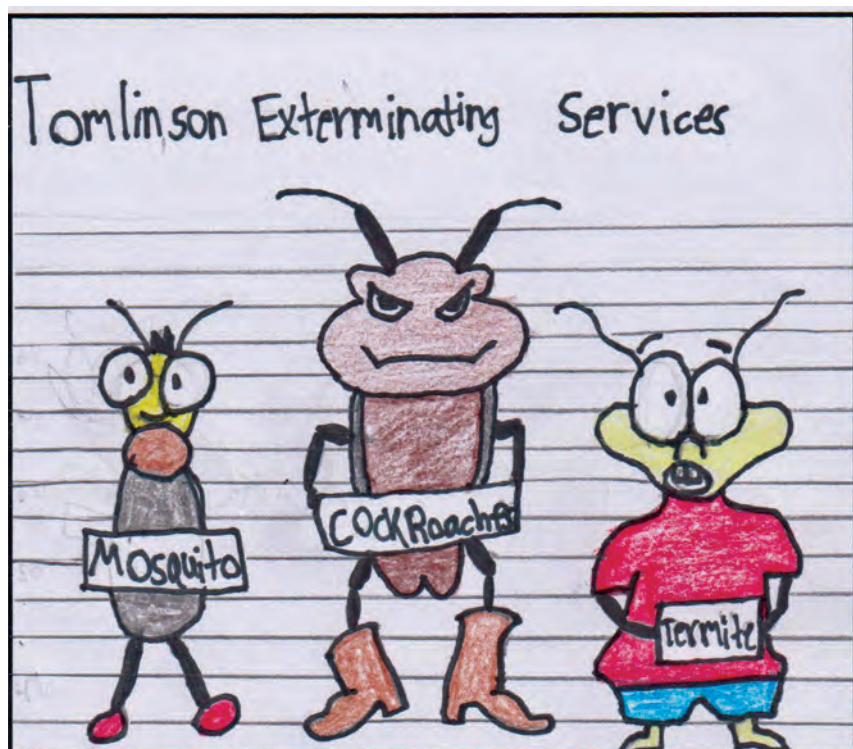


Artist: Austin Martinez Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Layton School: Peasley Middle School

GUNN'S BODY SHOP

6622 Main Street, Gloucester, VA

804-693-3350



Artist: Mary Green Age: 12 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Layton School: Peasley Middle School

TOMLINSON'S EXTERMINATING

6643 Main Street, Gloucester, VA

804-693-3494

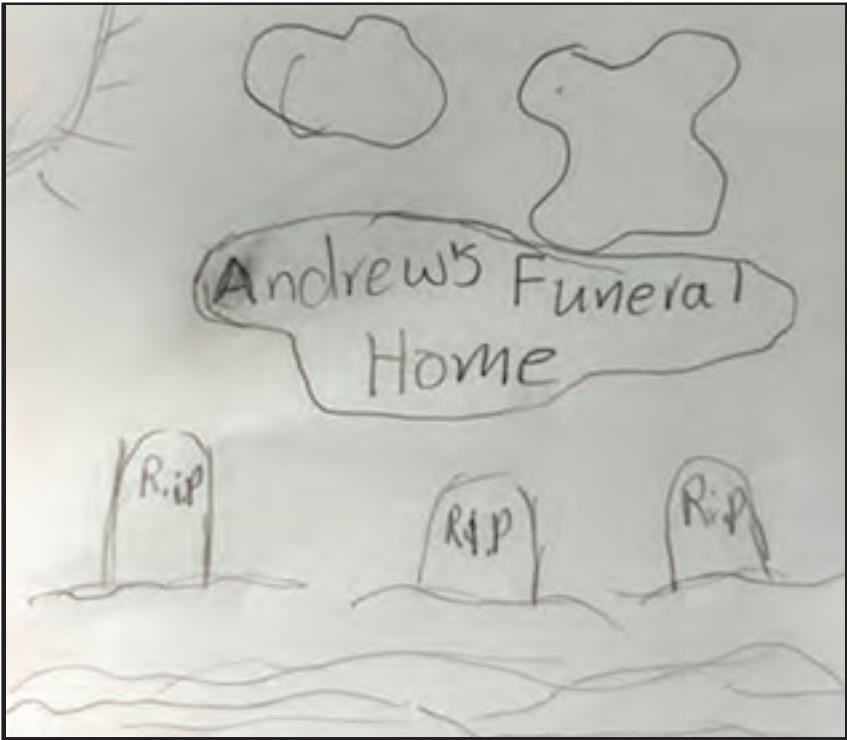


Artist: Joe Nelson Age: 15 Grade: 9th Child of a Gazette-Journal employee
School: Gloucester High School

MODR'S SERVICE CENTER

3000 King William Ave., West Point, VA

804-843-2433



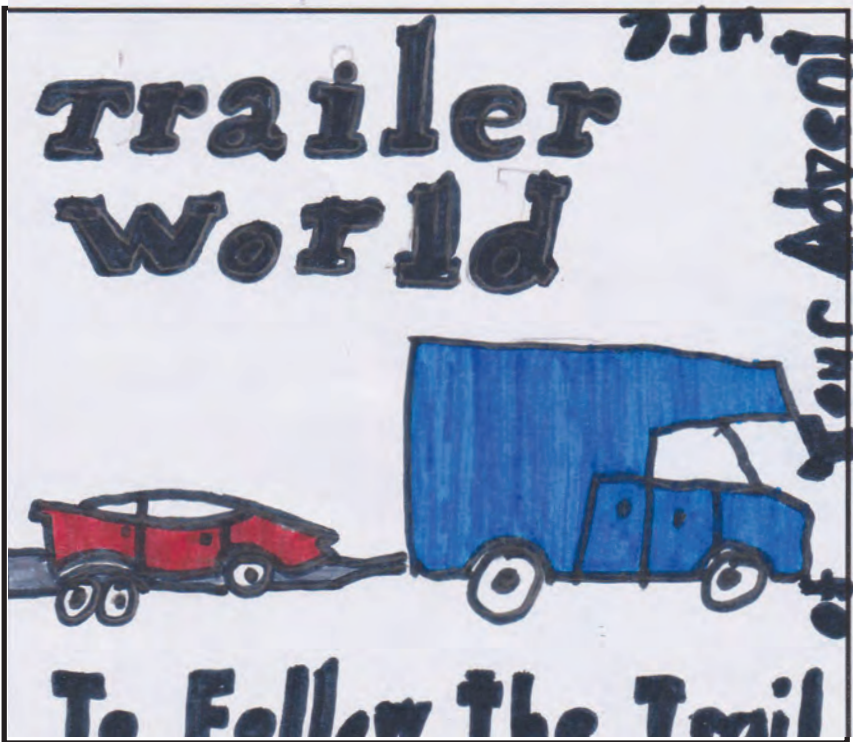
Artist: Holley Slaughter Age: 10 Grade: 4th Teacher: Mrs. Ball
School: Abingdon Elementary School (child of a Gazette-Journal employee)

ANDREWS FUNERAL HOME
7192 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 804-693-2366



Artist: Aubrey Grigsby Age: 12 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Peasley Middle School

LITTLE ITALY RESTAURANT
6685 Fox Centre Parkway, Gloucester, VA 804-210-1877



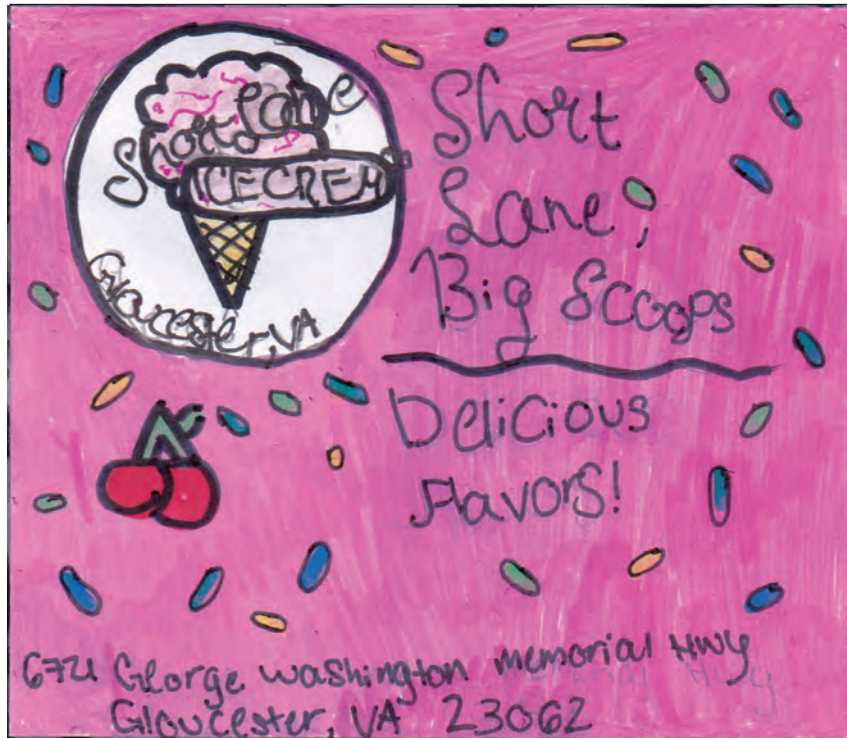
Artist: Marc Coleman Age: 13 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Peasley Middle School

TRAILER WORLD
Gloucester Point, VA 866-642-6461 / 804-642-6461



Artist: Elise Elliott Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Kim Gardiner
School: Ware Academy

CHICK-FIL-A
6780 Walton Lane, Gloucester, VA 804-693-4585



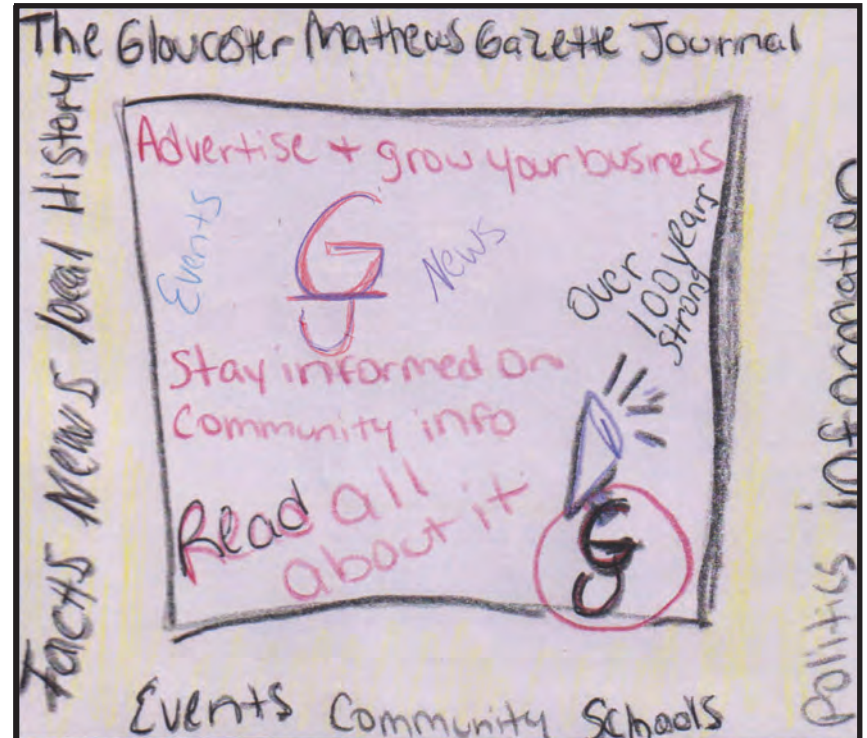
Artist: Gemma Wren Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes

School: Page Middle School

SHORT LANE ICE CREAM CO.

