Flounder, cobia fishing remain strong

Eleven keepers

Leonard Madison of Dunnsville, Rick Madison of Richmond, Eddie Stockner of Dunnsville and Charles Madison of Richmond display the 11 keeper flounder they caught aboard the charter boat "Patriot" on July 8. (Photo courtesy of Queen's Creek Outfitters)

All in the Family

The Ireson family, from left, Mark, Mindy, Hank and granddaughter Chelsea, display three citation flounder they caught recently. They were fishing aboard "C-Breeze," the boat of Hank Ireson of Topping. The other family members were visting from Tennessee. They had 12 keepers, including the three citations above. (Photo courtesy of Queen's Creek Outfiiters)

Cobia and flounder tournament will benefit Middlesex YMCA

The first Crown Pointe Marina Cobia and Flounder Tournament will be held Saturday, August 19, with the proceeds benefitting the Middlesex YMCA Guardian Program.

There will be prize money for both species and trophies awarded.

Competition is limited to the first 100 boats registered. The entry fee per boat is $250.

A special $50,000 prize will be awarded to any angler who breaks the state record for flounder or cobia.

The marina has plenty of live bait for the event; advance orders are recommended. Also, all entrants will get a 10-cents per gallon discount on fuel.

Overnight slips will be available with advance registration.

For more information or to register, call 642-6177 or 776-8846, or visit www.crownpointemarina.com.

Crown Pointe Marina is located on Hayes Landing Road at Gloucester Point.

Flounder and cobia continue to bite; big spot are moving in

As water temperatures continue to increase in the sizzling summer heat, so do the feeding habits of spot, Spanish mackerel, cobia and other heat-seeking fish.

Jerry Thrash of Queen's Creek Outfitters in Mathews and J&W Seafood in Deltaville have been among the weigh stations keeping busy registering citation flounder. The Cell and Buoy 42 in the Bay remain the productive fishing grounds, and minnow and squid the best baits.

A group aboard the charter boat "Patriot" on July 8 landed 11 keeper flounder with only two throw-backs.

Rick Schutt of Richmond caught the latest monster flounder (9 lbs.), which was registered at Queen's Creek.

Wily flounder hunter Hank Ireson of Topping took a group of his family members from Tennessee aboard his "C-Breeze" and they came back with three citations and 12 keepers.

Queen's Creek has also registered several citation cobia, including a 75-pounder caught by Chris Buckner in Mobjack Bay in early July.

On Saturday, July 15, Keith Condrey Sr. caught a 53-inch, 49-lb., 8-oz. cobia with squid at The Cell aboard Captain Don Bannister's vessel "Restin Easy." He registered the catch at Norview Marina in Deltaville.

Graham Jones, age 5 1/2, of Petersburg is one of the youngest citation winners of the season. Graham landed a 7-lb., 6-oz., 25.5-inch flounder at The Cell on July 11. He was fishing with his father, Keith Jones, who has a summer home in Deltaville. The citation was registered at J&W Seafood in Deltaville.

Fishing Bay Harbor Marina, one of the newest official weigh stations for the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, weighed its first citation on July 2. Jeff Winall of Powhatan caught an 8-lb., 8-oz., 27-inch flounder on minnow north of The Cell. Andy Moser is the harbormaster and weighmaster at Fishing Bay Harbor. He can be contacted at 776-6800 or VHF 16.

(See Flounder, page 73)

2006 Size and Limits: Recreational Fishing Regulations in Virginia's Marine Waters

Amberjack
Minimum Size Limit.....32" Total Length
Limit .....2 Amberjack per person per day

Black Drum
Minimum Size Limit .....16" Total Length
Limit .....1 Black Drum per person per day

Bluefish
Minimum Size Limit.....None
Limit .....10 Bluefish per person per day

Cobia (Bonita)
Minimum Size Limit.....37" Total Length
Limit .....1 Cobia per person per day

Grey Trout (Weakfish)
Minimum Size Limit .....12" Total Length
Limit .....7 Grey Trout per day per person

King Mackerel
Minimum Size Limit .....27" Total Length
Limit .....3 King Mackerel per person per day

Red Drum (Channel Bass)
Minimum Size Limit .....18" Total Length
Maximum Size Limit .....26" Total Length
Limit .....3 Red Drum per person per day

Spadefish
Minimum Size Limit.....None
Limit .....4 Spadefish per person per day

Spanish Mackerel
Minimum Size Limit .....14" Total Length
Limit .....15 Spanish Mackerel per person per day

Speckled Trout (Spotted Sea Trout)
Minimum Size Limit .....14" Total Length
Limit .....10 Speckled Trout per person per day

Striped Bass (Striper, Rockfish)
Virginia Trophy Season, May 1-May 15
Minimum Size Limit.....32"
Possession Limit .....1 Rockfish per person per day
Spring Season, May 16-June 15
Minimum Size Limit.....18"
Maximum Size Limit ** .....28"
Limit .....2 Rockfish per person per day
** One fish of the two fish limit may be 32" in length or larger
Fall Season, October 4-December 31
Minimum Size Limit.....18"
Maximum Size Limit .....28"
Limit .....2 Rockfish per person per day;
no Rockfish between 28" and 34" may be kept

Shad..... Illegal to catch or possess Shad in Virginia waters

Sturgeon.....Illegal to catch or possess Sturgeon

Summer Flounder (Fluke)
Minimum Size Limit.....16.5"
Limit .....6 Flounder per person per day

Tautog
Minimum Size Limit.....14"
Limit .....7 Tautog per person per day

For information on the most current regulations, contact Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 2600 Washington Ave., P.O. Box 756, Newport News, Va. 23607: (757) 247-2200. VMRC "Hotline" number to report violations: (800) 541-4646. VMRC monitors VHF Channel 17. The VMRC website is www.mrc.state.va.us. Fish illustrations, courtesy Duane Raver, may not be reproduced without permission 9919) 553-0280.

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York River Access Over 15 acres on Adams creek which empties into the York River. Good boatable water & private peaceful views. Great spot to build your dream home with the possibility of multiple homesites. **$295,000**

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Fishing for prize money makes sense for Carmell

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

For as long as Donna Helmuth of Weems can remember, her son, Chris Carmell, has had a passion for fishing.

"Chris was a kid who, when he was little and just learning to read, would walk around with a Bass Masters catalog in his hand," said Helmuth. During a live broadcast last week on Fox Sports Net, she watched her son compete in the Wal-Mart Bass Fishing League All-American tournament in Hartford, Conn.

Had Carmell won, the victory would have been lucrative. Robert Walser of North Carolina left the high-stakes tournament a happy and much richer man with a $140,000 payoff.

But for Carmell, who has won almost $20,000 in tournament prizes since October, it wasn't about the money. It was about the title.

"The All-American is the guy who works five days a week and then throws his stuff in the truck and takes off fishing for the weekend. It's the working-man's title," said Carmell of Virginia Beach.

He finished 24th in a field of 48 of the nation's top fishermen and took home $7,500 for his three-day effort. On day one, he weighed a limit of 11 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 3 pounds behind the leader. He had a three-day total of 24 pounds, 22 ounces.

Fox Sports Net tagged along with Carmell, rigging a movie camera inside his hat and another on the bow of his boat. He also had a cameraman ride along.

"That was a first for me," he said. "And we had to keep coming in to change the film. That messed me up a little."

Carmell's trail to the BFL All-American began a year ago. He competed in five qualifying events to make it to one of the eight regionals. He finished second in a regional at Buggs Island in South Hill last October, winning $6,000 and a spot in the All-American. The top six fishermen from each of eight regionals qualify.

Carmell was the only Virginia angler fishing on the pro side in the tournament in Hartford. There were two fishermen from Virginia in the amateur division.

Carmell grew up fishing freshwater ponds in Lancaster County, where he fell in love with the sport.

"I started off on Chase Pond, Thorndike Pond, all the local farm ponds," he said.

Junior Brent of Richmond took him to Buggs Island for the first time and "then I was hooked," said Carmell. "About six months later I bought my first bass boat."

A tugboat captain by trade, Carmell says, "When I step off that boat I don't want to see that water again until I have to."

Instead, he gets in his 20-foot Ranger bass boat and heads for fresher water, fishing on average 120 days a year.

He's won several team tournaments in the upper Rappahannock River where the fresh water produces some big large mouth bass.

With his sights set on next year's All-American, Carmell has already fished in three qualifying tournaments. The 2007 BFL All-American will be held on the Ohio River in Kentucky.

