

**Community calendar**

**Thursday, Oct. 6**

**AMERICAN LEGION BINGO** - Every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Post 49, 818 S. Church St., Smithfield. Increased attendance has led to single-game jackpots of up to \$60 and progressive games of up to \$1,000. Doors open at 5 p.m.; card sales begin at 6. Refreshments are available from the Legion Auxiliary on site. For up-to-date information (in case of inclement weather, etc.) visit the post's Facebook page (Post49SmithfieldVA).

**Saturday, Oct. 8**

**SOUPER SATURDAY!** - Isle of Wight Christian Outreach Program will host its annual Souper Saturday to raise funds for Isle of Wight Social Services' Fuel Assistance Program. Held at Trinity United Methodist, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., dine-in and drive-thru. Entertainment by Smithfield High Marching Band. Meals include homemade soup, hot dog, dessert and a drink for a \$5 donation. To donate soups or desserts, contact coordinator Cris Lawrence at 757-810-4165 or frogccl@aol.com.

**JUST DESSERTS** - All Y'All Players presents Just Desserts a Murder Mystery by Andrew Hull on Saturday, Oct. 8, at 6 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 9, at 2 p.m. at the Gatling Pointe Yacht Club. Limited seating. Proceeds to benefit SHS Special Education Student Support Fund. Tickets can be purchased via a link on the Gatling Pointe Yacht Club's Facebook page: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/just-desserts-murder-mystery-dinner-and-fundraiser-all-yall-player>

**WAKEFIELD COMMUNITY DAY** - The Wakefield Foundation will hold its annual Community Day at 100 Wilson Ave. Activities begin with a parade at 10 a.m., and festivities, including food, music and vendors, continue to 3 p.m. The Wakefield Historical Association will sponsor an exhibit inside the building to include the large baby doll collection of Cheryl Boykin West and a large collection of toy tractors owned by Charles "Sonny" Boykin. Also, the Wakefield Historical Association will have its latest book for sale titled "Wakefield - a journey in time."

**TOUR** - 10 a.m. Ivy Hill Cemetery Tour. This walk is a discussion of the signs, symbols and notable burials in the historic rural cemetery, which was established in 1887. Please wear comfortable walking shoes. \$5 per person. Cash or check. Tour meets at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 451 N. Church St., Smithfield. 757-408-1935.

**HOG JOG RACE** - 9 a.m. Commerce Street, Smithfield This charity 5K run/walk is back. Run through historic downtown Smithfield and help the Christian Outreach Program. Treats and beverages will be available after the race. Live music provided by DJ Darryl Bush. The annual event has raised over \$200,000 to date for Christian Outreach Program. Race begins at 9 a.m. followed by the Piglet Run (for children) at approximately 10 a.m. Entry fee for 5K is \$30. For a team of five or more, it's \$25 per person. Entry fee for the kids run, ages 10 and under, is \$10.

**SMITHFIELD HOG JOG** - The Woman's Club of Smithfield is hosting a group for the Smithfield Hog Jog. Team captain is Peggy Christian. Meet at 9 a.m. near the Smithfield Center. Women interested in joining the club are welcome. Contact Christian at pchrstn@charter.net.

**PICKERS MARKET** - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 315 Main St., Smithfield. Located in the parking lot behind When Pigs Fly at 315 Main St. The monthly vintage and antiques market is held April-November on the second Saturday. Free admission. For information call 757-357-5182.

**Sunday, Oct., 9**

**ANNUAL LAY WITNESS** - Campbell's Chapel AME will observe annual Lay Witness Sunday with Sister Tracey L. Pierce Dungee as speaker.

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS** - Christ Episcopal Church will conduct the "Blessing of the Animals" at 4 p.m. on the church lawn at Church and Main streets in Smithfield. The Rev. Carleton Bakkum invites all of God's creatures to come and receive a special St. Francis blessing. Should an elephant or so appear, Bakkum will meet you in the parking lot, if it is more convenient.



**Student director Mary Shelor marches the Smithfield High School band back inside after practice.**

*Marching on*

**Student directors instrumental in band leadership transition**

**By Stephen Faleski**  
*Staff Writer*

Since the departure of former Smithfield High School band director Joel Joyner last school year, 17-year-old senior Mary Shelor has been doing what she can to provide a sense of normalcy for her fellow band members.

On Mondays after school, the piccolo player and flutist-turned-director can be found either in the school's band room or leading practice at Smithfield High's football field. On this particular Monday, Sept. 26, it's the latter.