Short Lane & Rt. 17, Gloucester, VA

804-695-2999



Artist: Katriel Stafford Age: 8 Grade: 3rd Child of a Gazette-Journal employee

School: Abingdon Elementary School

GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS GAZETTE-JOURNAL

6625 Main Street, Gloucester, VA

804-693-3101

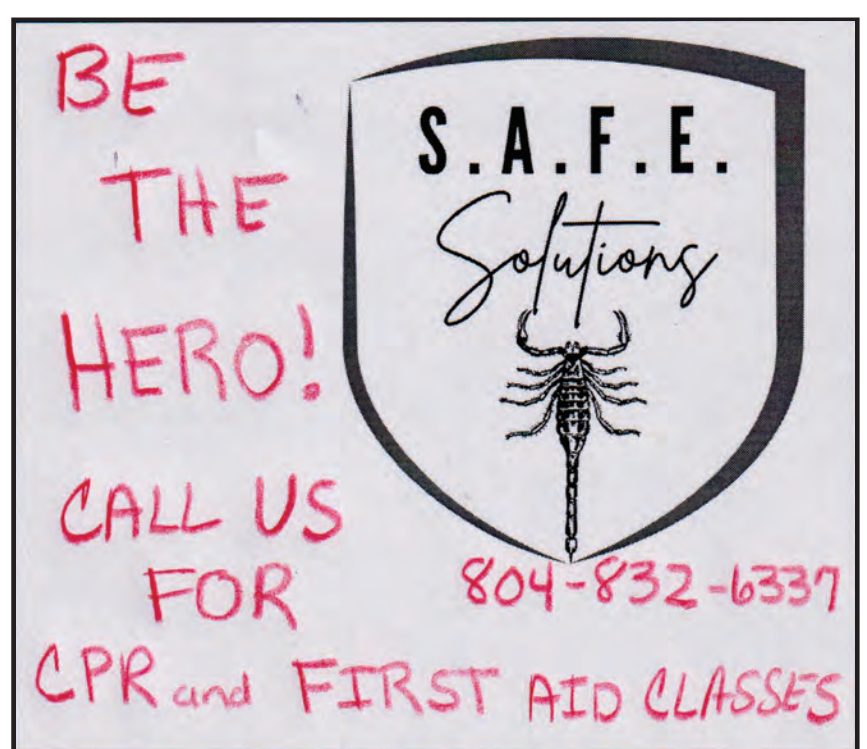


Artist: Mallory Bruno Age: 13 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes School: Page Middle School

PREMIER HEATING AND AIR SERVICES, LLC

2742 Kemp Lane, Hayes, VA

804-694-6775

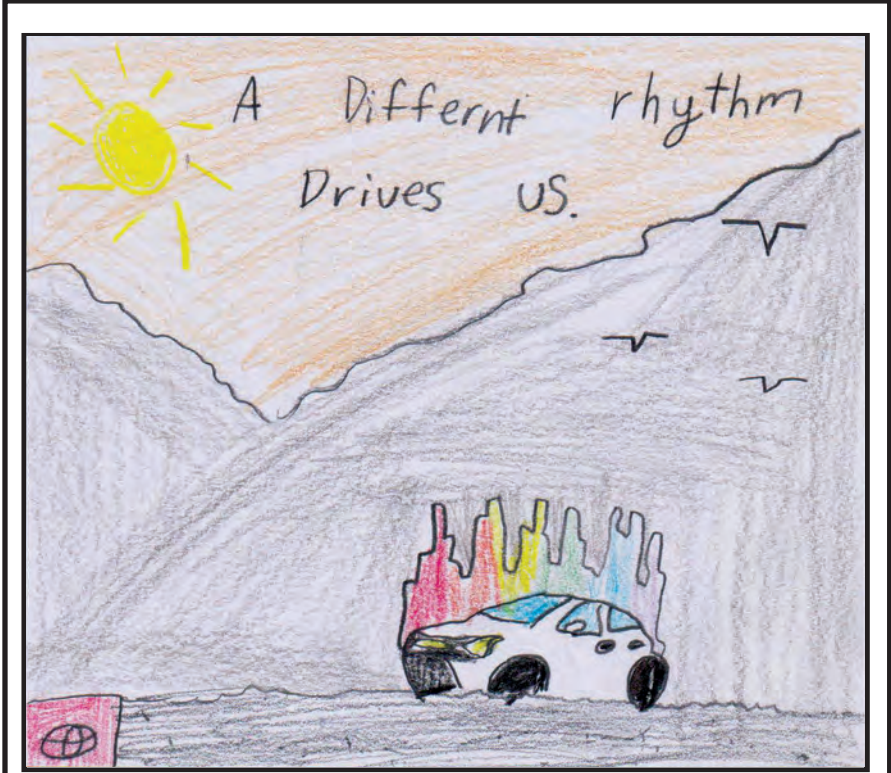


Artist: Joe Nelson Age: 15 Grade: 9th
School: Gloucester High School (child of a Gazette-Journal employee)

S.A.F.E. SOLUTIONS, LLC

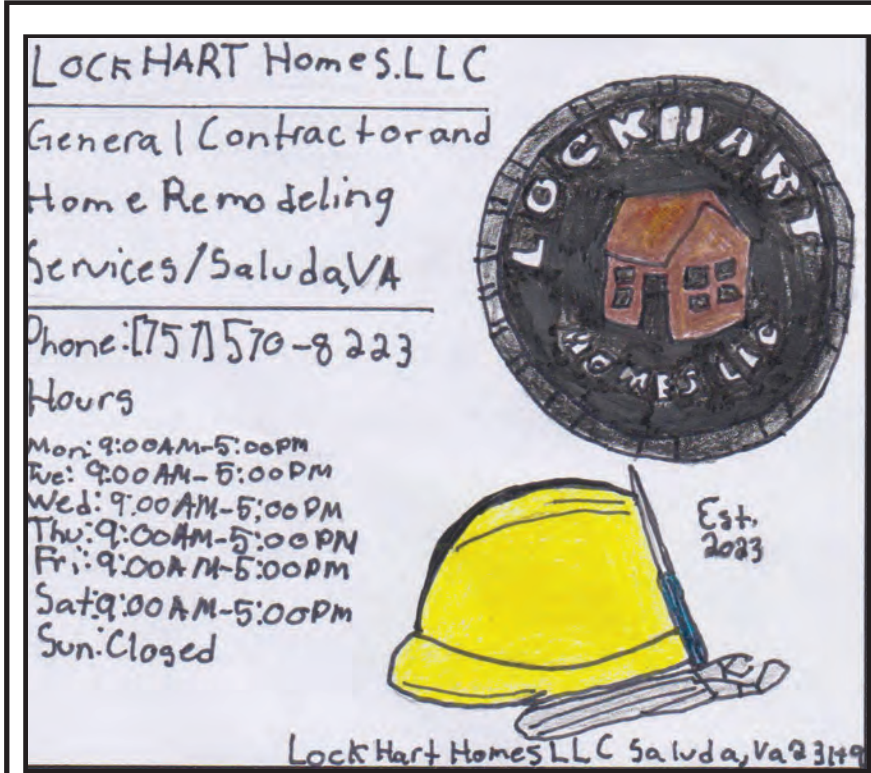
10696 Harpers Farm Way, Gloucester

804-832-6337



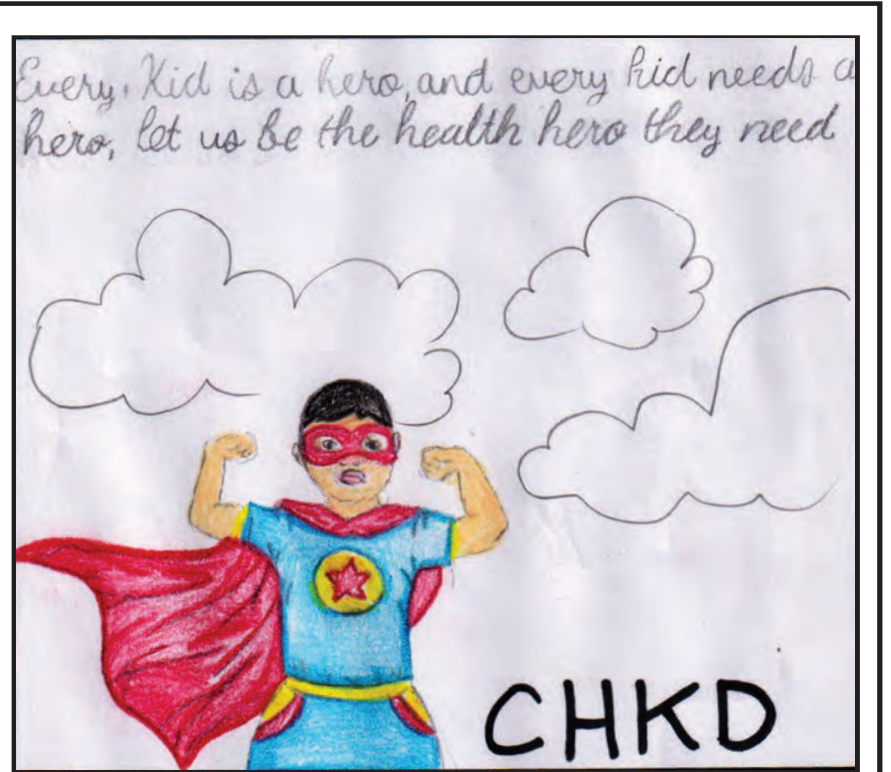
Artist: Evelyn Ramos Age: 11 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes School: Page Middle School

GLOUCESTER TOYOTA
6357 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Gloucester 804-693-2100



Artist: Naomi Vicente Age: 11 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Witowski School: Thomas Hunter Middle School

LOCKHART HOMES LLC
Saluda lockharthomerepairs.com 757-570-8223



Artist: Kenleigh Hall Age: 13 Grade: 8th Teacher: Mrs. Layton School: Peasley Middle School

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF THE KING'S DAUGHTERS
601 Children's Ln, Norfolk 757-668-7000



Artist: Samuel Howlett Age: 14 Grade: 8th Teacher: Mrs. Layton School: Peasley Middle School

DODD RV
6326 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Yorktown 757-834-3633



Artist: Sosiella Stafford Age: 13 Grade: 8th
School: Page Middle School (child of the Gazette-Journal employee)

VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE
1370 Greate Rd., Gloucester Pt. www.vims.edu



Artist: Samuel Howlett Age: 14 Grade: 8th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Peasley Middle School

PENINSULA HARDWOOD MULCH
5490 Nursery Lane, Gloucester www.mamulch.com



Artist: Reese Walker Age: 13 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes School: Page Middle School

BIG ISLAND SEAFOOD
2595 Haywood Seafood Lane, Hayes 804-642-4530



Artist: Boeing Markulin Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Peasley Middle School

BOBBY'S AUTO SERVICE CENTER
2862 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Hayes 804-642-4950



Artist: Hailey Conley Age: 13 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Layton School: Peasley Middle School

VASHTI'S JEWELERS
6734 Main Street, Gloucester 804-693-3434



Artist: Joshua Beckett Age: 13 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Layton School: Peasley Middle School

EPLING PEST CONTROL
3321 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Hayes 804-642-3775



Artist: Sarah Carlton Age: 13 Grade: 8th Teacher: Layton School: Peasley Middle School

BLOWN AWAY HAIR SALON
7102 Hayes Shopping Ct STE Glou. 804-642-5064



Artist: Hayleigh Carpenter Age: 11 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Layton School: Peasley Middle School

MIDDLE PENINSULA GOLF CARTS
7084 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Glou. 804-642-2757



Artist: Quinn Hendricks Age: 11 Grade: 6th Teacher: Kim Gardiner
School: Ware Academy

VIRGINIA ONCOLOGY ASSOCIATES
viriniacancer.com 757-873-9400



Artist: Phoebe Morr Age: 13 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. McNeil
School: West Point Middle/High School

VIRGINIA LIVING MUSEUM
524 J Clyde Morris Blvd, Newport News 757-595-1900



Artist: Layla Vance Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Kim Gardiner School: Ware Academy

COMPASS ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
100 Entertainment Dr., Irvington 804-884-4386



Artist: Chase Murphy Age: 13 Grade: 7th Teacher: Kim Gardiner School: Ware Academy