Chris Carmell caught a limit weighing 11 pounds, 8 ounces, on the first day of competition in the Wal-Mart Bass Fishing League All-American. He trailed the leader by a mere three pounds.

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CHRISTIE'S GREAT ESTATES

More Rivah Fishing

Four-year-old catches ten fish on Barbie pole

by Kelsey Robusto

Hannah Wilmer, the daughter of Denni Wilmer, began Wednesday, May 31, with a trip to Carters Creek to visit her "Poppie," Brien Lee.

By the end of the day, she had pulled six croakers and four perch from the creek with her toy fishing pole. The four-year-old caught all of the fish by herself and even helped to clean them.

Hannah picked her own bait that Wednesday from her Grandma's "crab shack." She selected several soft crabs, then headed to Carters Creek with her Barbie fishing pole, a gift from her third birthday.

"I caught a little one first," Hannah said.

The little fish pulled, though.

"It pulled her almost off the dock," her mother said.

"Her Poppie had to hog tie her so she wouldn't jump over board," said her grandmother, Diane Lee.

"I thought the dock was moving," little Hannah said.

After being tied to a piling, Hannah continued to catch nine more fish with her plastic pole.

"We just can't believe [the rod] withstood the catch," Denni said.

Afterwards, Hannah helped her Poppie clean the fish.

"Was it gross?" her grandmother asked.

"I liked it," said Hannah.

Hannah could have had fish for dinner for a week, but, unfortunately, she doesn't like to eat them.

Hannah Wilmer, 4, caught 10 fish with only the help of soft crabs and her Barbie fishing rod.

Email Rivah news to editor@ssentinel.com or editor@rrecord.com

Rivah Area Tide Tables for August 2006

Sewells Point Hampton Roads								Cherry Point Piankatank River								Grey's Point Rappahannock River								Great Wicomico River Light								Smith Point Light Chesapeake Bay							
08/01	2:06a	H	8:19a	L	2:42p	H	9:08p	L	08/01	2:53a	H	9:21a	L	3:29p	H	10:10p	L	08/01	4:35a	H	11:05a	L	5:11p	H	11:54p	L	08/01	5:04a	H	11:27a	L	5:41p	H	--------		08/01	5:35a	H	11:51a	L	6:12p	H	--------	
08/02	2:52a	H	9:03a	L	3:33p	H	10:05p	L	08/02	3:39a	H	10:05a	L	4:20p	H	11:07p	L	08/02	5:21a	H	11:49a	L	6:02p	H	--------		08/02	12:16a	L	5:48a	H	12:14p	L	6:31p	H	08/02	12:40a	L	6:19a	H	12:38p	L	7:02p	H
08/03	3:45a	H	9:55a	L	4:30p	H	11:07p	L	08/03	4:32a	H	10:57a	L	5:17p	H	--------		08/03	12:51a	L	6:14a	H	12:41p	L	6:59p	H	08/03	1:13a	L	6:40a	H	1:06p	L	7:29p	H	08/03	1:37a	L	7:11a	H	1:30p	L	8:00p	H
08/04	4:46a	H	10:52a	L	5:31p	H	--------		08/04	12:09a	L	5:33a	H	11:54a	L	6:18p	H	08/04	1:53a	L	7:15a	H	1:38p	L	8:00p	H	08/04	2:12a	L	7:43a	H	2:02p	L	8:32p	H	08/04	2:36a	L	8:14a	H	2:26p	L	9:03p	H
08/05	12:09a	L	5:49a	H	11:54a	L	6:33p	H	08/05	1:11a	L	6:36a	H	12:56p	L	7:20p	H	08/05	2:55a	L	8:18a	H	2:40p	L	9:02p	H	08/05	3:12a	L	8:51a	H	3:01p	L	9:34p	H	08/05	3:36a	L	9:22a	H	3:25p	L	10:05p	H
08	1:08a	L	6:52a	H	12:55p	L	7:31p	H	08	2:10a	L	7:39a	H	1:57p	L	8:18p	H	08	3:54a	L	9:21a	H	3:41p	L	10:00p	H	08	4:12a	L	9:55a	H	4:02p	L	10:31p	H	08	4:36a	L	10:26a	H	4:26p	L	11:02p	H
08/07	2:02a	L	7:50a	H	1:54p	L	8:25p	H	08/07	3:04a	L	8:37a	H	2:56p	L	9:12p	H	08/07	4:48a	L	10:19a	H	4:40p	L	10:54p	H	08/07	5:08a	L	10:53a	H	5:01p	L	11:24p	H	08/07	5:32a	L	11:24a	H	5:25p	L	11:55p	H
08/08	2:52a	L	8:45a	H	2:50p	L	9:17p	H	08/08	3:54a	L	9:32a	H	3:52p	L	10:04p	H	08/08	5:38a	L	11:14a	H	5:36p	L	11:46p	H	08/08	5:58a	L	11:47a	H	5:58p	L	--------		08/08	6:22a	L	12:18p	H	6:22p	L	--------	
08/09	3:39a	L	9:37a	H	3:45p	L	10:07p	H	08/09	4:41a	L	10:24a	H	4:47p	L	10:54p	H	08/09	6:25a	L	12:06p	H	6:31p	L	--------		08/09	12:15a	H	6:45a	L	12:39p	H	6:52p	L	08/09	12:46a	H	7:09a	L	1:10p	H	7:16p	L
08/10	4:25a	L	10:28a	H	4:39p	L	10:55p	H	08/10	5:27a	L	11:15a	H	5:41p	L	11:42p	H	08/10	12:36a	H	7:11a	L	12:57p	H	7:25p	L	08/10	1:05a	H	7:30a	L	1:30p	H	7:44p	L	08/10	1:36a	H	7:54a	L	2:01p	H	8:08p	L
08/11	5:11a	L	11:18a	H	5:33p	L	11:44p	H	08/11	6:13a	L	12:05p	H	6:35p	L	--------		08/11	1:24a	H	7:57a	L	1:47p	H	8:19p	L	08/11	1:55a	H	8:15a	L	2:21p	H	8:36p	L	08/11	2:26a	H	8:39a	L	2:52p	H	9:00p	L
08/12	5:56a	L	12:09p	H	6:28p	L	--------		08/12	12:31a	H	6:58a	L	12:56p	H	7:30p	L	08/12	2:13a	H	8:42a	L	2:38p	H	9:14p	L	08/12	2:43a	H	9:00a	L	3:11p	H	9:31p	L	08/12	3:14a	H	9:24a	L	3:42p	H	9:55p	L
08/13	12:34a	H	6:43a	L	1:01p	H	7:24p	L	08/13	1:21a	H	7:45a	L	1:48p	H	8:26p	L	08/13	3:03a	H	9:29a	L	3:30p	H	10:10p	L	08/13	3:31a	H	9:47a	L	4:01p	H	10:29p	L	08/13	4:02a	H	10:11a	L	4:32p	H	10:53p	L
08/14	1:25a	H	7:32a	L	1:56p	H	8:23p	L	08/14	2:12a	H	8:34a	L	2:43p	H	9:25p	L	08/14	3:54a	H	10:18a	L	4:25p	H	11:09p	L	08/14	4:20a	H	10:37a	L	4:52p	H	11:31p	L	08/14	4:51a	H	11:01a	L	5:23p	H	11:55p	L
08/15	2:20a	H	8:24a	L	2:54p	H	9:26p	L	08/15	3:07a	H	9:26a	L	3:41p	H	10:28p	L	08/15	4:49a	H	11:10a	L	5:23p	H	--------		08/15	5:11a	H	11:31a	L	5:48p	H	--------		08/15	5:42a	H	11:55a	L	6:19p	H	--------	
08/16	3:18a	H	9:20a	L	3:57p	H	10:32p	L	08/16	4:05a	H	10:22a	L	4:44p	H	11:34p	L	08/16	12:12a	L	5:47a	H	12:06p	L	6:26p	H	08/16	12:37a	L	6:08a	H	12:29p	L	6:51p	H	08/16	1:01a	L	6:39a	H	12:53p	L	7:22p	H
08/17	4:22a	H	10:21a	L	5:03p	H	11:37p	L	08/17	5:09a	H	11:23a	L	5:50p	H	--------		08/17	1:18a	L	6:51a	H	1:07p	L	7:32p	H	08/17	1:45a	L	7:15a	H	1:31p	L	8:04p	H	08/17	2:09a	L	7:46a	H	1:55p	L	8:35p	H
08/18	5:27a	H	11:24a	L	6:08p	H	--------		08/18	12:39a	L	6:14a	H	12:26p	L	6:55p	H	08/18	2:23a	L	7:56a	H	2:10p	L	8:37p	H	08/18	2:52a	L	8:34a	H	2:35p	L	9:17p	H	08/18	3:16a	L	9:05a	H	2:59p	L	9:48p	H
08/19	12:39a	L	6:30a	H	12:26p	L	7:08p	H	08/19	1:41a	L	7:17a	H	1:28p	L	7:55p	H	08/19	3:25a	L	8:59a	H	3:12p	L	9:37p	H	08/19	3:56a	L	9:45a	H	3:38p	L	10:17p	H	08/19	4:20a	L	10:16a	H	4:02p	L	10:48p	H
08/20	1:33a	L	7:26a	H	1:23p	L	7:59p	H	08/20	2:35a	L	8:13a	H	2:25p	L	8:46p	H	08/20	4:19a	L	9:55a	H	4:09p	L	10:28p	H	08/20	4:54a	L	10:42a	H	4:37p	L	11:07p	H	08/20	5:18a	L	11:13a	H	5:01p	L	11:38p	H
08/21	2:21a	L	8:16a	H	2:14p	L	8:44p	H	08/21	3:23a	L	9:03a	H	3:16p	L	9:31p	H	08/21	5:07a	L	10:45a	H	5:00p	L	11:13p	H	08/21	5:41a	L	11:29a	H	5:29p	L	11:49p	H	08/21	6:05a	L	12:00p	H	5:53p	L	--------	
08/22	3:02a	L	9:00a	H	3:00p	L	9:24p	H	08/22	4:04a	L	9:47a	H	4:02p	L	10:11p	H	08/22	5:48a	L	11:29a	H	5:46p	L	11:53p	H	08/22	6:21a	L	12:10p	H	6:14p	L	--------		08/22	12:20a	H	6:45a	L	12:41p	H	6:38p	L
08/23	3:39a	L	9:40a	H	3:42p	L	10:01p	H	08/23	4:41a	L	10:27a	H	4:44p	L	10:48p	H	08/23	6:25a	L	12:09p	H	6:28p	L	--------		08/23	12:27a	H	6:56a	L	12:48p	H	6:54p	L	08/23	12:58a	H	7:20a	L	1:19p	H	7:18p	L
08/24	4:14a	L	10:17a	H	4:23p	L	10:35p	H	08/24	5:16a	L	11:04a	H	5:25p	L	11:22p	H	08/24	12:30a	H	7:00a	L	12:46p	H	7:09p	L	08/24	1:02a	H	7:26a	L	1:24p	H	7:31p	L	08/24	1:33a	H	7:50a	L	1:55p	H	7:55p	L
08/25	4:47a	L	10:52a	H	5:01p	L	11:08p	H	08/25	5:49a	L	11:39a	H	6:03p	L	11:55p	H	08/25	1:04a	H	7:33a	L	1:21p	H	7:47p	L	08/25	1:35a	H	7:54a	L	1:59p	H	8:06p	L	08/25	2:06a	H	8:18a	L	2:30p	H	8:30p	L
08/26	5:19a	L	11:27a	H	5:39p	L	11:40p	H	08/26	6:21a	L	12:14p	H	6:41p	L	--------		08/26	1:37a	H	8:05a	L	1:56p	H	8:25p	L	08/26	2:08a	H	8:23a	L	2:33p	H	8:42p	L	08/26	2:39a	H	8:47a	L	3:04p	H	9:06p	L
08/27	5:50a	L	12:01p	H	6:17p	L	--------		08/27	12:27a	H	6:52a	L	12:48p	H	7:19p	L	08/27	2:09a	H	8:36a	L	2:30p	H	9:03p	L	08/27	2:41a	H	8:53a	L	3:07p	H	9:19p	L	08/27	3:12a	H	9:17a	L	3:38p	H	9:43p	L
08/28	12:13a	H	6:22a	L	12:37p	H	6:57p	L	08/28	1:00a	H	7:24a	L	1:24p	H	7:59p	L	08/28	2:42a	H	9:08a	L	3:06p	H	9:43p	L	08/28	3:15a	H	9:25a	L	3:42p	H	9:59p	L	08/28	3:46a	H	9:49a	L	4:13p	H	10:23p	L
08/29	12:47a	H	6:56a	L	1:15p	H	7:41p	L	08/29	1:34a	H	7:58a	L	2:02p	H	8:43p	L	08/29	3:16a	H	9:42a	L	3:44p	H	10:27p	L	08/29	3:50a	H	10:00a	L	4:19p	H	10:44p	L	08/29	4:21a	H	10:24a	L	4:50p	H	11:08p	L
08/30	1:26a	H	7:34a	L	2:00p	H	8:31p	L	08/30	2:13a	H	8:36a	L	2:47p	H	9:33p	L	08/30	3:55a	H	10:20a	L	4:29p	H	11:17p	L	08/30	4:27a	H	10:41a	L	5:01p	H	11:37p	L	08/30	4:58a	H	11:05a	L	5:32p	H	--------	
08/31	2:12a	H	8:20a	L	2:52p	H	9:29p	L	08/31	2:59a	H	9:22a	L	3:39p	H	10:31p	L	08/31	4:41a	H	11:06a	L	5:21p	H	--------		08/31	5:10a	H	11:30a	L	5:50p	H	--------		08/31	12:01a	L	5:41a	H	11:54a	L	6:21p	H