Joyner, a retired Army sergeant major who'd led the band since 2014, had begun training Shelor as a student director prior to taking medical leave in March and retiring at the end of the last school year.

Shelor, who's been playing with the band since seventh grade, said she received word in June, just three days prior to Smithfield High's graduation commencement, that she'd been appointed to fill in as the band's director for the ceremony.

"It was intimidating. ... It was kind of spur of the moment," Shelor said, speaking to The Smithfield Times at the Sept. 26 band practice.

But week after week since then, she's risen to the challenge of her new role, figuratively and literally, ascending the steps of a portable director's podium on the football field.

"Band, attention!" she commands.

"Smithfield!" the band shouts in response, instruments at the ready, each student standing where he or she would be positioned if playing at halftime during a football game.

"Instruments up!" Shelor orders.

"Packers!" the band responds in unison. Shelor begins counting, "One. Two. One. Two. Ready. Play!"

On cue, the band begins to play "The Star Spangled Banner," followed by Michael Jackson's "Beat It" and "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough."

Shelor isn't the only one to find herself in a new leadership role this school year. Sept. 26 was also Stephen Syrell's first day on the job as Smithfield High's new band director.

Prior to his reassignment, Syrell had served in the same role at Westside Elementary School for eight years. Many of Smithfield High's current band members started with him at Westside.

Before Syrell's arrival, Shelor and junior Alex Muir, who plays the clarinet and tenor saxophone, had been working together to tutor their fellow band members during the school day.

From March through Sept. 23, Smithfield High had employed a long-term substitute for the band room who, in Shelor's words, was "more of a proctor."

"I've had to lead the band classes," Shelor said.

Since the start of the current school year, she'd been essentially teaching Smithfield High's third block symphonic course, with Muir doing the same for the second block jazz.

Syrell told the Times it's always been his aspiration to be a high school band director.

"Being with an advanced group, you get to do a lot more with artistic expression," he said.

Still, he misses watching his current Westside students progress from being nervous to even hold an instrument to being confident enough to perform with a group. He hopes to still find the time to do concerts with them.

Having student directors like Shelor and Muir has been a welcome change.

"It takes a lot of responsibility off my shoulders," Syrell said.

According to Isle of Wight County Schools spokeswoman Lynn Briggs, the school system had hired someone over the summer to replace Joyner, but that person ended up resigning before the start of the school year. As of Sept. 8, the school system was still advertising the position.



**Mary Shelor, standing on a portable conductor's podium, directs band members during halftime show practice.**



**Brooke Parker performs with her baton as the band plays.**



**Elaine Berman plays her trumpet on the 45-yard line.**



# SECOND FRONT

## Community calendar

### Sunday, Jan. 30

**BATTLE OF SMITHFIELD WALKING TOUR** - Isle of Wight Museum 103 Main Street, Smithfield 2 - 3 p.m. 2022 marks the 158th anniversary of the Battle of Smithfield. Meet your guide at the Isle of Wight Museum for a brief overview of this Civil War battle. Afterwards, program participants will walk to several sites along Main Street and Church Street to note the locations of significant events from January 30 to February 2, 1864. Admission is free. For more details call 757.356.1223.

### Saturday, Feb. 5

**MEETING** - Colonel William Allen Chapter will have its annual Saturday meeting at Smithfield Station. Social is at 10:30 a.m. with the meeting starting promptly at 11 a.m. Retired Lt. Col. Albert Burckard will speak about Col. Josiah Parker. Anyone who can trace their ancestry to the Revolutionary War is invited to attend the meeting and apply for membership.

### Tuesday, Feb. 8

**TOWN HALL** - School Board members John Collick and Michael Vines will co-host a Town Hall meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Windsor Elementary School cafeteria. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

### Saturday, Feb. 12

**SMITHFIELD LIONS MUSIC COMPETITION** - The Smithfield Lions Club will hold its annual James A. Bland Memorial Music Scholarship Contest at 1 p.m. at Hope Presbyterian Church, 13490 Benns Church Blvd., Smithfield. This is the first rung of an escalating series of music contests (local, regional, district and state) sponsored by the Lions Clubs of Virginia, culminating in scholarships for music study. This preliminary contest is open to youth attending elementary, middle, junior or senior high school (or equivalent home-schooled level) who are residents of Virginia. Contestants are not required to be from Smithfield, but are limited to participating in only one local competition. For those advancing as far as the state finals, the Lions award scholarships of \$2,500 for first place, \$2,000 for second place, \$1,500 for third place and cash awards of \$1,000 for fourth, fifth and sixth places to vocal and instrumental finalists. The state finals are held in conjunction with the Virginia Lions State Convention. Interested instrumentalists and vocalists may obtain contest rules and applications from Lion Katie Lemon at [lemon2@hotmail.com](mailto:lemon2@hotmail.com). Also, complete, scan and send applications to [lemon2@hotmail.com](mailto:lemon2@hotmail.com). Deadline for submitting completed applications is Feb 10.