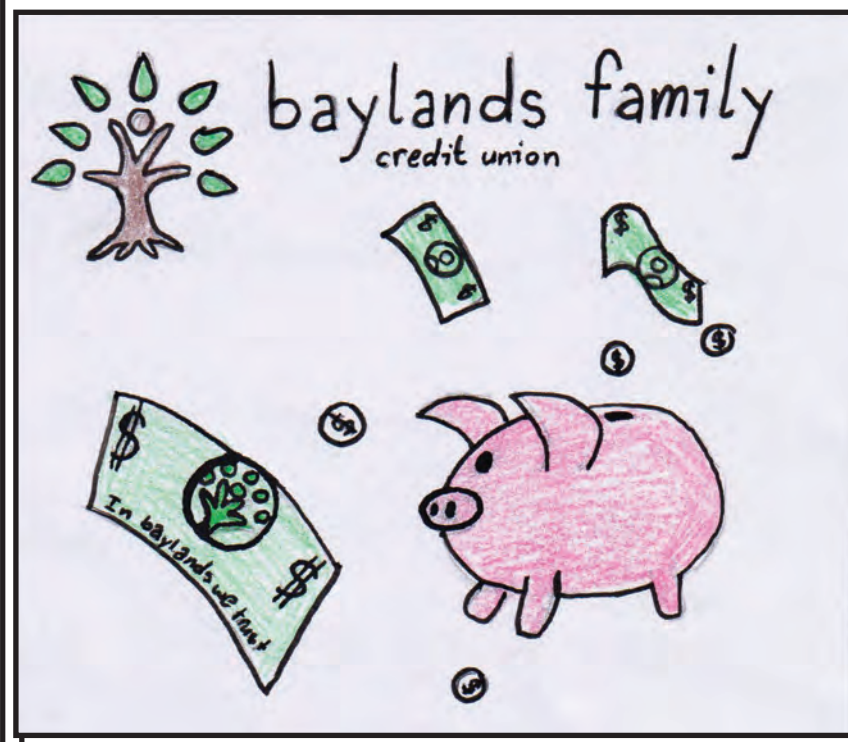
LOCKWOOD'S CARPETS
7012 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy, Gloucester 804-693-2372



Artist: Katie Ly Age: 12 Grade: 7th Teacher: Kim Gardiner
School: Ware Academy

JERSEY MIKE'S SUBS

6820 Waltons Lane, Gloucester 804-210-1130



Artist: Lillian Dowdy Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. McNeil
School: West Point Middle/High School

BAYLANDS CREDIT UNION

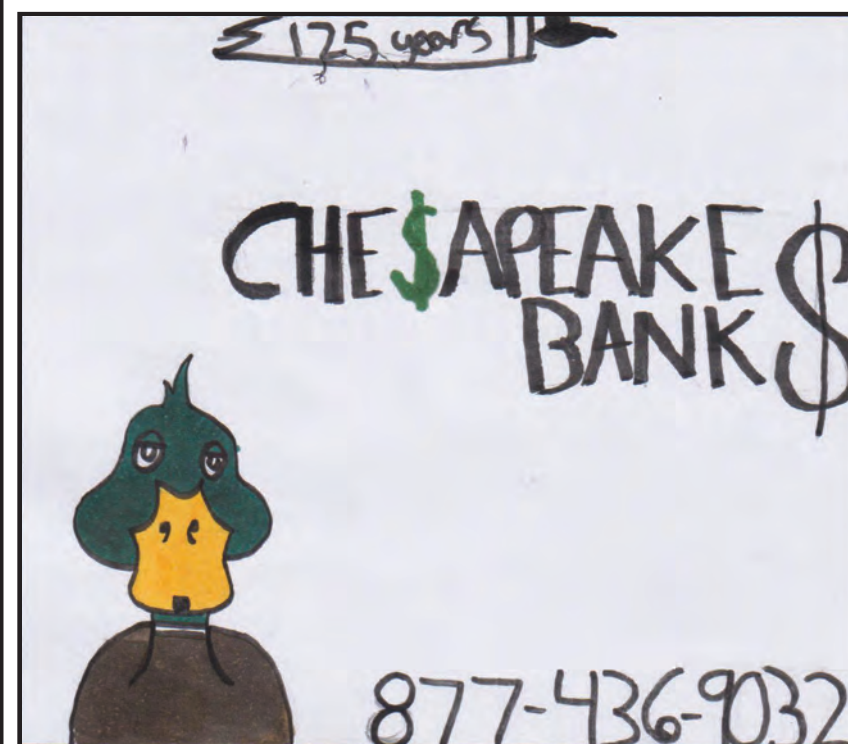
2004 Main Street, West Point 804-843-2520



Artist: Zackary Cockburn Age: 13 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Peasley Middle School

WALMART

6819 Walton Lane, Gloucester 757-713-8338



Artist: Sosiella Stafford Age: 13 Grade: 8th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Page Middle School (child of Gazette-Journal employee)

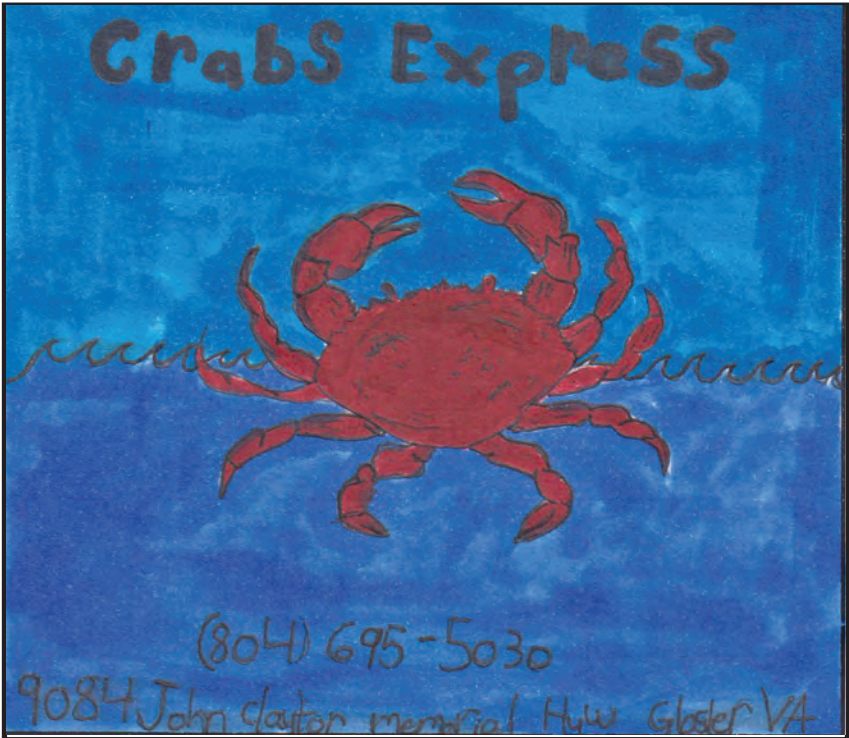
CHESAPEAKE BANK

6793 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Glou. 877-436-9032



Artist: Nelson Bradford Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Kim Gardiner
School: Ware Academy

GIBSONSINGLETON VIRGINIA INJURY ATTORNEYS
4073 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Hayes 804-348-1118



Artist: Sosiella Stafford Age: 13 Grade: 8th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes School: Page Middle School
(child of a Gazette-Journal employee)

CRABS EXPRESS
9084 John Clayton Mem. Hwy., Glou. 804-694-5030



Artist: Emily Noehl Age: 14 Grade: 8th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes School: Page Middle School

BRIDGEWATERS SALON & SPA
6661 Hickory Fork Rd., Glou. 804-693-6272



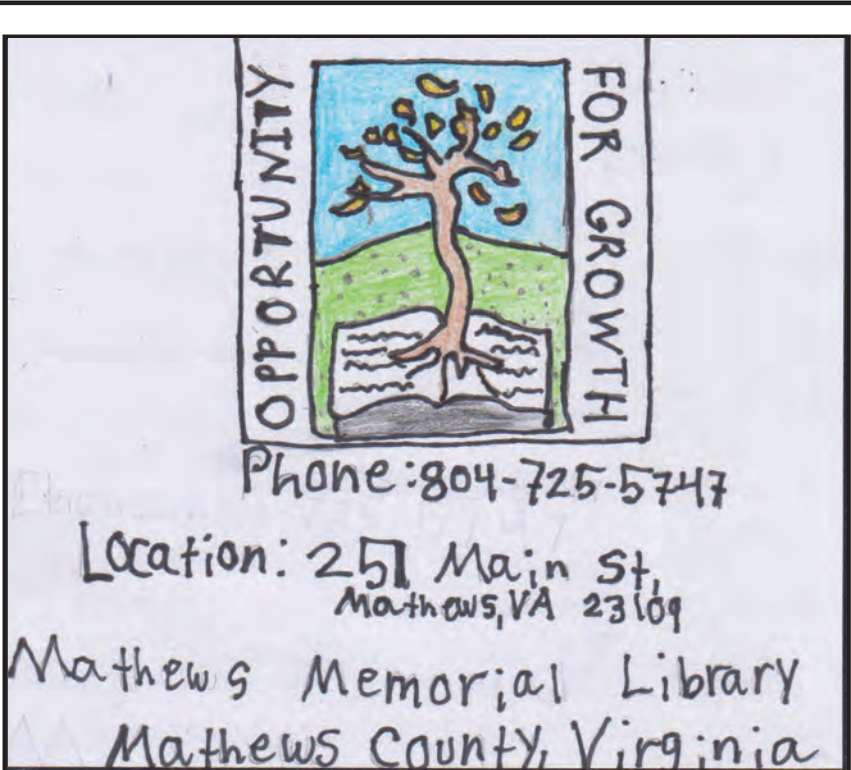
Artist: Mallory Simpson Age: 12 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes School: Page Middle School

GUINEA HERITAGE ASSOCIATION
8850 Guinea Road, Bena 757-504-6189



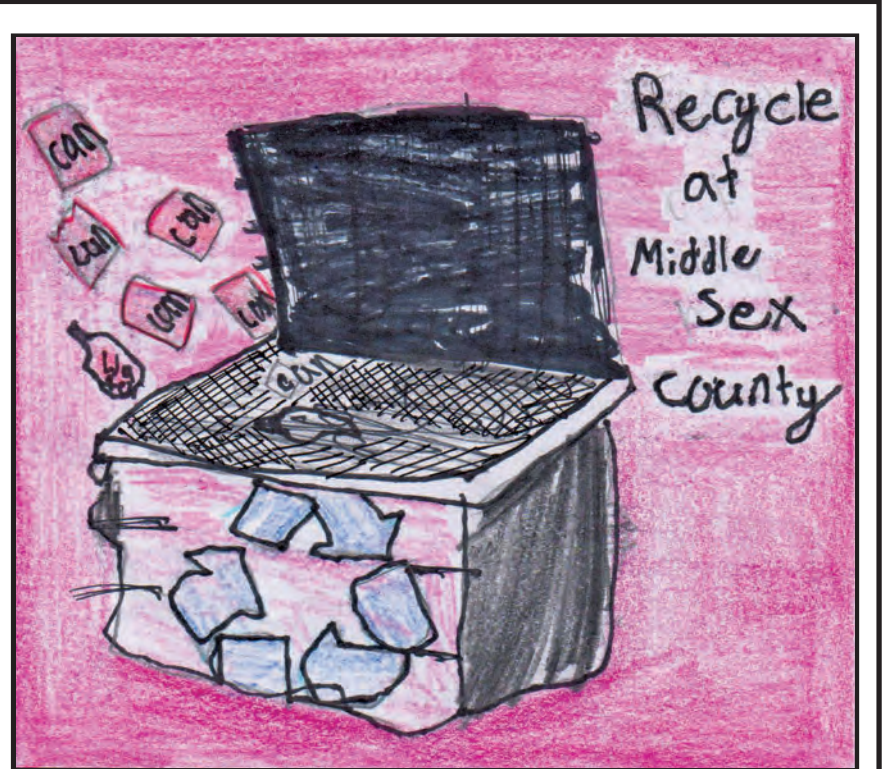
Artist: Rayland Grossman & Dario Pascual-Lopez Age: 11 & 12 Grade: 6th
Teacher: Mrs. Witowski School: Thomas Hunter Middle School