Yorktown: add 8 min.
West Point: add 2:20

Jackson Creek:
add 35 min.

Urbanna: add 15 min.
Dividing Creek: add 5 min.

Coles Point/ Ragged Point:
add 1:20

More Rivah Fishing

Graham Jones, age 5 1/2, of Petersburg shows the 7-lb., 6-oz., 25.5-inch citation flounder he caught at The Cell on July 11. The citation was registered at J&W Seafood in Deltaville.

On Saturday, July 15, Keith Condrey Sr. caught a 53-inch, 49-lb., 8-oz. cobia with squid at The Cell aboard Captain Don Bannister's vessel "Restin Easy."

On July 2, Jeff Winall of Powhatan caught an 8-lb., 8-oz., 27-inch flounder and registered the citation at Fishing Bay Harbor Marina.

Jenny Manus of Gloucester caught a 17-lb., 7-oz. tilefish.

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More Rivah Fishing

Jeremy M. Healy of Gloucester displays the 7 lb., 8 oz., 26-inch citation flounder he caught on June 23 near Buoy 42 .

Chris Buckner (left) and a friend of Gordonsville caught a 75-lb., 59-inch citation cobia on July 9 in Mobjack Bay on cut bait. They registered the citation at Queen's Creek Outfitters of Mathews.

Flounder . . . *(continued from page 68)*

Croaker remain plentiful and big in some areas, but have dropped off in others. Kyle Dabney III of Susan weighed a 3-lb., 19-inch citation croaker at Queen's Creek recently. He caught the big hardhead on live spot at The Cell.

What the avid river bottom fisherman is really looking forward to are those big, fat #1 spot. August should be their month, and is there really any better tasting Rivah fish?

Chuck Ashe of A&S Feed and Supplies of Gloucester reports that these big spot are beginning to move into the York River.

Wesley Wilson of Saluda and his merry group of friends have been catching some nice spot and croaker in the Rappahannock.

Gray trout are beginning to make a showing, but most are under the 12-inch minimum.

Tony Hudgins of North caught a 25-inch speckled trout in the East River in mid-July

Spadefish made a huge showing in late June and early July but have now gone away.

One of the most unusual catches was made by Jenny Manus of Gloucester, who landed a 17-lb., 7-oz. blue tilefish at the Fingers. Tilefish can be found at times all along the Atlantic Coast, but are most often caught in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

In early July the severe thunderstorms and heavy rains kept many anglers at port and also added a lot of freshwater to the creeks, which didn't help fishing conditions.

Six-year-old Mathew Thayer of Gloucester registered this 47-lb., 12 oz., 50-inch cobia in July while fishing aboard his parents' (Greg and Gina Thayer) boat "Fishin Frenzy." He registered the citation at Queen's Creek Outfitters in Mathews.

Email fish photos to editor@ssentinel.com

2006 Weigh Stations

Below are the official 2005 Virginia Saltwater Tournament weigh stations for the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula area. For more information, call (757) 491-5160.

