COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25C)

five on Dec. 18 at 10:30 a.m.

SNOW QUEEN VISIT: Donna Deekens, who was Snow Queen to the real Santa Claus at Miller & Rhoads department store, Richmond, in the 1970s and 1980s, will talk at the Mathews Museum, 200 Main Street, also sell and sign her four books. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. If you have a photo with Santa from that period, she said that she would like to see it.

SATURDAY, DEC. 19

BIRD COUNT: The 2026 Gloucester Audubon Christmas Bird Count will be held on Dec. 19. Register by emailing bbassett489@gmail.com.

BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS: Machicomoco State Park, Hayes, will have its Birding for Beginners program on Dec. 19 from 10-11 a.m. Join a ranger to discover the basics of birding and have a chance to identify which birds are spending time around Timberneck Creek. Participants will be able to check out binoculars to aid in the search for birds.

SEE **COMMUNITY EVENTS,** PAGE **29C**



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26C)

Recommended for participants age 8 and up.

TEEN BATTLE CHEF: Gloucester County Public Library, Main Street Center, will have a Christmas culinary competition for children in grades six through 12 on Dec. 19 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Teen chef teams will be challenged to transform classic holiday ingredients into dishes. Registration opens Dec. 4.

PURRFECT PRESENTS: The Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society will hold a Purrfect Presents workshop on Dec. 19 from noon until 1 p.m. Families and individuals are invited to spend a festive afternoon creating fun, engaging enrichment toys for the cats in their own homes, the shelter cats or both. Enjoy a hot cocoa bar and sugar cookie decorating. The cost is $25 for families and $15 for individuals.

MUSIC AND MERRIMENT: The Fine Arts Museum of Gloucester, Main Street Center, will hold "Music and Merriment" on Dec. 19 from 2-4 p.m. Celebrate the season with 18th-century Christmas music performed by soprano Laura Heydt and musician Kaylan Stevenson on piano and baroque flute. Stick around afterward for a Meet the Artists conversation and audience Q&A.

BOAT PARADE: Hudgins Horn Harbor Marina, Port Haywood, will have its lighted boat parade on Dec. 19 at 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 20

LIGHTED KAYAKS: Jan Towne will lead her annual caravan of lighted kayaks

SEE **COMMUNITY EVENTS,** PAGE **30C**

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29C)

for Caroling on Put-In Creek, at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 20. For interested kayakers wanting more information, call Towne at 804-815-5584.

MONDAY, DEC. 21

WINTER CAMP: A winter camp will be held at Beaverdam Park's Whitcomb Lodge, Gloucester, Dec. 21-23 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. each day for children ages six to 10. Campers will explore trails, play games, make crafts and enjoy hot cocoa. Sign up for as many days as you wish. The cost is $25 each day. Online registration is due by Dec. 7.

FRIDAY, DEC. 25

CHRISTMAS DINNER: Members of American Legion Post 83 of Mathews will pack and carry around the county to Meals on Wheels recipients full Christmas dinners prepared by caterer Shirley Williams.

CHRISTMAS DINNER: The Gloucester Moose Lodge will hold its annual Christmas dinner for the community on Dec. 25 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 26

TREE RECYCLING: Live Christmas tree recycling will be available at all five Gloucester convenience centers from Dec. 26 through Jan. 31. Place in brush con-

SEE **COMMUNITY EVENTS,** PAGE **32C**









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COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30C)

tainers. Trees must be completely clear of decor.

TUESDAY, DEC. 29

BEST YEARS TRIP: A Best Years Trip to the Arlington National Cemetery will be held on Dec. 29 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The visit will take place a week after the placing of Wreaths Across America. The group will tour Arlington by tram and view the John F. Kennedy gravesite, Arlington House, Ord and Weitzel Gate, Coast Guard Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Participants will be responsible for their dinner at Bubba's Shrimp Shack in Tappahannock on the way home. The cost is $60. Registration is required online through Gloucester Parks, Recreation & Tourism.