RICHARDSON'S CAFE
12 Church St, Mathews 804-725-7772



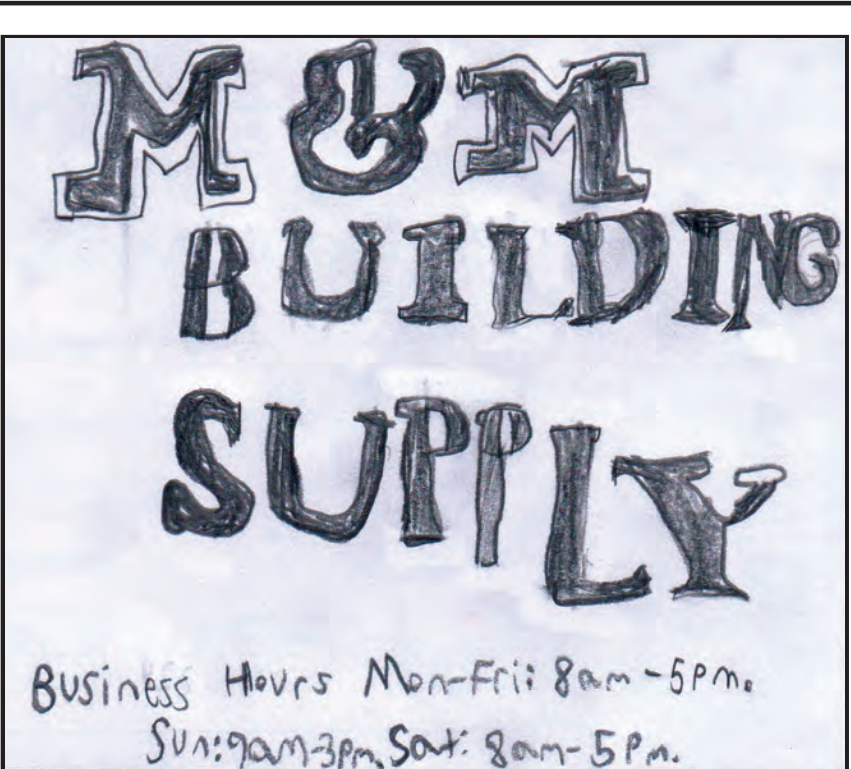
Artist: Madison Hudgins Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Witowski
School: Thomas Hunter Middle School

MATHEWS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
251 Main St, Mathews 804-725-5747



Artist: Victor Peterson Age: 12 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Peasley Middle School

MIDDLESEX METALS
2095 Old Virginia St, Urbanna 804-758-2916



Artist: Landon Lawrence Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Witowski
School: Thomas Hunter Middle School

M&M BUILDING SUPPLY
Hartfield - 804-776-7777 Mathews - 804-725-7647 Port Haywood - 804-725-7156



Artist: Paige Griffith & Charlie Heasley Age: 12 & 11 Grade: 6th
Teacher: Mrs. Witowski School: Thomas Hunter Middle School

CA & J FARMS

5620 E River Rd, Foster

804-815-2839



Artist: Pamela Guzman Santiago Age: 11 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Witowski
School: Thomas Hunter Middle School

BAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER

279 Main St, Mathews, VA 23109

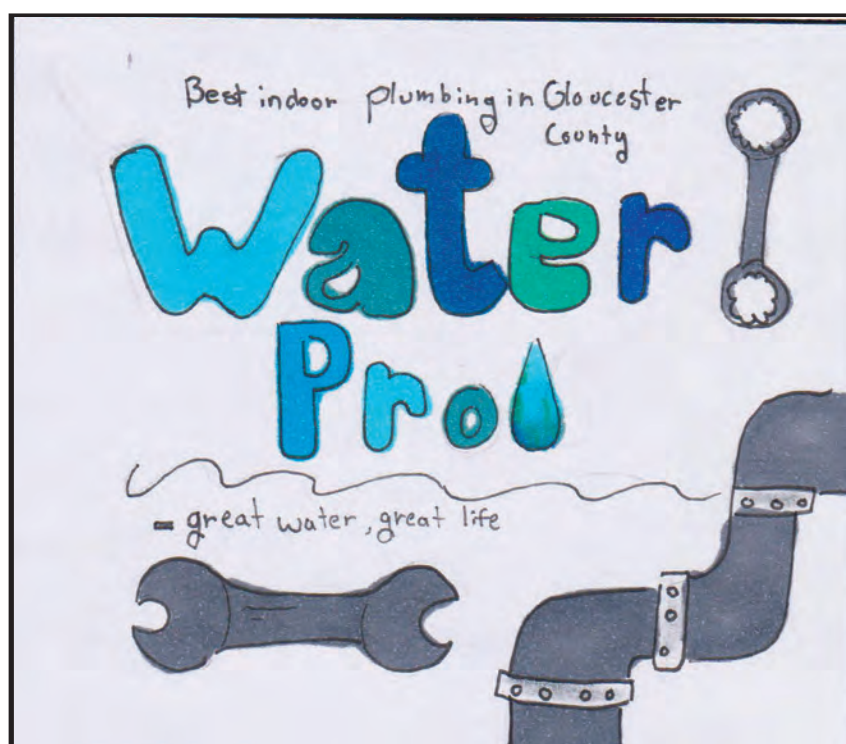
804-725-1278



Artist: Aycen Crewe Age: 14 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Peasley Middle School

MALISE MARINE

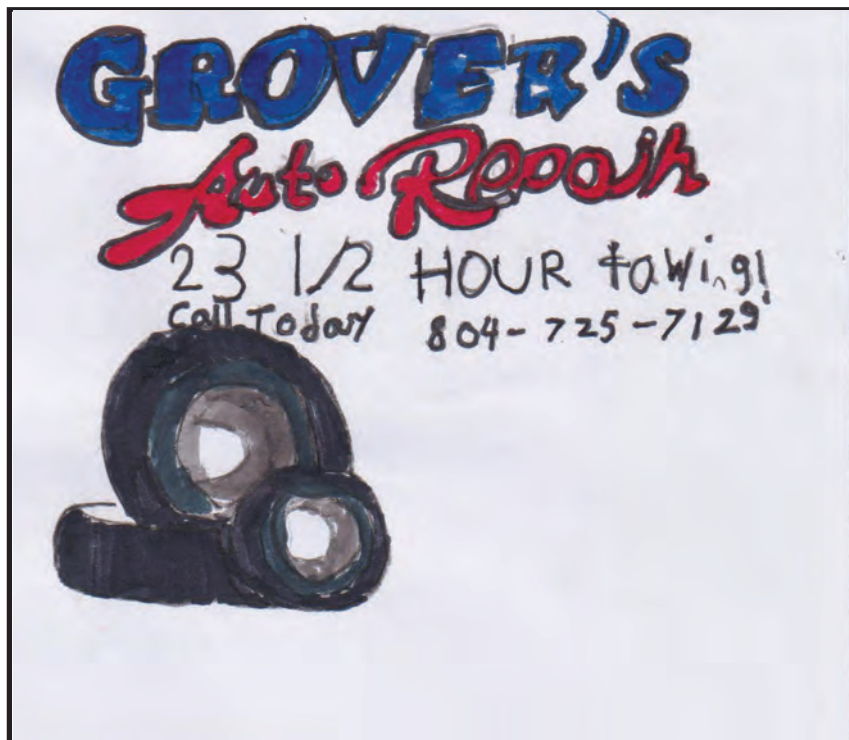
14879 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy, Saluda 804-758-4131



Artist: Gineura Martino Age: 11 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes
School: Page Middle School

WATER PRO

9977 John Clayton Mem. Hwy., Gloucester 804-693-7294



Artist: Weston Weis & Taeshaun Cosby-Hobson Age: 11 & 12 Grade: 6th
Teacher: Mrs. Witowski School: Thomas Hunter Middle School

GROVER'S AUTO REPAIR

153 Main St, Mathews

804-725-7129



Artist: Jarissa Bibb Age: 14 Grade: 8th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes
School: Page Middle School

CLEO HUSKEY'S BODY SHOP

7553 Guinea Road, Hayes

804-642-5153



Artist: Elora Totton Age: 11 Grade: 6th Teacher: Kim Gardiner
School: Ware Academy

BLAKE'S FARMS LLC

6607 Riverview Park Circle, Glou.

757-328-7042

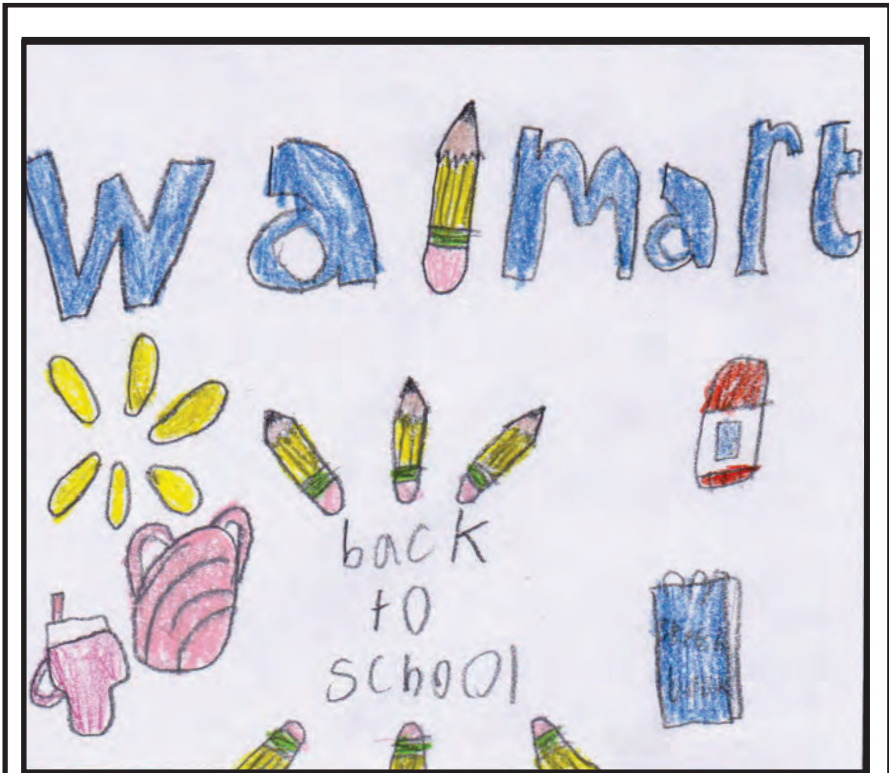


Artist: Joe Nelson Age: 15 Grade: 9th (child or a Gazette-Journal employee)
School: Gloucester High School

MAC'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR & TOWING SERVICE

7535 Guinea Road, Hayes

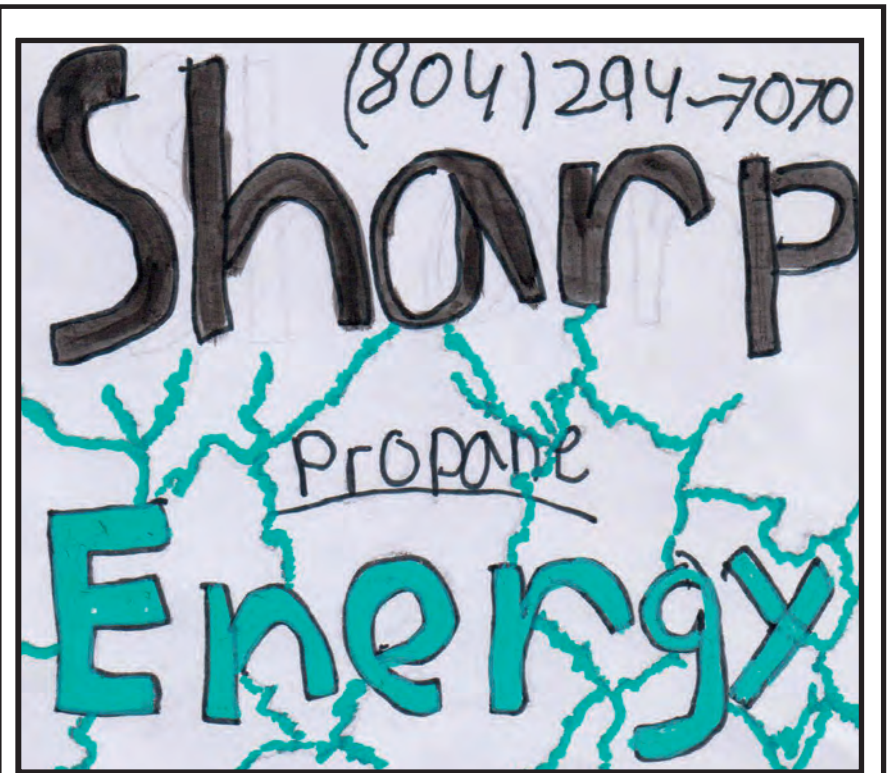
804-642-2950



Artist: Ainslie Pfeifer Age: 11 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. McNeil
School: West Point Middle/High School