Northern Neck

- **Callao:** R.W.'s Sport Shop (804) 529-5634
- **Coles Point:** Branson Cove Marina (804) 472-3866
- **Kilmarnock:** Chesapeake Boat Basin (804) 435-3110
- **Lancaster:** RTS Tackle (804) 462-0100
- **Lottsburg:** Lewisetta Marina (804) 529-7299
- **Oak Grove:** Winter Harbor Seafood (804) 224-7779
- **Reedville:** Buzzard Point Marina (804) 453-3545
- **Reedville:** Smith Point Marina (804) 453-4077

Middle Peninsula

- **Bowler's Wharf:** Garrett's Marina (804) 443-2573
- **Cobbs Creek:** Queen's Creek Outfitters (804) 725-3889
- **Deltaville:** J&W Seafood (804) 776-6400
- **Deltaville:** Norview Marina (804) 776-6463
- **Gloucester:** Freeport Marina (804) 693-6575
- **Gloucester Point:** A&S Feed & Supplies (804) 642-4940
- **Gwynn's Island:** G.I. Campers Haven (804) 725-5700
- **Gwynn's Island:** Pulley's Marine (804) 725-3814
- **Hayes:** Crown Pointe Marina (804) 642-6177
- **New Point:** New Point Campground (804) 725-5120
- **Plainview:** Tucker Recreational Park (804) 785-4464
- **Saluda:** Keepers (804) 758-5720
- **Topping:** Grey's Point Campground (804) 758-2485
- **Topping:** Locklies Marina (804) 758-2871
- **Ware Neck:** Nuttall & Company (804) 693-3067
- **West Point:** Diggs Seafood (804) 843-2323

Welcome to Mathews County

■ Size: 87 square miles ■ Shoreline: 214 miles
■ Population: 9,200

History

Mathews County was an established shipbuilding center for the Chesapeake Bay when it broke away from Gloucester in 1791 to become a separate county.

About that time, 12 sailing ships over 20 tons each were built in a single year in Mathews, which the Chiskiake Indians had called Werowocomico.

Between 1790 and 1820, approximately a third of the ships built in Virginia came from Mathews. The sharp, fast vessels, popularly known as Baltimore Clippers, were built throughout the Chesapeake Bay region. Before the War of 1812, these fast ships were simply known as "Virginia built."

In 1801, Congress authorized the building of a lighthouse at the county's southern tip, New Point Comfort. The stone structure still towers over the Bay today, though the land has eroded from around it.

From 1802 to 1844, Mathews was an official port of entry for the registration and enrollment of ships. During this period, 10,000 vessels called at the "Port of East River." The customs house stood at Williams Wharf (marker 13), which was a center of maritime activity until the steamers quit running in the 1940s.

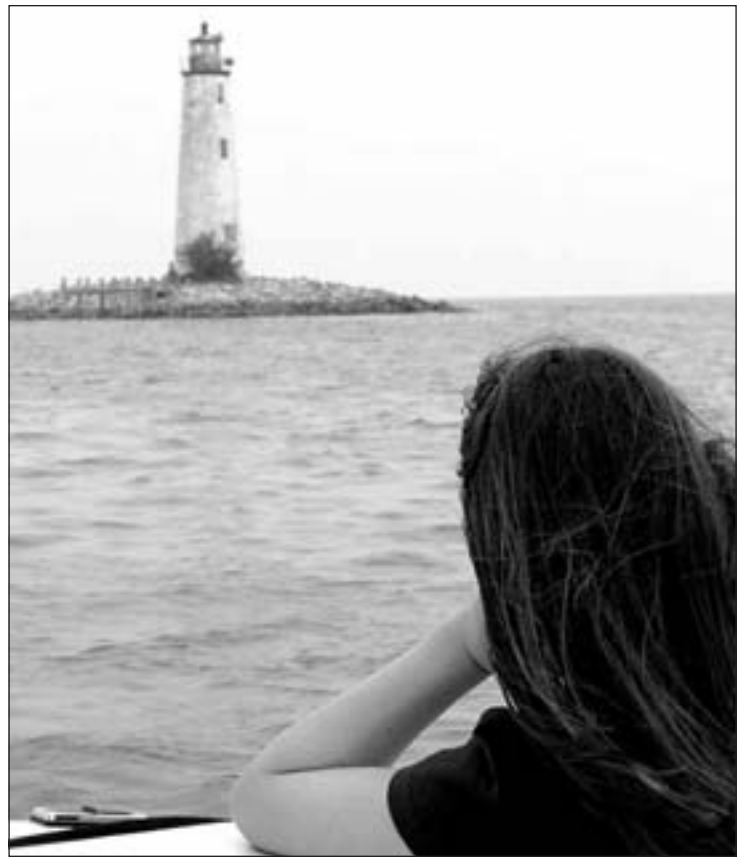
Cricket Hill, near Gwynn's Island, was the site of one of the last naval engagements of the Revolutionary War. In June 1776, Continental forces bombarded the British fleet and encampment on Gwynn's Island. Lord Dunsmore, the last royal governor, was driven from the colony, ending British rule in Virginia.

When water was the highway, boats were the standard means of travel. The arrival of steamships at Williams Wharf with cargo from Norfolk, Newport News or Baltimore was a daily highlight.

World War II put most of the steamboat lines out of business. In 1942 the government requisitioned most of the bay and coastal steamers for service in the war effort.

Even before the war, faster means of transportation and better roads caused stiff competition for the boats.

The last remaining steamboat line, the Old Bay Line, stopped its York River to Baltimore run in 1942. About 20 years later, the Old Bay Line dropped passenger service between Baltimore and Norfolk. The steamers stopped for good in the spring of 1962.



The New Point Comfort Lighthouse had more than 200 acres of land around it when it was completed in 1805. It marks the southern tip of Mathews County where the Chesapeake and Mobjack bays meet.

Government

County administrator Stephen K. Whiteway, 725-7172. Office open 8:30 a.m. ato 4 :30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Most county government offices are in Liberty Square at 10604 Buckley Hall Road (Route 198). The main mailing address is P. O. Box 839, Mathews, Va. 23109. Except as noted, county office hours are 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday.

Other frequently called numbers are: animal warden, 725-7177; clerk of circuit court, 725-2550; general district court, 758-4312; landfill, 725-3000; parks and recreation, 725-7305 or 725-7171; wetlands board secretary, 725-5025; zoning administrator 725-4034.

Tax rates (per $100): Real estate: $.53; personal property (cars), $3.60; boats, $1.45; other personal property, $2.14.

Chamber of Commerce

Mathews County Chamber of Commerce. 725-9029. mathews-chamber.com.

The Mathews Visitor and Information Center, on the corner of Main and Church streets inside Maggie's Store near the historic courthouse, is open Tuesday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. 725-4bay (4229). visitmathews.com.

Services

The Gwynn's Island Drawbridge on Route 223 operates 24 hours a day. Boats have priority over cars and bridge operators will open the bridge only when the crossing boat is in sight. Boats should sound a horn (one long and one short blast) to alert operator. Bridge operator will answer with a similar siren sound. The bridge operator may be called on VHF radio channel 13, CB radio channel 11, or by phone at 725-2853. The maximum width is 80' and there is a deep channel (about 12') on the north side of the bridge opening. Several shoals in the area are marked with day markers.

Special Navigation Notice Boaters should remember a navigation quirk in Milford Haven and Hills Bay which reverses the navigational markers, meaning boaters traveling east towards the Bay are considered to be going upriver and red markers should be kept on to the right through marker 12. At marker 16, go back to standard marker delineation.

Boaters traveling west and entering Hole in the Wall and Milford Haven from the Bay should use standard "red right returning" through marker 16. Beginning at marker 12, red should be kept to the left.

Red markers should be kept to the left through the narrows at the bridge.

Trash Disposal The trash transfer station is on Route 14, two miles west of Route 198. It is open 9 a.m.–7 p.m. Thursdays–Tuesdays; closed Wednesdays. 725-2654 or (800) 683-0922.

Day Care/Baby Sitting Day care is provided for children ages six weeks to 12 years by Westville Day care on Main Street in Mathews. Hours: 6 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday–Friday. 725-7640.

Veterinary Services Mathews Veterinary Services, Route 198, Blakes. 725-4123.

Recreation

Mathews Recreation Park is next to Mathews High School. It has a softball field, a basketball court, a playground and two tennis courts with lights.

Public Water Access Most of the following public access areas may be used for fishing, picnicking and swimming. Some uses are restricted at certain access points and some sites are bordered closely by private property; please avoid trespassing:

Auburn Public Landing off Route 620 is on the North River.