THURSDAY, DEC. 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE: Zoll Vineyards, Dutton, will have a New Year's Eve celebration on Dec. 31 from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 1

FIRST DAY HIKE: Beaverdam Park will hold its "Hoot & Howl into 2027" First Day Night Hike on Jan. 1 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Join the park for a nighttime 5K where participants will run or walk under the stars. Online registration is due by Dec. 11. The cost is $15 for those 16 and older (includes sticker). Children 15 and under can participate for free.

FIRST DAY HIKE: Machicomoco State Park, Hayes, will have several First Day Hike activities on Jan. 1 from 10:30 a.m. until 12:45 p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 3

BIRD COUNT: The 2026 Mathews Audubon Christmas Bird Count will be held on Jan. 3. The Mathews County Circle count consists of 13 sectors, each with multiple water views. Register by emailing mgsopko@gmail.com.

ONGOING

FESTIVAL OF TREES: The Gloucester Resource Council will hold its third annual Festival of Trees at Tucker Store Pocket Park, Main Street across from the Court Green, the entire month of December. The trees are created by local nonprofits and businesses. There will also be a holiday photo backdrop and a bubble machine that can be used to create "snow."

HOLIDAY GLO UP: Gloucester Parks, Recreation & Tourism will hold its light display contest, "Holiday Glo Up," from now until the end of the year. Take a self-guided tour around Gloucester to view all of the light displays. Follow PRT's Facebook page for updates.

HOLIDAY MARKET: The Bay School Community Arts Center, Mathews, will have its Holiday Pop-Up Market from now until Dec. 31.

LIGHTSHOW: Frank-

SEE COMMUNITY EVENTS, PAGE 33C







COMMUNITY EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32C)

tronics, Hayes, will have its Christmas Lightshow beginning Nov. 27 from 6:30 p.m. until midnight each night. Tune your car radio to 102.7 FM.

MEMORIAL BANNER: Gloucester Parks, Recreation & Tourism will have a memorial banner set up from Dec. 1 through Jan. 4. Residents are invited to submit a name in memory of a loved one with a $50 contribution. The person's name will be displayed on a memorial banner in the Court Circle near the community tree and will be read aloud during the Community Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 5, following the Gloucester Christmas and Holiday Parade.

REINDEER HIKE: Santa's Secret Reindeer hike will be available the entire month of December at Beaverdam Park in Gloucester. Bundle up for a self-guided, holiday puzzle hike. Santa's reindeer have explored the park and left behind a top-secret, coded message. Stop by the trailhead to grab your reindeer decoder sheet at the Main Entrance before heading out onto the Nature Trail. Keep your eye out for eight hidden reindeer tucked among the trees. Each reindeer holds a unique holiday symbol that unlocks a missing letter of the puzzle. Find all the signs, decode the symbols and reveal the secret word. Once you solve the puzzle, stop by the photo op station and capture a snapshot of your winter adventure.

TAKE & MAKE ORNAMENT: Gloucester County Public Library will have Take & Make Santa Ornament kits at both branches from Dec. 1-22. Paint and paintbrush not included. All ages welcome.

WINTER READING PROGRAM: Gloucester County Public Library will be holding a Winter Reading



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CHURCH EVENTS

THURSDAY, NOV. 26

THANKSGIVING SERVICE: The Gloucester Union Relief Association of Missionary Baptist will hold a Thanksgiving Day service at St. Paul Baptist Church, Gloucester, on Nov. 26 at 10 a.m. The Rev. Desmond Smith of Emmaus Baptist Church will render the message. The Rev. Mitchell Smith will lead worship.

SUNDAY, NOV. 29

PRAYER BREAKFAST: Newington Baptist Church, Gloucester, will hold its Lottie Moon Prayer Breakfast for International Missions potluck on Nov. 29 at 9 a.m.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Bena, will have its Advent Bible Study on four consecutive Sundays—Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 and 20—at 9:30 a.m. each session in the church sanctuary.