WALMART

6819 Walton Lane, Gloucester 757-713-8338



Artist: Michael Routi Age: 13 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. McNeil
School: West Point Middle/High School

SHARP ENERGY

6560 Lewis B. Puller Mem. Hwy., Mattaponi 804-294-7001



Artist: Riley Gale Age: 13 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes
School: Page Middle School

CB'S/TURLINGTON SEPTIC SERVICE

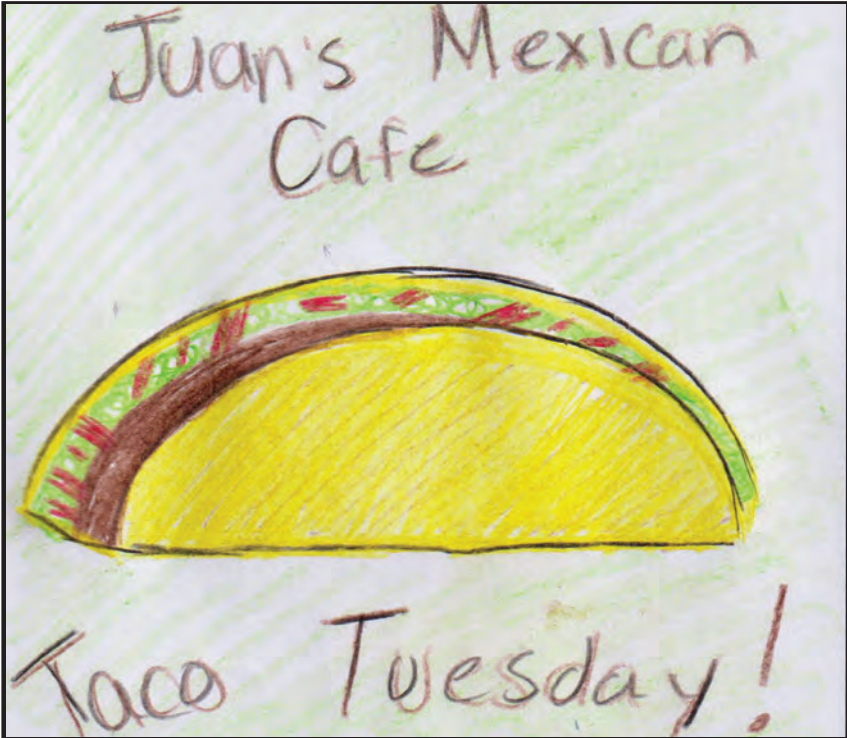
7007 Ernest Lane, Hayes 804-642-9538



Artist: Raegan Sibley Age: 13 Grade: 8th Teacher: Mrs. Seidl
School: Homeschooled (child of a Gazette-Journal employee)

CONNOR SIDNEY HARDWOOD SAWMILL

Gloucester Slab, Firewood 804-815-1923



Artist: Samuel Howlett Age: 14 Grade: 8th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Peasley Middle School

JUAN'S MEXICAN CAFE AND CANTINA
2310 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy, Hayes 804-642-5401



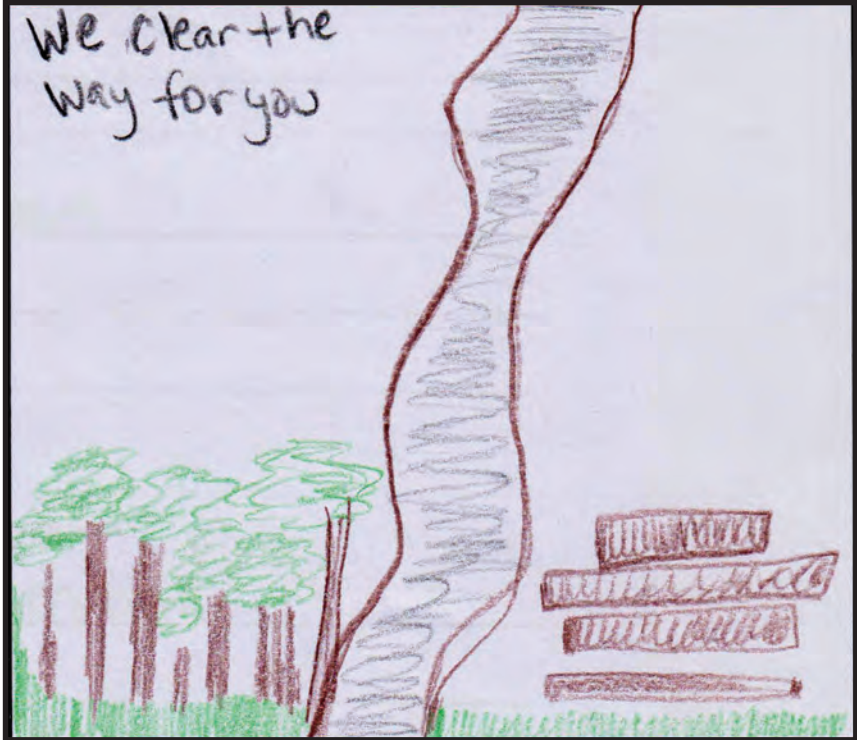
Artist: Layla Muro-Hall Age: 14 Grade: 8th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Peasley Middle School

OLIVIA'S IN THE VILLAGE
6597 Main St, Gloucester 804-694-0057



Artist: Grace Miller Age: 11 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes
School: Page Middle School

SCOTT'S BBQ
2091 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy, Glou. Pt. 804-993-7063



Artist: Ava Rice Age: 11 Grade: 4th
School: Abingdon Elementary School

R L ENTERPRISES
4789 Aberdeen Creek Rd., Glou. 804-693-7178



Artist: Amber Tanner Age: 13 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Peasley Middle School

CLEANING SOLUTIONS
8198 Hamilton Drive, Gloucester 804-824-0780



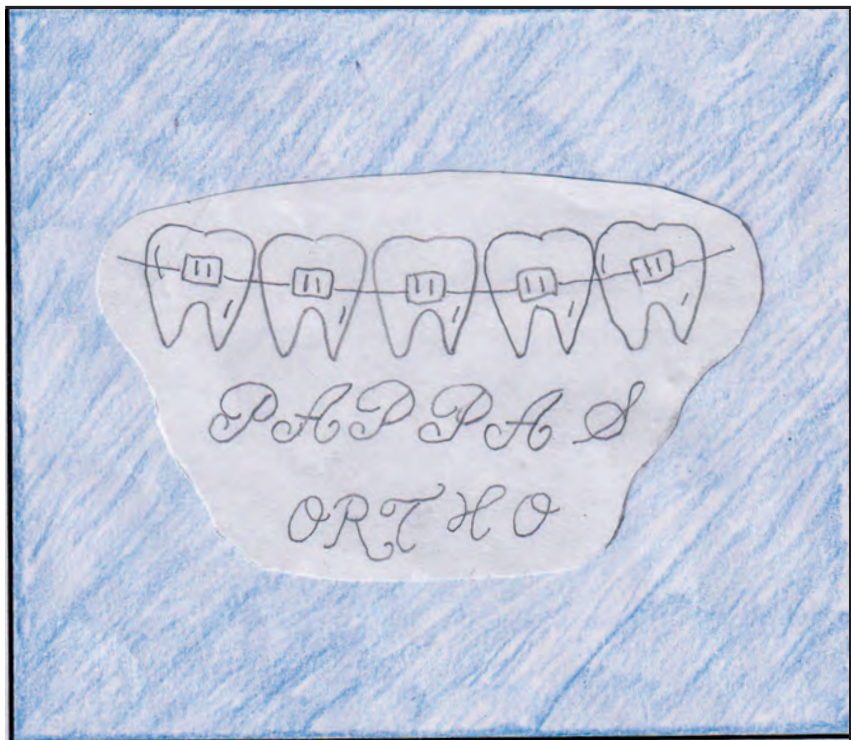
Artist: Jackson Miller Age: 13 Grade: 7th Teacher: Kim Gardiner
School: Ware Academy

ZOLL VINEYARDS
10309 Vineyard Rd., Dutton, VA 774-275-7581



Artist: Arionna Burchett Age: 12 Grade: 7th Teacher: Layton
School: Peasley Middle School

GLOUCESTER REFUSE LLC
2961 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Hayes 804-642-5005



Artist: Sieanna England Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Peasley Middle School

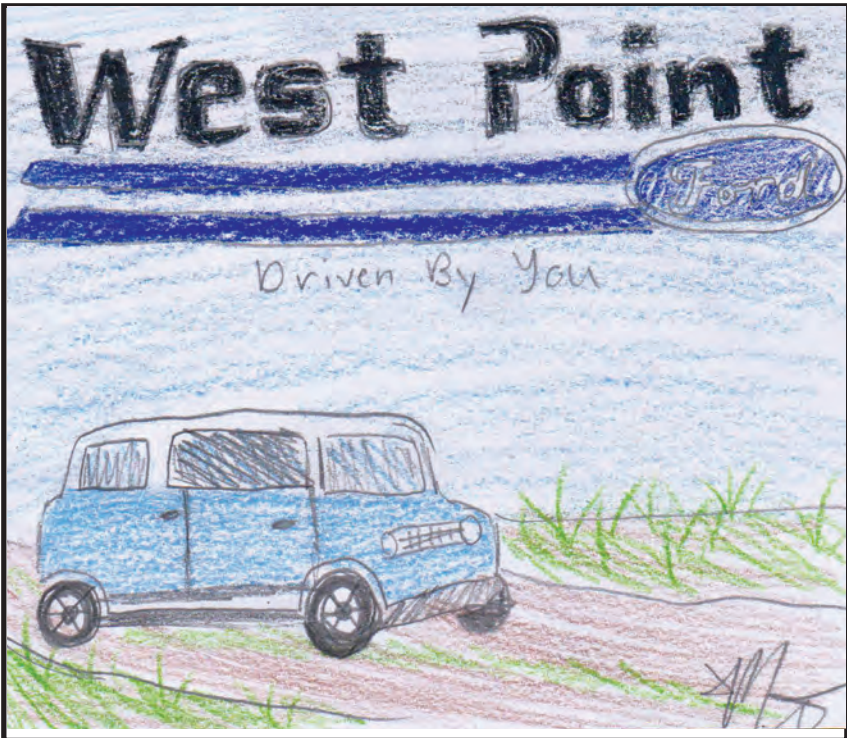
PAPPAS ORTHODONTICS
3224 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Glou. 804-993-7500



Artist: Kylie Nuttall Age: 16 Grade: 10th
School: Gloucester High School (child or a Gazette-Journal employee)

ARTWORK IN THE VILLAGE

6769 Main St, Gloucester 757-810-8175



Artist: Matilda Evans Age: 12 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. McNeil
School: West Point Middle/High School

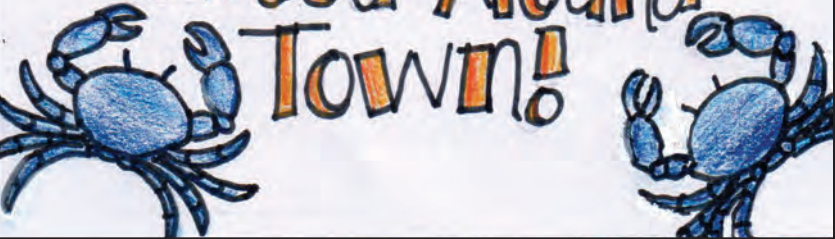
WEST POINT FORD

18679 Eltham Rd, West Point 804-843-2500

DIGGS SEAFOOD

6570 E Lewis B Puller Mem Hwy,
Mattaponi, VA 23110
804-785-2400

Come For the Best
Seafood Around
Town!