Bayside at the end of Route 633 on Gwynn's Island at the Bay is a very small beach.

Davis Creek Landing, with a 175-foot pier, is on Route 689 and leads to Mobjack Bay. It is used by local watermen.

Doctor's Creek Landing is at Route 691 and the Bay.

Route 645 at the Bay has a beach and a portable boat may be launched there. Please observe

continued on following page

continued from previous page

no trespassing signs.

Haven Beach on Route 643 at the Bay has a beach and a portable boat may be launched there.

White's Creek Public Landing at Route 682 and the Bay is used commercially now.

Horn Harbor Landing is on Route 698 at the Bay.

Edwards Creek Public Dock on Route 672 is used by local watermen.

New Point Comfort Island at the Bay is accessible only by boat at high tide.

New Point Comfort Observation Walkway is at the end of Route 600 and offers a view of the historic lighthouse.

Winter Harbor Landing is at Route 611 and Winter Harbor.

Winter Harbor Haven is at Route 608 and Winter Harbor.

Warehouse Landing at Route 631 and Piankatank River.

Piankatank River Landing on Route 632, with beach.

Roane's Point Landing on Route 630 accesses the Piankatank River.

Rose's Creek is at Route 662 and the Bay and is used by local watermen.

Williams Wharf Landing is a public access facility for small engineless watercraft such as canoes, kayaks, rowing shells and small sailboats. There are two floating docks for easy launching of boats, and the facility also offers opportunities to learn to row for exercise or fun. At the end of Route 614 (Williams Wharf Road) off of Route 14, two miles south of Mathews Courthouse. It is open daily.

To change or update Mathews information, contact tchillemi@ssentinel.com.

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Rivah Parks & Natural Areas

Children play in the sand on the edge of the Potomac River at Westmoreland State Park.

Essex

Marsh Street Park Marsh Street in Tappahannock, run by Essex County Parks and Recreation Department, Pool open starting June 11, Tuesdays–Saturdays 11 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sundays 1 p.m.–6 p.m. 443-2470.

Gloucester

Beaverdam Park at the end of Route 616, Roaring Springs Road, contains a 635-acre freshwater lake. Built in 1990, 11 fish attractors and several species of fish are found there. Canoes, paddleboats, and Jon boats with or without electric motors are for rent, or you may launch your own boats for a fee. Motors powered by fuels are not permitted. The park also has a playground, picnic shelter and an extensive hiking trail system including an interpretive trail, a multi use trail for horseback riding or biking and an exercise trail. The park is open year around from sunrise to sunset. Fishing and hunting licenses, bait and snacks are available at the ranger station. For information call 693-2107 or 693-2355.

Tyndall Point Park contains remnants of Confederate and Union fortifications. It is the site of colonial Gloucester Towne, the first building of which was a tobacco warehouse built in 1632. The park is off of Route 17 at Gloucester Point and has open play areas.

Riverwalk at Gloucester Point Beach offers fishing with no license required, public beach and playground, restrooms, snack bar, an elevated observation deck with high powered binoculars to view birds and wildlife.

Lancaster

Belle Isle State Park Route 683. A 700-acre park on the Rappahannock River, Mulberry and Deep Creeks. Open daily sunrise to sunset. Picnic areas, handicap accessible boardwalk and fishing pier, hiking/biking trails, bridle paths, overnight accommodations, motorboat ramp ($3 fee). Canoe rentals ($8 per hour to $25 for a full day) and tandem kayak rentals ($10 per hour to $30 for a full day), bicycle rentals ($3 per hour to $15 for a full day), and motorboat rentals (10 hp: $15 for two hours or $90 for a full day; 25 hp: $22 per hour to $110 for a full day). The park also offers sunset and moonlight canoe trips ($6 per person), nature programs and overnight camping. Parking fee $3 weekends/holidays, $2 weekdays. 462-5030 or dcr.state.va.us.

Mathews

Bethel Beach Natural Area Preserve Turn left on Rt. 611 just south of the town of Mathews. Turn right on Rt. 643, then left on Rt. 609. This 50-acre parcel contains a sandy beach, low dunes and salt marsh habitat bordering the Chesapeake Bay. Over 90 bird species have been reported on the preserve, which also protects the globally rare Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle.

Port Fun with a playground, ball fields and tennis courts, is on Route 14 about a mile north of Mathews Courthouse.

Middlesex

Taber Park Rappahannock Avenue in Urbanna (for residents and guests of residents): playground, swimming and tennis.

Deltaville Community Association Park Route 33 in Deltaville (for residents and guests of residents): playground, tennis, swimming and basketball.

Holly Point Nature Park in Deltaville offers a tranquil retreat on the banks of Mill Creek by Fishing Bay. There are benches and space for picnicking, bird watching or walking the wooded nature trail. Visitors can explore the fish-shaped wildflower meadow and view the boats exhibited on the grounds by the Deltaville Maritime Museum. There is a delightful children's garden with plants marked to exploit their taste, smell and touch. The park plans to have exercise stations along the trail and a nautical playground. The park is open daily from 9 a.m. until dusk.

King George

Caledon Natural Area Rt. 218. A National Natural Landmark, Caledon was the early colonial seat of the Alexander family. John and Philip Alexander founded the city of Alexandria and established Caledon Plantation in 1659. Caledon is the summer home for one of the largest concentrations of bald eagles on the East Coast. Preservation of the national bird's habitat is the primary focus of the natural area. Five hiking trails in the natural area are open year-round and take park visitors through environmentally sensitive marshlands and picturesque wooded areas of the park. The 3.5-mile Boyd's Hole Trail leading to the Potomac River is the most popular of the trails. Because human traffic disturbs the park's summer population of roosting and foraging eagles, this trail is only open from Oct. 1–March 31. Limited tours of the eagle area are offered mid-June through August by reservation only. Park guests can learn more about the natural history of Caledon and the American bald eagle by touring the visitor center. Interpretive Programs: Eagle tours, Junior Rangers night hikes, conducted walks, astronomy, storytelling, bonfire programs, birdwatching and crafts. (800) 933-PARK.

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More Rivah Parks & Natural Areas

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Barnesfield Park Highway 301 at the Potomac Gateway Welcome Center, King George. 175-acre county park on the Potomac River with nature trails, picnic areas and playground. Nature trails and beach fishing along Potomac River shore. (540) 663-3205.

Northumberland

Bush Mill Stream Natural Area Preserve At the mouth of Bush Mill Stream freshwater meets the saltwater of the Great Wicomico River. Fresh to brackish tidal marshes and mud flats are hidden between the steep-sided forested shores of this upper Coastal Plain stream. The quiet waters are home and resting area for an abundance of waterfowl and wading birds, including colonial nesting birds, raptors and large numbers of great blue herons. Access can be gained by foot or canoe. Public access facilities are open during daylight hours and include trails, a boardwalk, a wildlife viewing platform and interpretive signs. Four miles from Heathsville on Route 201, continue straight on Route 642 for half a mile, and turn left at the sign.

Hughlett Point Natural Area Preserve This 205-acre preserve has sand beaches on the Chesapeake Bay and the mouth of Dividing Creek, hiking trails and observation decks to view shorebirds, deer, turkey and migratory waterfowl. The beaches are home to the threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle. From Kilmarnock, take Route 200 north then right on Route 606 to the end. Turn right on Route 605. From Burgess, take Route 200 south then left on Route 606 to the end. Turn right on 605. 225-2303.

Dameron Marsh Natural Area Preserve This 316-acre preserve contains one of the most significant wetlands on the Chesapeake Bay for marsh-bird communities, and its pristine sand beach habitat is highly important for the threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle. Public access facilities include a trail and boardwalk, a wildlife viewing platform, and a small parking area. Part or all of the preserve may be periodically closed for resource protection or resource management activities. For additional information or to arrange a visit, contact Rebecca Wilson at 225-2303.

Richmond

Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, 336 Wilna Road, Warsaw. This is the newest of four refuges that comprise the Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Established in 1996, the goal of the refuge is to protect 20,000 acres of wetlands and associated uplands along the river and its major tributaries. As of November 2004, the refuge had protected 6,545 acres. Archeological and historic sites are abundant on both sides of the river. The 18th century Bristol Iron Works was located adjacent to the refuge's Toby's Point Tract, while the Leedstown Resolves, a 1766 protest against the Stamp Act, was signed near the refuge's Mothershead Tract. Old pilings can still be seen from the days when steamboats made regular stops to pick up produce and passengers for transport to the Port of Baltimore. At least four federally-listed threatened or endangered species may be found within the refuge boundary, including the American bald eagle, peregrine falcon, shortnose sturgeon, and sensitive joint vetch. The state's largest wintering roost for bald eagles is located within the refuge boundary. Shorebirds, neotropical migrant songbirds, raptors, and marsh birds rely on the Rappahannock River's corridors during the spring and fall migration periods. The refuge is restoring native grasslands and riparian forests along the river and tributary streams to provide additional habitat for these species. The Refuge hosts three sites on the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail. For more information about this trail, please visit www.dgif.state.va.us/wildlife/vbwt/index.asp.