ADVENT: Kingston Episcopal Parish, Mathews, will have its Advent Holy Eucharist, Rite I service at Christ Churchm, Williams Wharf Road, on Nov. 29 at 9:30 a.m.

ADVENT SERVICES: Apostles Lutheran Church, Gloucester, will hold its Advent worship services on four consecutive Sundays—Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 and 20—at 10 a.m.

ADVENT SERVICES: Beech Grove Baptist Church, Hayes, will hold its Advent services on four consecutive Sundays—Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 and 20—at 10:30 a.m.

HANGING OF THE GREENS: Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Bena, will have its Hanging of the Greens service on Nov. 29 at 11 a.m.

ADVENT SERVICES: Mathews Chapel United Methodist Church, Cobbs

SEE **CHURCH EVENTS,** PAGE **35C**

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CHURCH EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34C)

Creek, will hold its Advent worship services, "Carols for the Coming Christ," on four consecutive Sundays—Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 and 20—at 11 a.m.

SPECIAL SERVICE: Salem Church Mathews, Diggs, will hold a special service of healing during its worship service on Nov. 29 at 11 a.m.

ADVENT: Singleton United Methodist Church, Schley, will celebrate each Sunday of Advent with the lighting of a candle on four consecutive Sundays—Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 and 20—at 11 a.m.

MUSICAL: The choir at The First Baptist Church, Ordinary, will hold a pre-Christmas musical, "Preparing for the King," on Nov. 29 at 3 p.m.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Beech Grove Baptist Church, Hayes, will have its 5th Sunday Music service on Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. A potluck meal in the fellowship hall will precede the service at 5:30.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: Salem Church Mathews, Diggs, will begin its Advent Bible Study, "Christmas: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," on Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m. Contact Glenn Mantell for more information at mvrs113@verizon.net.

MONDAY, NOV. 30

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: Singleton United Methodist

SEE CHURCH EVENTS, PAGE 36C

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CHURCH EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35C)

Church, Schley, will have two Advent Bible Study groups. One group will meet on Nov. 30, Dec. 14 and 21 at 9:30 a.m. The other group will meet on Dec. 2, 9 and 16 at 7 p.m.



SATURDAY, DEC. 5

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: LIFT Mathews is sponsoring Breakfast with Santa at Central United Methodist Church, Mathews, on Dec. 5 from 9-11 a.m. Enjoy free breakfast and a photo with Santa. RSVP to liftmathews@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Church of Francis de Sales, Mathews, will hold its Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Shop homemade crafts, Christmas gifts, baked goods and more.

SUNDAY, DEC. 6

KIDS SING CHRISTMAS: Newington Baptist Church, Gloucester, will hold its Kids Sing Christmas program during the regular worship service on Dec. 6 at 10:30 a.m.

COMMUNION: Beech Grove Baptist Church, Hayes, will serve communion during its 10:30 morning worship service on Dec. 6 at 10:30 a.m.

SPECIAL SERVICES: Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Bena, will have its worship and choir services on Dec. 6, 13 and 20 at 11 a.m.

SEE **CHURCH EVENTS,** PAGE **37C**





CHURCH EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36C)

HANGING OF THE GREENS: Singleton United Methodist Church, Schley, will have its Hanging of the Greens service on Dec. 6 at 11 a.m.