Artist: Kate Howard Age: 13 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. McNeil
School: West Point Middle/High School

DIGGS SEAFOOD

6570 E Lewis B Puller Mem Hwy, Mattaponi 804-785-2400

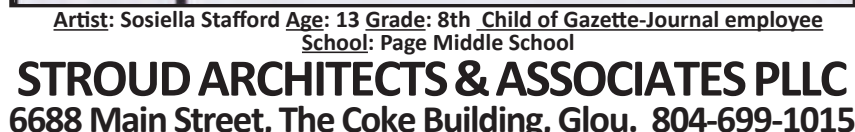
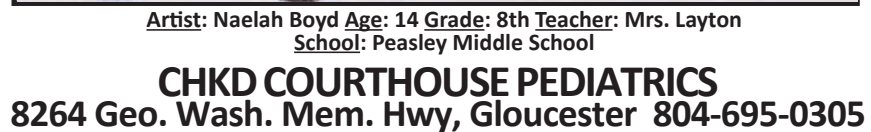
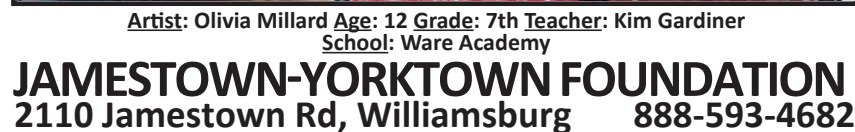
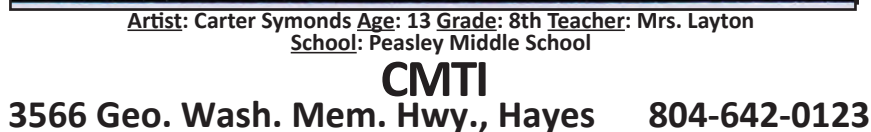
(804) 843-7070
620 main street, west point, VA,
23181



Artist: XIANGYI CHEN Age: 13 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. McNeil
School: West Point Middle/High School

THE BLUE CRAB

620 Main St, West Point 804-843-7070





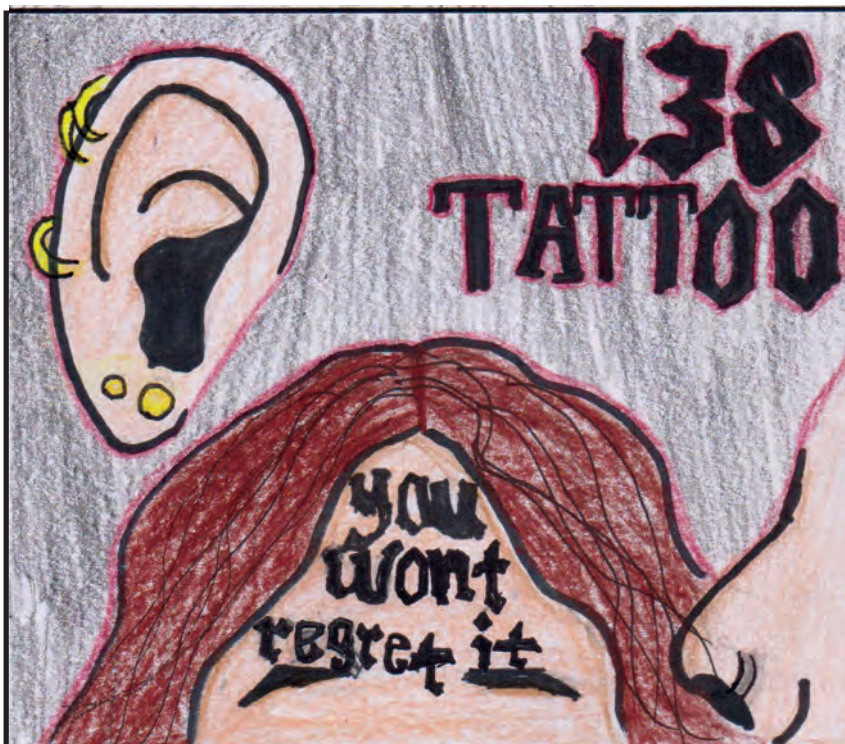
Artist: Kylie Nuttall Age: 16 Grade: 10th
School: Gloucester High School (child of a Gazette-Journal employee)

JIM MILLER CONSTRUCTION
15457 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy, Saluda 804-758-4315



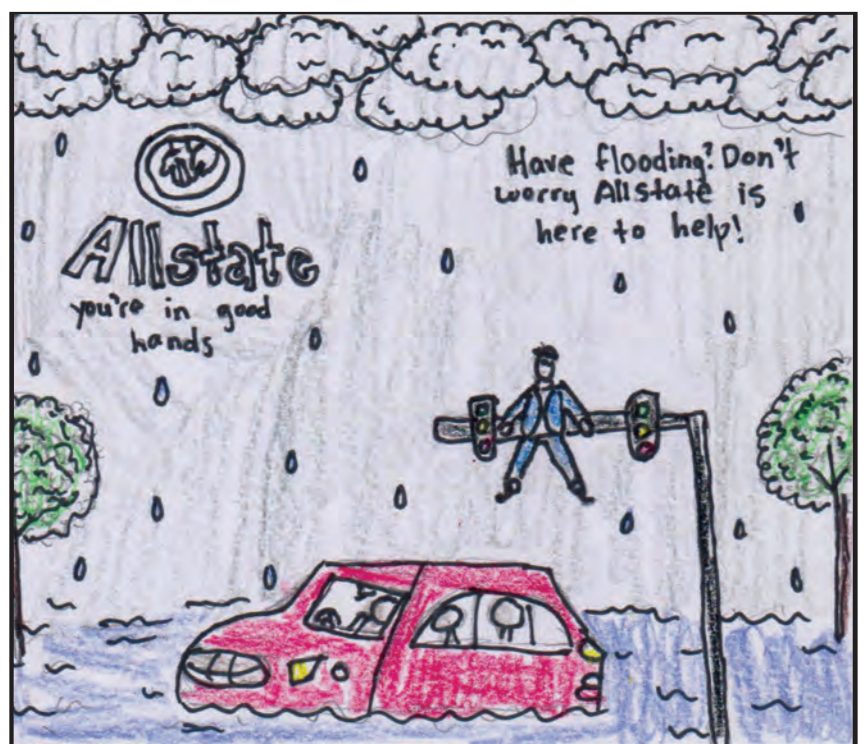
Artist: Bayleigh Dominguez Age: 14 Grade: 8th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes
School: Page Middle School

EGGHEADS DINER
1785 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy, Glou. Pt. 804-684-1222



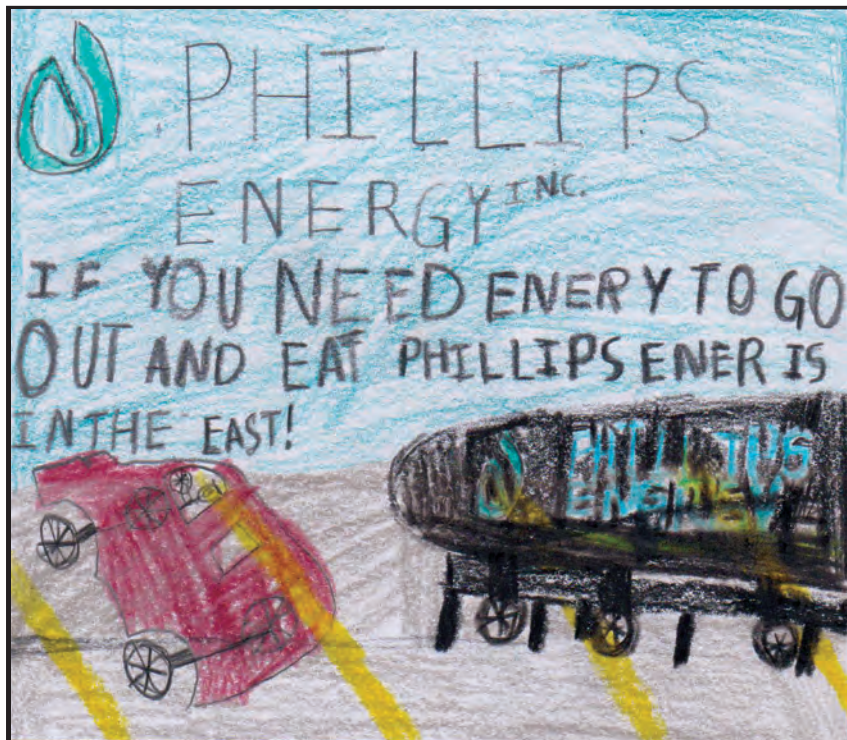
Artist: Teagan Gallaher Age: 14 Grade: 8th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes
School: Page Middle School

138 TATTOO & BODY PIERCING
1696 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy, Glou. Point 804-642-6500



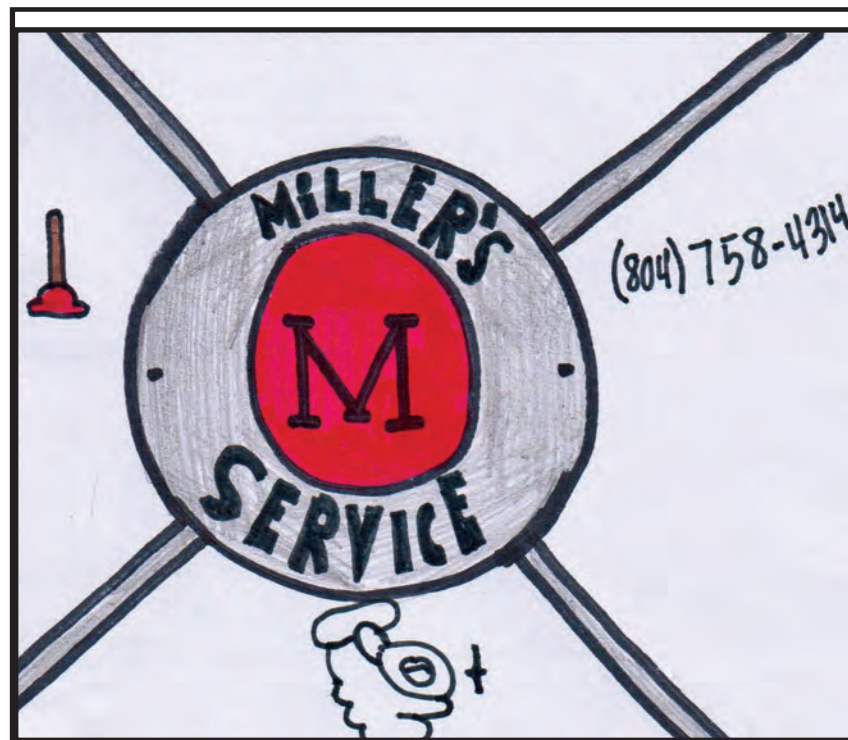
Artist: Makayla Santiago Age: 12 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes
School: Page Middle School

MARSHA WEATHERWAX ALLSTATE INSURANCE
4435 Geo Wash Mem Hwy, Hayes 804-693-3800



Artist: Matthew Noehl Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes
School: Page Middle School

PHILLIPS ENERGY INC.
2586 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy, Hayes 804-642-2166