Totuskey Tricentennial Park with boat landing, Route 3 at Totuskey Creek Bridge.

Wilna Pond, a 35-acre site, is now open to public fishing. The pond is home to largemouth bass, bluegill sunfish, fliers, yellow bullhead catfish and American eel. The Wilna Unit is open for wildlife observation and photography daily, sunrise to sunset. Access for canoes and kayaks to engage in these activities is available at Wilna Pond. Please note: All Virginia boating laws apply to Wilna Pond. All other refuge units are open for wildlife observation and photography by advanced reservation only. To schedule a visit, please call (804) 333-1470. The refuge headquarters is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., except federal holidays. From Tappahannock,

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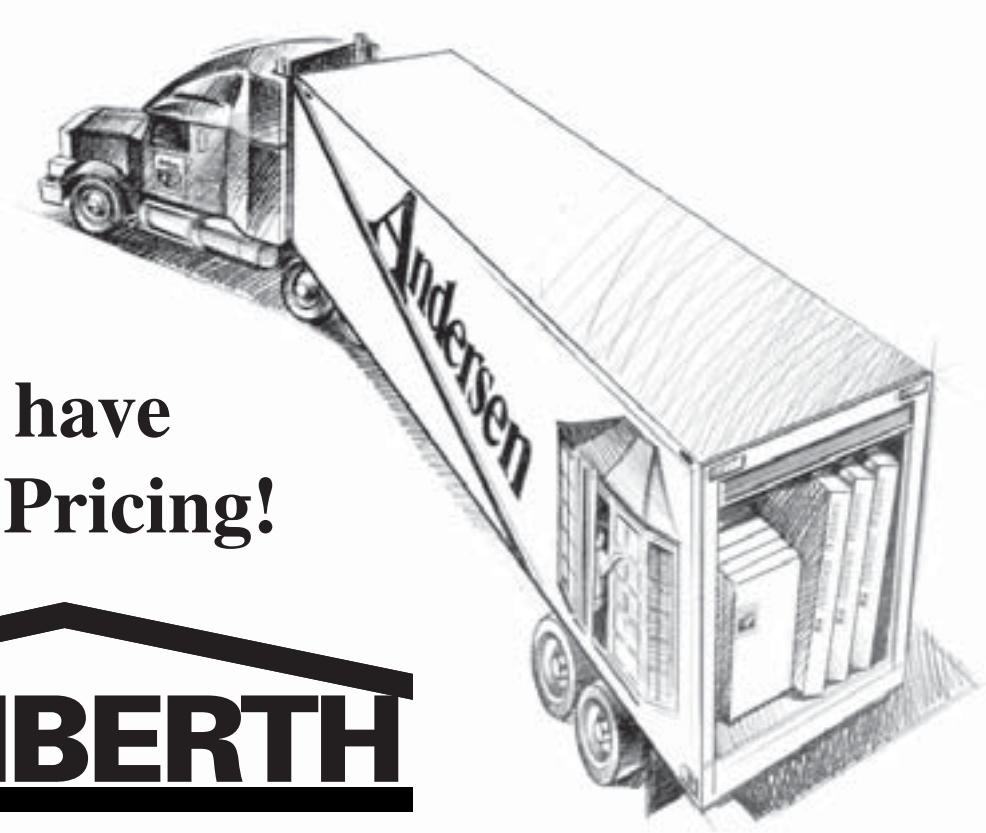

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take US-360 E (across the Rappahannock River, toward Warsaw). Follow US-360 E for 4.1 miles, then turn left onto Rt. 624/Newland Rd. Follow Newland Rd. for 4.2 miles, then turn left onto Strangeway/Rt 636. Follow Strangeway for 1/4 mile, then turn right onto Sandy Lane/Rt 640. Follow Sandy Lane for 1.1 miles, then turn left into Rappahannock River Valley NWR. 333-1470.

Westmoreland

Hurt Field at Legion Park Route 3 west of Montross. Four-acre public park adjacent to Chandlers Mill Pond offering both active and passive recreational opportunities for county residents.

Oak Grove Park Route 205 between Oak Grove and Colonial Beach. Eight-acre public park featuring a sports field with bleachers, playground and picnic area.

Robin Grove Park on Robin Grove, off Monroe Bay Avenue, Colonial Beach.

Voorhees Nature Preserve A 729-acre preserve on the northeast bank of Rappahannock River, next to the Westmoreland Berry Farm. It is home to the bald eagle and many other birds. Four miles of wooded trails for self-guided walks. The difficulty level is moderate. A trail map and brochure are available at the adjacent Westmoreland Berry Farm store. There are picnic sites, restrooms and pick-your-own fruits and vegetables at the farm. The preserve is open on weekends, 8 a.m.–6 p.m., from April 22 to December 17. For information, call (434) 295-6106.

Westmoreland State Park Six miles northwest of Montross off Route 3. The park extends about one and a half miles along the Potomac River, and its 1,299 acres neighbor the former homes of both George Washington and Robert E. Lee. The park's Horsehead Cliffs provide visitors with a spectacular view of the Potomac River. The park offers hiking, camping, cabins, fishing, boating and swimming. The visitor center, open during summer, gives an informative historical and ecological perspective to an important natural area on the coastal plain.

Mathews Market Days set for September 8-9

The 32nd annual Mathews Market Days Festival will be on Friday and Saturday, September 8-9. There will be many booths displaying local arts and crafts and the food court will feature seafood, homemade limeades, homemade french fries, and other goodies to delight all food lovers.

Numerous local artists will display and sell their artwork at the annual Mathews Art Group Show and Sale. The 2005 Mathews Market Days Limited Edition Poster will also be sold at the festival.

The "No Name" Antique and Classic Car Show will be held at the Lee-Jackson/Thomas Hunter School Complex on Saturday. Boy Scout Troop 114 will sell hot dogs, popcorn and drinks at the show.

A book sale Friday and Saturday will benefit the Mathews Memorial Library Fund. This event will be held in the Orrell Annex behind the main library. Bay Quilters will be in the John Warren Cooke Room of the main Library.

A 5K/10K run and fun walk to benefit the Mathews County Land Conservancy will take place early Saturday morning.

If you are a local craftsperson or artist and have something beautiful you've created and just can't bear to sell, enter it in the Mathews Market Days Craft Fair and Quilt Show. First, second, and third class ribbons will be awarded as well as a prize for best in show.

The Youth Corner is designed for children 12 and under and will include rides, pet parade, Buttons the Clown, food festival and lots of other fun.

Both outside and inside music will be provided all day Saturday. The Saturday Night Live street dance will begin at 8 p.m. The music of "Joey and the Jammers" will be featured.

Mathews Market Days is an alcohol-free event. Admission is free. Shuttle bus transportation is provided from Mathews High School (Route 14) and Thomas Hunter Middle School (Route 611) parking lots on Saturday.

Call Carole Lewis at the Extension Office at 725-7196 to reach a committee member, or for further information log onto www.mathewsmarketdays.org.

Pancake supper set

The Middlesex Lions Club will hold a pancake supper at the Deltaville Community Center on Friday, August 25, from 5 to 8 p.m. Tickets are $5.

Middlesex Library plans concert series

On Thursday, August 3, "Riversong,"a celtic and folk music group from Northumberland County, will take the stage at 7 p.m. at Lower United Methodist Church in Hartfield as part of the Middlesex Public Library Summer Concert Series.

The "Tri Chamber Ensemble" will perform Renaissance music on Thursday, August 18. Local talent will also be featured that night so, if you would like to perform, please call 758-5717. The library is anxious to have performers of all ages.

The final performance will be by "Devotion," a gospel choir led by Tony Ruffin and accompanied by Lamar Gresham.

All concerts are free and open to the public.

Carnival, hoop competition set

There will be a benefit carnival/basketball competition for parents and children of all ages on Saturday, August 12, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Tom Carter Memorial Gym at Cooks Corner.

Call 758-4434 for details.