SINGSPIRATION: Union Baptist Church, Hayes, will hold its Singspiration on Dec. 2 at 4 p.m. Mildred Byrd, Tracy Hill, Don Hogge, Sam Hogge, Kellum Family, the Rev. Mike Lawhorn, Ralph Motley, Arthur Revia, Regina South and Michele Thacker will perform.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Cantori Choral Ensemble will present its 2026 Christmas concert, "A Child is Born," in the sanctuary of Abingdon Episcopal Church, Gloucester, on Dec. 6, beginning at 5 p.m. The concert will feature several familiar carols, including "Ding, Dong! Merrily on High," "Silent Night," "Away in the Manger" and "The Wexford Carol." Half the program will be sung a cappella, while the other pieces will receive organ, piano and viola accompaniment. Tickets are on sale and may be reserved for will-call by sending a check to 3341 Derby Lane, Williamsburg, Va. 23185 and made out to Cantori Choral Ensemble. The cost is $20 for adults in advance and $25 at the door. Student tickets are $5 in advance and $10 at the door.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Mathews Baptist Church, Hudgins, will have its children's and youth Christmas program, "Home Alone: But are we really?" on Dec. 6 at 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 10

CONCERT: Kingston Episcopal Parish, Mathews, will have a Christmas concert and advent service at Kingston Chapel on Dec. 10 at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 12

ADVENT BIBLE SCHOOL: Gloucester Point Baptist Church will hold its Advent Bible School on Dec. 12 from 1-4 p.m. Children will learn about the birth of Jesus. There will be crafts, music, snacks and outdoor games. Register online at gpbc.church.

SUNDAY, DEC. 13

CANTATA: The Central United Methodist Church, Mathews, choir will present its Christmas cantata, "Silent was the Night," on Dec. 13 at 9:15 a.m.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC: Bellamy United Methodist Church, Gloucester, will have its Christmas Music Sunday service with scripture reading and performances by the handbell and vocal choirs on Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m.

BREATH OF HEAVEN: The choir at Beech Grove Baptist Church, Hayes, will present "Breath of Heaven," followed by a Christmas message from Pastor Richard Croxton on Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m. A church-wide meal will follow in the fellowship hall. The choir will perform at Dockside Assisted Living, Locust Hill, at 3 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR: Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Gloucester, will hold its Christmas Choir program on Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. The service will be followed by a cookie and punch reception in the fellowship hall.

THURSDAY, DEC. 17

LIVING NATIVITY: Gwynn's Island Church of the Nazarene, Hudgins, will hold its living nativity program on Dec. 17 and 22 from 7-9 o'clock both nights.

SATURDAY, DEC. 19

FOOD PANTRY: Living Waters Church, Dutton, will have its food pantry open to all on Dec. 19 from 9-11 a.m.

SEE **CHURCH EVENTS,** PAGE **38C**



CHURCH EVENTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37C)

CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Zion Poplars Baptist Church, Gloucester, will have its Christmas service on Dec. 19 at 2 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 20

CANTATA: Bethany United Methodist Church, Gloucester Point, will hold its Christmas cantata on Dec. 20 from 10-11 a.m.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Groves Memorial Presbyterian Church, Hayes, will have its Christmas program, "An Old-Fashioned Christmas," on Dec. 20 at 10 a.m.

CANTATA: Newington Baptist Church, Gloucester, will hold its Christmas Cantata on Dec. 20 at 10:30 a.m.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Beech Grove Baptist Church, Hayes, will host Michele Thacker for a special performance on Dec. 20 at 11 a.m.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM: Salem Church Mathews, Diggs, will have a special children's program on Dec. 20 during the regular worship service at 11 a.m.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH: The Singleton Sisterhood Christmas Lunch will be held on Dec. 20 directly after the Singleton United Methodist Church's, Schley, 11 a.m. service.

LIVE NATIVITY: Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Bena, will have its Living Nativity service on Dec. 20 at 4 p.m. in front of the church. There will be live animals and music. Fellowship with cookies and hot cocoa will follow.

SPECIAL PROGRAM:

SEE **CHURCH EVENTS,** PAGE **39C**



Special service

Many local churches will be holding special Christmas services through December, including Zion Poplars Baptist Church, Gloucester, on Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. Shown at last year's service are, from left, Delacey Wilson, Pastor Vincent Haley, Ava Allen and George Wilson.