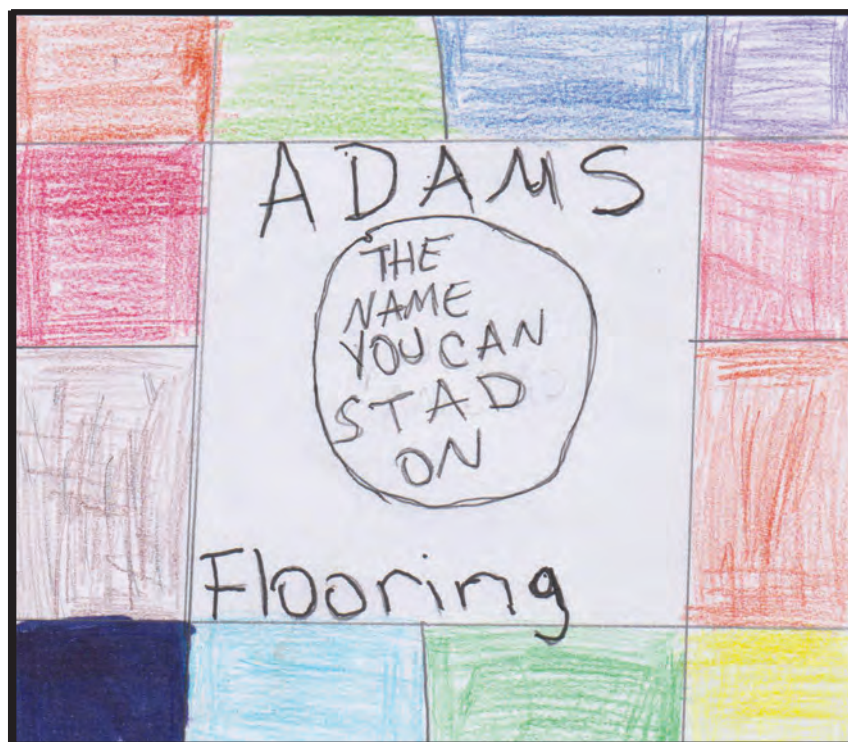
Artist: Grayson Mintern Age: 11 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. McNeil
School: West Point Middle/High School

MILLER'S SERVICES
6338 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Gloucester 804-758-4314



Artist: Elli Dixon Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Kim Gardiner
School: Ware Academy

ACI FIRE
3105 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy, Hayes 804-642-9044



Artist: Katriel Stafford Age: 8 Grade: 3rd Teacher: Mrs. Lanciana
(child of Gazette-Journal employee) School: Abingdon Elementary

ADAMS FLOORING
2078 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy, Glou. Point 757-880-2871



Artist: Elli Dixon Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Kim Gardiner
School: Ware Academy

WHITLEY'S PEANUT FACTORY

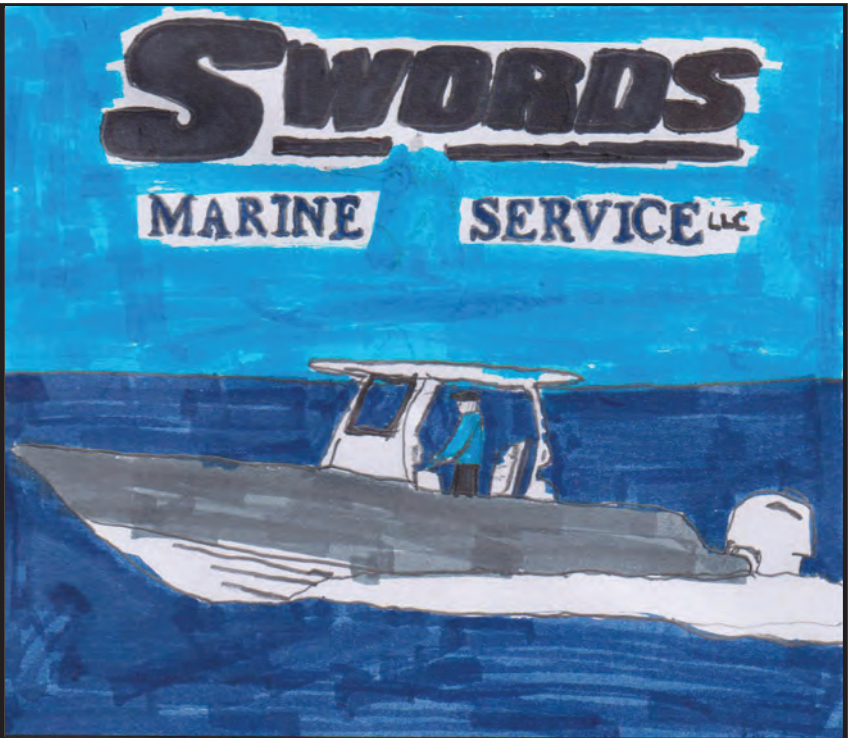
1977 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Gloucester Point 804-642-1975



Artist: Braxton Middlebrook Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Peasley Middle School

WHITLEY'S PEANUT FACTORY

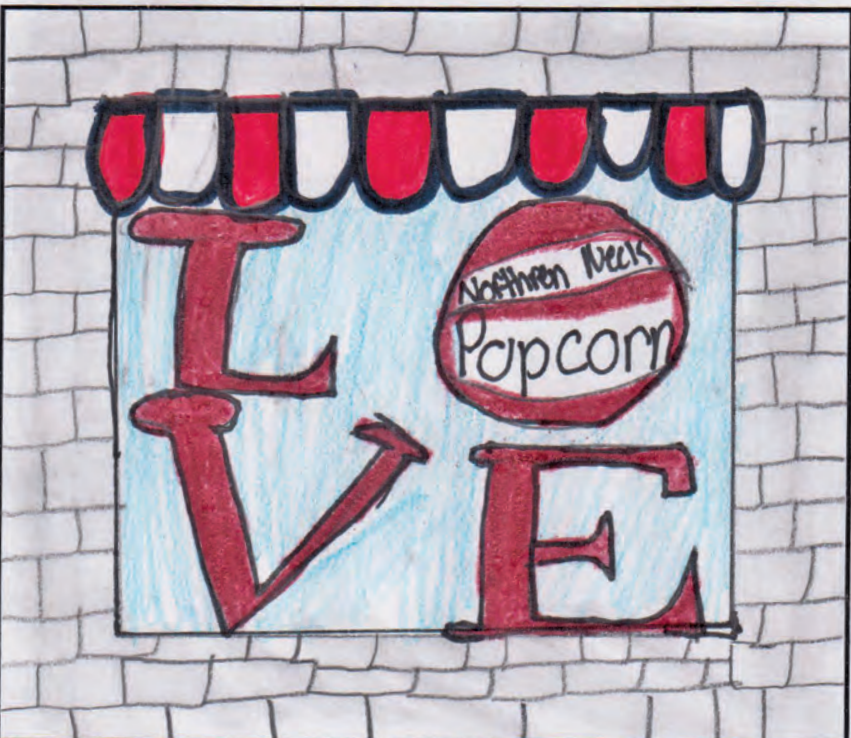
1977 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Gloucester Point 804-642-1975



Artist: Austin Sadler Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Witowski
School: Thomas Hunter Middle School

SWORDS MARINE SERVICE LLC

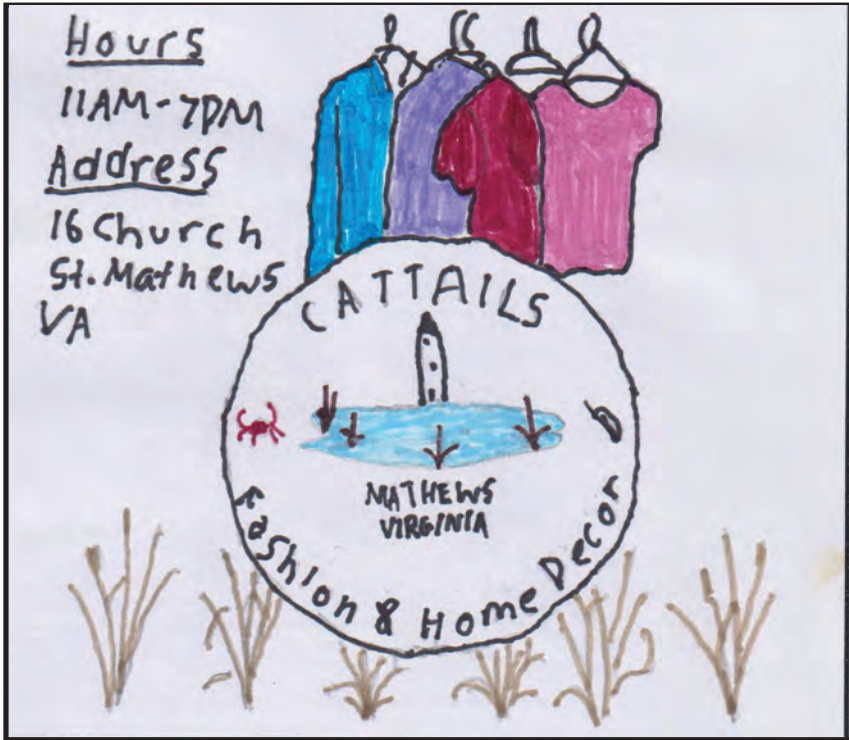
5331 Buckley Hall Rd, Cobbs Creek 804-695-4770



Artist: Colbie Russ Age: 13 Grade: 8th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Peasley Middle School

NORTHERN NECK POPCORN BAG

6620 Main St, Gloucester 804-210-1511



Artist: Harper Bourque Age: 11 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Witowski
School: Thomas Hunter Middle School

CATTAILS GIFTS AND ACCSSORIES

Mathews, VA 23109 804-725-2886



Artist: Greylyn Sewell Age: 13 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Peasley Middle School

SOUTHERN STATES

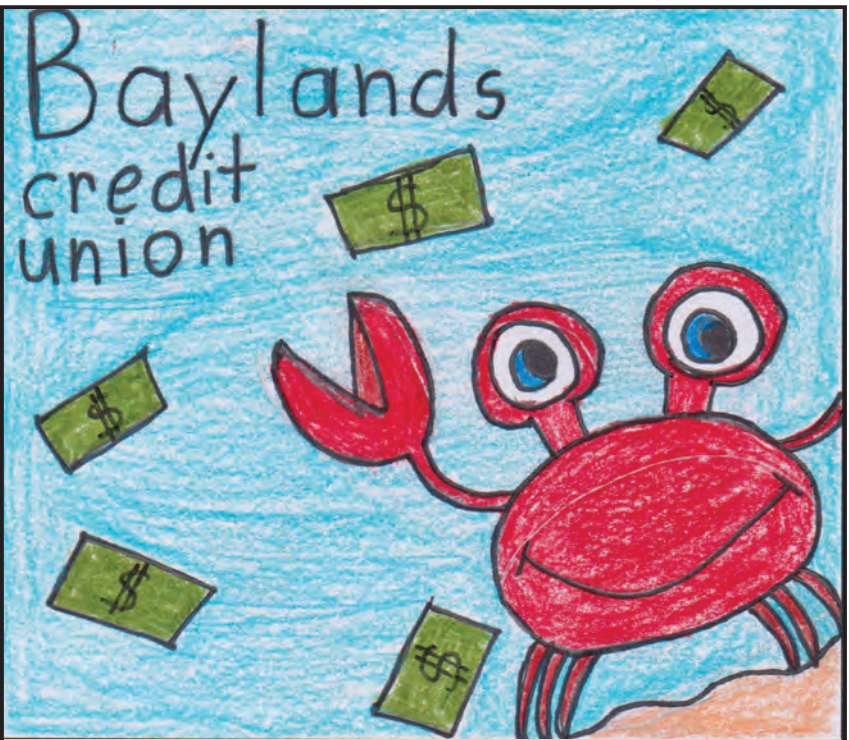
6766 Main St, Gloucester 804-693-3411



Artist: Kylie Nuttall Age: 16 Grade: 10th
School: Gloucester High School (child of a Gazette-Journal employee)