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Welcome to Richmond County

■ Size: 203 square miles ■ Shoreline: 141.9 miles
■ Population: 8,800

The Richmond County Fair, including a car show, nightly entertainment and carnival rides, will be held from August 22 to 26 in Warsaw. Fair hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, August 22, 23 and 24 are 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. The fair opens at 10 a.m. and continues until midnight on Friday and Saturday, August 25 and 26.

History

Known commonly as the Gateway to the Northern Neck, Richmond County was established in 1692 from the old Rappahannock County.

Originally explored by Captain John Smith in 1607–1608, the county was settled in 1640 when people migrated up from settlements below the Rappahannock River. It was presumably named after the First Duke of Richmond, cousin to both King William III and Queen Mary. One of the early settlers was Colonel Moore Fauntleroy, who patented land in the county in 1650.

The first county seat was thought to be at the mouth of Little Carter's Creek, then moved to Naylors, an early river settlement. The seat was moved inland in 1730 and renamed the Richmond County Courthouse. In 1831, the name was changed to Warsaw in sympathy with the Polish struggle for independence. Warsaw was incorporated as the county's only town in 1947 and is now the site of the court house, built in 1748, and the 188-year-old clerk's office, which housed the Richmond County Museum from 1992 to 1999.

Richmond County became the Gateway to the Northern Neck in 1927 when the Downing Bridge across the Rappahannock River at Tappahannock was opened, connecting Richmond County to Essex and opening up travel to and from the Northern Neck. The bridge, which replaced 200 years of ferry service, was dedicated by Sen. Thomas Downing of the Northern Neck.

Richmond County was the home of the last president to be elected under the Articles of Confederation. In 1788, Judge Cyrus Griffin was elected president of the U.S. Congress Assembly and held that position until the U.S. Constitution was adopted and his successor, George Washington, was elected as the first President of the U. S.

William A. Jones gained recognition for Richmond County in 1916 when, in supporting self-government for all people, he authorized a bill that guaranteed independence for the Philippines. In 1924, the people of the Philippines erected a memorial at Jones' gravesite in the St. John's Episcopal Churchyard in Warsaw.

Government

County Administrator: William E. Duncanson, Route 360, Warsaw. Phone: 333-3415; Fax: 333-3408. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

County tax rates (per $100): real estate, $.63; personal property, $3.50.

Warsaw Town Manager: John Slusser, Belleville Road, Warsaw. Phone: 333-3737. Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Warsaw tax rates (per $100): real estate, $.08; personal property, $.60.

Chamber of Commerce

Richmond County Chamber of Commerce, 313-2252.

Services

Trash Service Town of Warsaw, P.O. Box 730, Warsaw, Va. 22572; phone: 333-3737. Collection sites are on Route 624 near Heritage Park Resort; on Route 360 near Indianfield, and on Route 3 in Farnham. Hours: 7:30 a.m.–7 p.m. Monday–Friday; 7 a.m.–7 p.m. Saturday, and 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m. Sunday.

Day Care/Baby Sitting Walnut Street Day Care, 102 Walnut Street, Warsaw, state licensed, full- and part-time day care available. 333-9322. McKenna & Friends Children Center, 235 Main Street, Warsaw, state licensed, full- and part-time day care available. 333-4006.

Churches Call Rev. Rodney Sidney, 333-4280, for reference and directions to all denominations in Richmond County.

ABC Store Route 360 in Warsaw, Times Square Shopping Center, 333-3505; Hours: Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Veterinary Services Warsaw Animal Clinic, Dr. Samuel Marston and Dr. Michael Molineaux, North Lakeside Drive, Warsaw. Phone: 333-3433. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Recreation

Public Boat Ramps Fishing Pier, Route 624 to Route 638; Fones Cliff, Route 624 to Route 622; Route 3 at Totuskey Creek Bridge; Canoe Landing, Route 608 at Farnham Creek.

Public Beach Naylors Beach and Campground. Take Route 360 to Route 624 to Route 634.

Boat Cruises Tangier and Chesapeake cruises, visiting Ingleside Plantation. 453-BOAT.

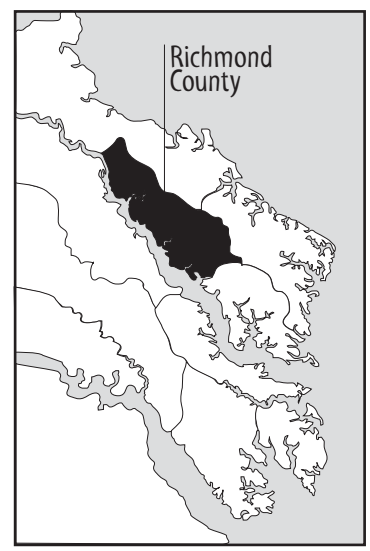
Heritage Park Resort $2 admission fee, tennis courts, boat ramp, picnic area, hiking and nature trails; Route 624.

Public Hiking Trails Richmond County trail behind Rappahannock Community College, Route 360, Warsaw.

Ball Fields Richmond County Little League, Route 3 in Warsaw. Hours vary. 333-5105.

Public Recreation Richmond County YMCA serves the public with various programming throughout the year. Public swimming pool in Lively. 333-4117.

To change or update Richmond County information, contact lvaldrighi@rrecord.com.



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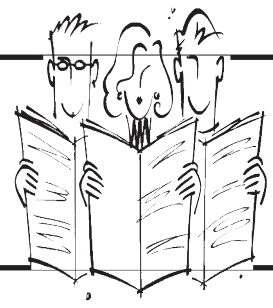

MAG scholarship raffle set

Rita D'Amico's Mathews Celebration Platter depicts things she loves about the county. "Fishing, crabbing, watermen, the lighthouse, herons, sailing, they're all there", says D'Amico of the decorative elements in the big and beautiful pottery piece offered as one of the two prizes for the Mathews Art Gallery's (MAG) annual scholarship raffle.

The one-of-a-kind platter is carved on front and back surfaces, by the Cobbs Creek resident. After the first firing, multiple layers of glaze are applied. D'Amico says that while the vessel is considered an art piece, it was high fired to make it safe to hold food.

The other prize, equally appealing to those who treasure Mathews and its waterscapes, is Buddy Southall's original oil painting of Horn Harbor.

Mathews resident Southall says that the boat in the picture was always there. When he lived in the Horn Harbor area, he would sail past the spot often, admiring the quiet and peace each time. Both artists are MAG members. Individual tickets for the raffle cost $2 each or three tickets for $5 and are available at the Gallery at 206 Main Street, at the Mathews Visitors Center or from MAG members. The drawing will be held on September 9. Money raised provides funding for the art group's scholarship. The most recent recipient of a $1,000 scholarship funded by the 2005 raffle was Clarissa Sheppard, a 2006 Mathews High School graduate. For more information, phone 804-735-3326.

Quilt expert to visit

The Reedville Fishermen's Museum Quilters have arranged for Neva Hart, a certified quilt appraiser and member of the Professional Association of Appraisers–Quilted Textiles, to be at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum on September 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The museum also will host an Antique Boat Show and Flea Market that day.

Bring quilts and get a verbal appraisal for $15 each or a written one for $45.

Hart will also lead a discussion on September 8 at 3 p.m., "Know your quilts and how to add value to them" using quilts brought in by attendees for her examples. The discussion will be held at the Bethany Methodist Church Parish Hall, next door to the museum. The entry fee is $5 and attendees are invited to bring in no more than two quilts.

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Welcome to Lancaster County

■ Size: 136.5 square miles ■ Shoreline: 277 miles
■ Population: 11,300

History

Indians had occupied the Northern Neck for some 10,000 years when Capt. John Smith sailed up the Rappahannock River in 1608. The Powhatan Confederate was represented here by the Moraughtacunds and the Cuttatawomen tribes. A short 43 years later, Lancaster County was formed from neighboring Northumberland.

Families of notable influence in the social, political and economic climate of the colonies built magnificent "empires" here, and family names like Carter and Ball still are prevalent today.

Robert "King" Carter (1663–1732) of Corotoman was the son of the immigrant John Carter, who acquired property and lived at Corotoman from 1654 until his death in 1669.

At the time of his death, his holdings had increased to some 300,000 acres, and over 1,000 slaves were working his various plantations. There were 18 buildings on the estate then (not counting the Mansion House he built, which burned three years prior to his death).

Married twice, he had 15 children. Among King Carter's descendants were eight governors of Virginia, three signers of the Declaration of Independence, two presidents, Robert E. Lee, and Supreme Court Justice Edward D. White.

Carter and his two wives are buried at Christ Church, the church he paid to have built a few miles from Corotoman.

The Balls, meanwhile, established themselves at Millenbeck, and at Epping Forest. Mary Ball, later to become the mother of George Washington, was born in 1708–09.

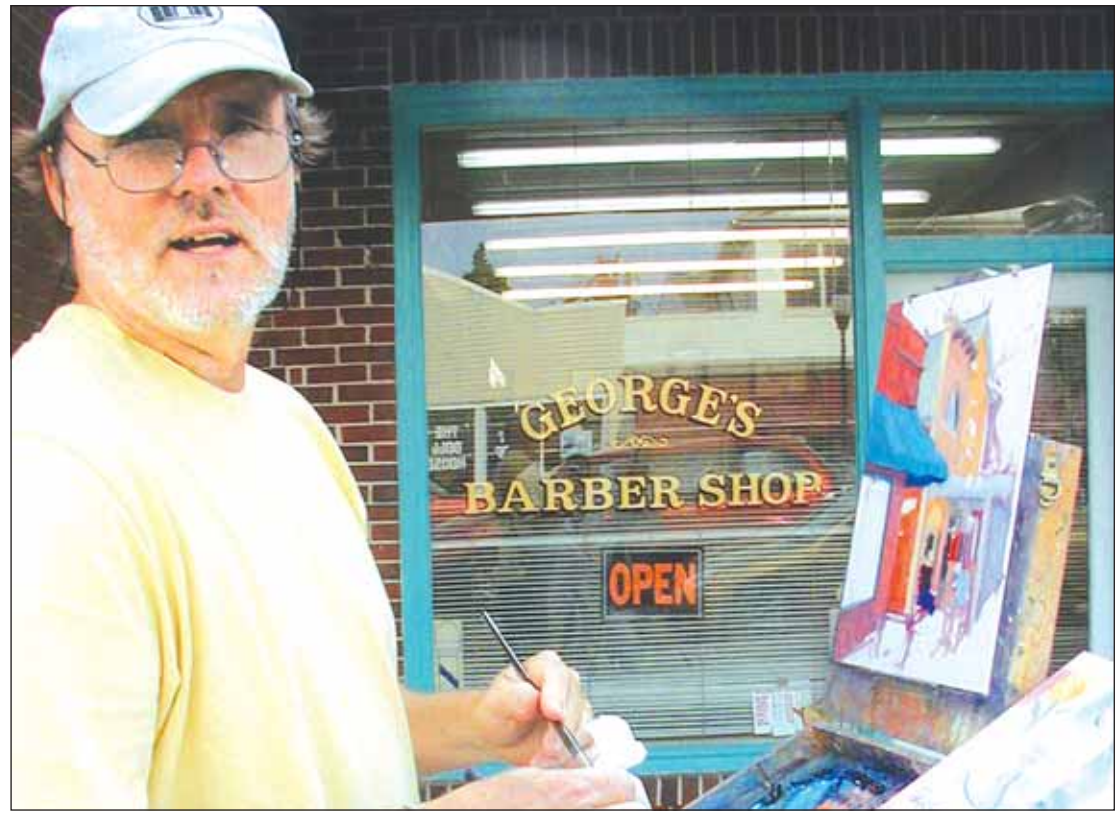
A courthouse was established in 1698 at Queenstown, a newly formed port town on the Corrotoman River. In 1742, the court was moved to Lancaster.

Government

County Administrator William H. Pennell Jr., 8311 Mary Ball Road, Lancaster. Phone 462-5129, FAX 462-0031. Hours: 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday except holidays.

County tax rates (per $100): Real estate, $.41; personal property, $1.52.

Kilmarnock Town Manager Lee Capps, 514 North Main Street, Kilmarnock. Phone 435-1552, FAX 435-1587. Hours: 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday except holidays.



Kilmarnock is celebrating the new look of Main Street with a "Steptoe's Walk-About" the first Friday of each month, when businesses and shops stay open until 7 p.m. The Rappahannock Art League's Charles Van Denburgh was one of several artists about town on July 7. The next event is on August 4.

Town tax rates (per $100): Real estate, $.14; personal property, $.16.

White Stone Town Manager Garey Conrad, 572 Chesapeake Drive, White Stone. Phone 435-3260. Hours: 9 a.m.–noon and 1–5 p.m. Monday–Wednesday.

Irvington Town Administrator Gil Unangst, 235 Steamboat Road, Irvington. Phone 438-6230; Fax: 438-6265. Hours: 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Monday–Friday except holidays.

Chamber of Commerce

Irvington Chamber of Commerce. 438-6230.

Kilmarnock Chamber of Commerce, 435-2273 or 435-1302, meets at 8 a.m. every first Tuesday in the town hall. The Kilmarnock Information Center is in the Kilmarnock Antique Mall, 144 School Street.

Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce. Located next to the Kilmarnock Town Hall on north Main Street. 435-6092.

Services

Trash Services Residential collections: Doggett Disposal Service, Mollusk, 462-5296, and Northern Neck Refuse, Lottsburg, 529-7854.

County refuse and recycling collection centers (open 7 a.m.–7 p.m. daily): Lancaster, Route 604, Regina Road; Kilmarnock-Weems, Route 200; Nuttsville, Route 723.

Day Care/Baby Sitting Services Kilmarnock YMCA, licensed day care offering full and part-time services. 435-0223.

Churches Call Rev. Richard Fichter Jr., 435-1285, for reference and directions to all denominations in Lancaster County.

Ferry Schedule The Merry Point Ferry, Route 604, crosses the Western Branch of the Corrotoman River 7 a.m.–7 p.m. Monday–Saturday, closed Sunday. No charge. Passenger vehicles only.

ABC Store Virginia ABC Package Store, Main Street, Kilmarnock, 10 a.m.–9 p.m. Monday–Saturday. 435-1845.

Veterinary Services Bayside Animal Hospital, Route 3 North, White Stone, 435-2896; Kilmarnock Animal Hospital, Lee Street, Kilmarnock, 435-6320.

Recreation

Public Beach Westland Beach at the terminus of Route 695 provides public access to the Chesapeake Bay.

Public Kayak Launch Off Route 695 on Windmill Point Creek. Accessible from the Westland Beach public parking area at the intersection of Windmill Point Road and Brightwaters Drive.

Public Kayak Launch Kayaks and canoes may be launched at Belle Isle State Park, Route 683, at the end of Route 354.

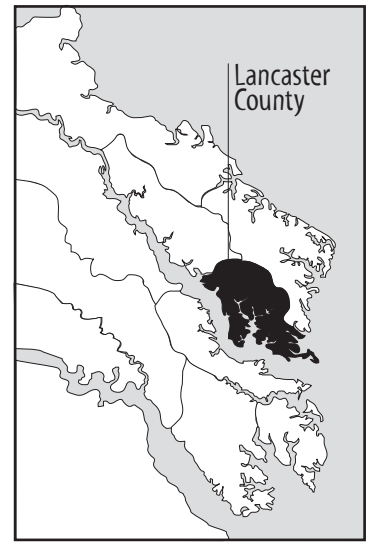
Hiking Trails Hickory Hollow Trail, 2 miles of marked trail, Route 604, Regina Road.

Boat Cruises Classic Cruising and Charters LLC, Irvington, offers morning and afternoon leisurely excursions. 438-1212.

Ball Fields Lancaster County Youth Park, Route 200, Kilmarnock, boys and girls diamond sports, game times and dates vary. 435-3423.

Public Recreation The Lower Northern Neck YMCA serves the public recreation function for Lancaster County. Various programming throughout the year. Public swimming pool located in Lively. 435-0223.

To change or update Lancaster information, contact lvaldrighi@rrecord.com.



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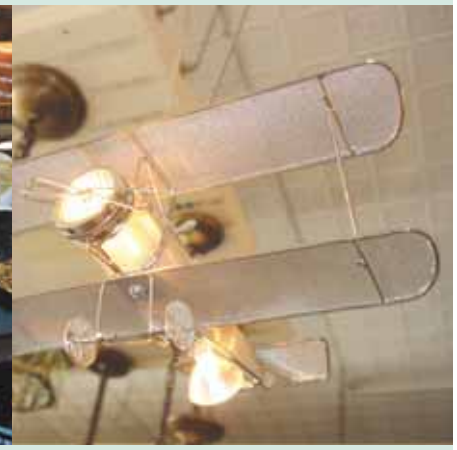

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