HOGG FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY

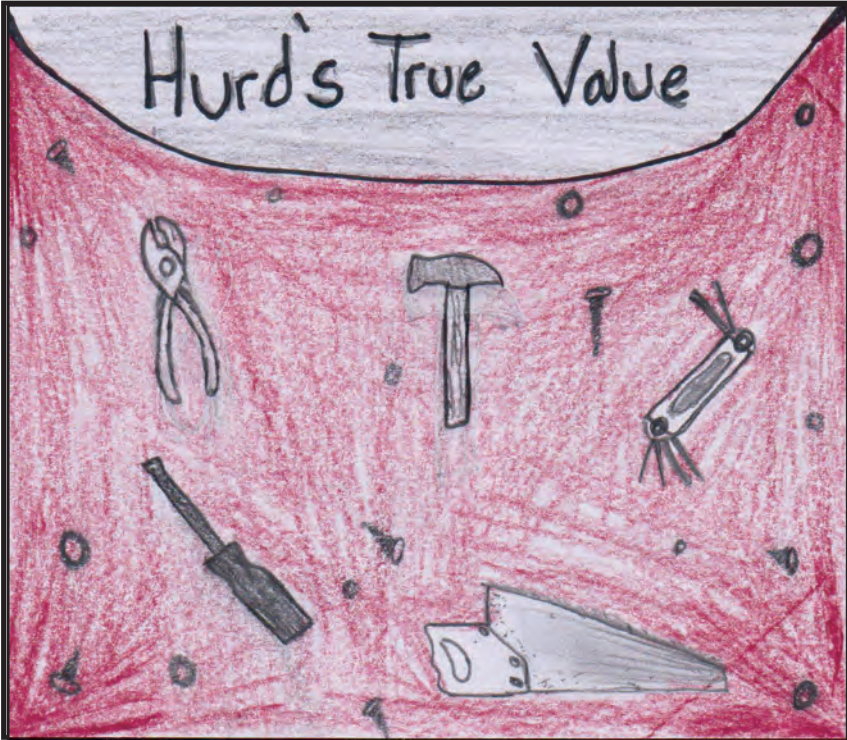
3098 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy, Hayes 804-642-2136



Artist: Gabrielle Ward Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Peasley Middle School

BAYLANDS CREDIT UNION

2004 Main Street, West Point 804-843-2520



Artist: Kennelly Benner Age: 12 Grade: 7th Teacher: Mrs. Layton
School: Peasley Middle School
HURD'S TRUE VALUE HARDWARE
17342 General Puller Hwy, Deltaville 804-776-9241



Artist: Madison Ball & Kaitlyn Dayton Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Witowski
School: Thomas Hunter Middle School
HAIR CREATIONS
5071 Buckley Hall Rd, Mathews 804-725-2946



Artist: Marie Hudgins Age: 12 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Witowski
School: Thomas Hunter Middle School
FORREST BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME
7437 Buckley Hall Rd, Cobbs Creek 804-725-9865



Artist: Garrett Plessinger Age: 11 Grade: 6th Teacher: Mrs. Witowski
School: Thomas Hunter Middle School
HASKINS BAYSIDE SERVICE CENTER
3733 New Point Comfort Hwy 804-725-7490



Artist: Piper Oberndorf Age: 13 Grade: 8th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes
School: Page Middle School

WALMART

6819 Walton Lane, Gloucester 757-713-8338



Artist: Stella Geyerhahn Age: 13 Grade: 8th Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes
School: Page Middle School

EASTERN EYE ASSOCIATES

3449 George Washington Mem. Hwy, Hayes 804-642-2290



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In memory of Bud Ward

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Parents concerned about their children's reading comprehension can try these strategies to bolster this highly valuable skill.



Parents want to give their children the best opportunities for success in life, and encouraging children to read is one of the ways they can help youngsters develop intellectual and emotional maturity.

Strategies that can improve reading

(METRO) Strong reading comprehension skills are one of the foundations of a successful academic career. According to the Institute of Reading Development, students with strong reading comprehension skills get a big boost in all subjects, including math and science.

Though the benefits of reading comprehension are well documented, many students are struggling in this area of their academics. Officials with the National Center for Education Statistics note that, over the last decade, students have made no progress in reading performance. That likely comes as no surprise to seasoned educators, as data indicates students are reading less outside of school than they have in years past. Data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress indicates the percentage of public school students who said they read 30 minutes or more a day declined by 4 percent between 2017 and 2019, dipping below 50 percent overall in the latter year.

There's likely a multitude

of reasons why students now read less than they used to. Parents concerned about their children's reading comprehension can try these strategies to bolster this highly valuable skill.

Let kids read what they like. The tutoring professionals at Oxford Learning report that 73 percent of students indicate they would read more if they found books they liked. Parents can address this issue by taking children to their local libraries and letting them choose which books to check out. The more practice kids get with reading, the more their comprehension skills develop.

Read aloud to children. Various studies have found that reading aloud to children significantly benefits literacy development. One study from the National Association for the Education of Young Children found that listening to others read helps children develop key understanding and skills, including how stories are written. In addition, the Reading Rockets project, which aspires to bring read-

ing research to life in the hopes of helping young children develop into strong, confident readers, notes that children can listen on a higher language level than they can read. That makes complex ideas more accessible.

Ask questions when reading to children. When reading to children, parents can compound the benefits of this activity by asking youngsters questions about the book. Asking what, when, where, why, and how can encourage children to look for answers to these questions while they're being read to. As students advance and then read more on their own, parents can encourage them to ask these questions of themselves (if they're not already doing so on their own). Asking and answering these questions is a great way to strengthen children reading comprehension skills.

Strong reading comprehension skills can help students reach their academic potential. Parents can employ various strategies to help children bolster those skills.

How reading affects children's comprehension

(METRO) Early childhood is a critical time for personal development. During this period, many intellectual, physical and emotional changes are taking place in a child's body at a rapid pace. Parents want to give their children the best opportunities for success in life, and encouraging children to read is one of the ways they can help youngsters develop intellectual and emotional maturity.

Data from the Adolescent Brain and Cognitive Development project, an American national cohort study with more than 10,000 participants across different ethnicities and varying socioeconomic statuses, found that reading for pleasure in early childhood was linked with better scores on comprehension cognition assessments and better educational attainment in young adolescence. It also correlated to fewer mental health problems and less time spent on electronic devices.

Reading is a learned activity, and reading early on with a child is a bonding activity

between caregiver and child. The Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children says reading has the potential to increase academic achievement by improving vocabulary and learning comprehension. Interactive reading also helps increase mental imagery and language processing.

It's important to note that reading can positively affect the body physically as well. Children may experience less stress by reading, as reading is thought to be even more calming than listening to music or even taking a walk.

In a study published in the journal *Psychological Medicine*, researchers in the UK and China found that 12 hours of reading a week was the optimal time linked to improved brain structure and good brain health. When researchers examined brain scans from those who had been reading from an early age, the scans showed moderately larger total brain areas and volumes, including in regions of the brain responsible for roles in critical cognitive functions.



There are many reasons to curl up with a good book, as reading is beneficial to both mind and body.

The many benefits of reading

(METRO) There has never been a better time to be a reader. Self-proclaimed book nerds and those who look forward to the next book club gathering can rejoice knowing that a good story isn't the only benefit associated with reading. In fact, there are numerous health benefits to cracking a book.

Reading slows cognitive decline. Natural aging results in a decline in memory and brain function over time, but reading can help. According to research published in the journal *Neurology*, reading may help slow that process and keep minds sharp.

Reading improves concentration and focus. Technology draws a lot of attention, and those fast processing times and almost instant gratification can shorten attention spans. Reading requires undivided attention and focus, which can improve one's ability to concentrate.

Reading produces a sense of accomplishment. Reading anything from a newspaper article to a novel helps people check off measurable goals. When done reading a given piece, the mental boost from finishing can enhance your mood.

Reading is free entertainment. Provided a person gets books from a library or a loaner from a friend, reading is free. It's possible to educate oneself, travel to far off lands or even solve mysteries without having to make a major financial investment.

Reading enhances literacy. Frequent reading introduces the reader to new vocabulary and information. This enhances both literacy and intelligence.

Reading leads to higher intelligence later on. A study of 1,890 identical twins in the United Kingdom found that the twins who had early reading skills seemingly had more positive results for higher intelligence later in life.

Reading can help a person relax. Reading may help reduce stress and even induce relaxing feelings so that a person can drift off to sleep. A 2009 study by Sussex University researchers showed that reading may reduce stress by as much as 68 percent. Furthermore, reading takes a person away from screens (provided they're reading paper books and not e-books), which can contribute to losing 20 minutes of sleep on average, according to research published in *Pediatrics*.

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THANK YOU!

**To all the elementary teachers and students that were involved in
the Design Our Ad project.**

2025 Design Our Ad Artists

West Point Middle School

Teacher: Mrs. McNeil

Artists: Xiangyi Chen, Kate Howard, Grayson Mintern, Madelyn Pierce, Phoebe Morr, Brooklyn Stanley, Ainslie Pfeifer, Matilda Evans, Lillian Dowdy, Michael Routi, Tyzaiah Braxton, Aiden Niles, Nicholas Carter, Jayton Ballard, Maggie Lindsey, Sophie Meier, Jesse Eakes, William Lehr Jr., Kiley Walling, Landon Williams, E. Totton, Q. Hendricks, Stevella Brown, Leo Gay, Sofia Hoang, Oscar Anderson, Kaylan Brewitt.

Peasley Middle School

Teacher: Mrs. Layton

Artists: Kenleigh Hall, Naelah Boyd, Aubrey Grigsby, Gabrielle Ward, Bella Schultz, Austin Martinez, Mary Green, Marc Coleman, Boeing Markulin, Arionna Burchett, Amber Tanner, Carter Symonds, Greylyn Sewell, Hailey Conley, Hayleigh Carpenter, Joshua Beckett, Sarah Carlton, Zackary Cockburn, Victor Peterson, Aycen Crewe, Layla Muro-Hall, Sieanna England, Braxton Middlebrook, Colbie Russ, Kennelly Benner, Rebekah Peters, Braelyn Owens, Charley Curry, Sarah Linaweaver, Shyann Sanford, Olivia North, Mari Powers, Molly Walters, Logan Chase, Harper Willis, Henry Shaffer, Lillian Boafo, Brie Hicks, Adelynn Moats, Kinley Burcher, Benjamin Peters, Madison Bartley, Madison Leuett, Chloe Shreves, Hailey Conley, Madalyn Gray, Josephine Moss, Landon Epling, Sophia Hickman, Caden Thompson, Logan Smith, Chloe Williams, Levi Briggs, Richard Morrison, Maddie Gray, Layla Moore, Payton Brantley, Connor Addleman, Aria Mullins, Cheyenne Ayert, Kai Wilson, Eli Rodriguez, Evan Gaskins, Kylee Edwards, Ali Morelli, Samuel Howlett, Willa Glaspell.

THANK YOU!

**To all the elementary teachers and students that were involved in
the Design Our Ad project.**

2025 Design Our Ad Artists

Thomas Hunter Middle School

Teacher: Ms. Witowski

Artists: Madison Ball, Garrett Plessinger, Marie Hudgins, Austin Sadler, Harper Bourque, Weston Weis, Taeshaun Cosby-Hobson, Paige Griffith, Charlie Heasley, Pamela Guzman Santiago, Raylan Grossman, Dario Pascual-Lopez, Landon Lawrence, Madison Hudgins, Naomi Vicente.

Page Middle School

Teacher: Mrs. Rhodes

Artists: Gineura Martino, Teagan Gallaher, Zoey Satterlee, Grace Miller, Riley Gale, Mallory Simpson, Jarissa Bibb, Bayleigh Dominguez, Matthew Noehl, Makayla Santiago, Stella Geyerhahn, Piper Oberndorf, Olivia Millard, Gemma Wren, Mallory Bruno, Emily Noehl, Sosiella Stafford, Reese Walker, Evelyn Ramos, Layla Vance.

Ware Academy

Teacher: Kim Gardiner

Artists: Arabella Thorne, Elise Elliott, Elora Totton, Elli Dixon, Jackson Miller, Quinn Hendricks, Katie Ly, Nelson Bradford, Chase Murphy.

Gazette-Journal

Artists: Kylie Nuttall, Raegan Sibley, Joe Nelson, Sosiella Stafford, Katriel Stafford, Ava Rice, Holley Slaughter.

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