### Saturday, March 12

**BQ PORK CHOP DINNER** - Sponsored by the Windsor Ruritan Club, 3:30-6:30 p.m. at the Windsor Ruritan Building on Community Drive. Takeout only. \$12 donation. For tickets and information, contact Jake Redd at 757-390-6090.

### ONGOING AND UPCOMING

**SCHOLARSHIP** - The Kiwanis Club of Carrollton is offering applications to all seniors for four \$1,000 higher education scholarships. The deadline to apply is March 31. Contact Sherry Vincent at [sherryvincent.org](mailto:sherryvincent.org) or call 757-238-7071 for an application.

**RESTAURANT WEEK IS COMING** - Jan. 28-Feb. 5 Check [www.genuinesmithfieldva.com/events/detail/520/restaurant-week-2022/36638](http://www.genuinesmithfieldva.com/events/detail/520/restaurant-week-2022/36638) for the list of participating restaurants and retail food and beverage specialty shops. Click on the "Documents tab" in the link to see menus. For more information call 757-357-5182.

**QUILT EXHIBIT** - Arts Center @319 Main Street, Smithfield. New in the gallery: Color My World Cozy, an exhibit of quilts made by the "Angel Quilters" and members of the Isle of Wight Arts League. Quilts of all sizes available. Open seven days a week. For more information call 757-357-7707.

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SNOW  
DAY



Snow fell in two separate storm systems Thursday and Friday-Saturday last week, and local folks got out to enjoy the winter weather and see the beautiful scenery around downtown Smithfield. Pictured clockwise from top right, 4-year-old Landon Watson has fun in his Smithfield backyard, submitted by Rachel Watson; a snowy scene along Jericho Road submitted by Dianna Keen; snow surrounds homes in the Smithfield area; Lylah Bradley, 9, and her brother, Elijah, 6, play in the snow at Windsor Castle Park; Allen and Ashley Farr and Mallory Bradley watch their children play in the snow at Windsor Castle Park; the LOVEwork sign in downtown Smithfield is surrounded by snow in front of The Smithfield Times building.





**Community calendar**

**Wednesday, May 4**

**DAR MEETING** - The Colonel William Allen Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, will meet at Smithfield Station. Social time is at 10:30 a.m., followed by the meeting at 11 a.m. The program topic will be "Keeping Your Money and Your Information Safe," presented by Virginia DAR District 1 Director Susie Dewing.

**Thursday, May 5**

**LUNCH & LEARN: National Postcard Week** - 12:30 p.m. This national week, held the first full week of May since 1984, is an annual event to promote the use of postcards. Join this lecture all about written communication. Afterward participants can peruse the offerings in the museum's gift shop and mail a few of their own postcards. Isle of Wight County Museum, 103 Main St., Smithfield. 757-356-1223. www.historicisleofwight.com.

**AMERICAN LEGION BINGO** - Every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Post 49, 818 S. Church St., Smithfield. Plenty of seating and progressive payouts of more than \$500. Doors open at 5 p.m.; card sales begin at 6. Refreshments are available from the Legion Auxiliary on site. For up-to-date information (in case of inclement weather, etc.) visit the post's Facebook page (Post49SmithfieldVA).

**Friday, May 6**

**RELAY FOR LIFE WESTERN TIDEWATER** (formerly Isle of Wight/Surry) - 6 p.m. Opening Ceremony and Survivor Lap 9 p.m. Luminaria Ceremony Luter Sports Complex Registration and donations at www.RelayForLife.org/WTVA. For more information or to volunteer with set up, contact Pam Jordan at 757-810-5207 or Pam78@aol.com.

**Saturday, May 7**

**46th ANNUAL PIG PICKIN' FESTIVAL** - Sponsored by the Windsor Ruritan Club. Barbecue pig, cole slaw, beans and bread, \$20 per ticket. Held at Windsor Ruritan Building on Community Drive, takeout only from 3-6 p.m. For tickets and information, contact Jake Redd at 757-390-6090.

**CARROLLTON RURITAN FISH FRY** - 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (or sooner if sold out) at Carrollton Ruritan Clubhouse, 14138 Norsworthy Drive. \$12 platters consist of tilapia, cole slaw, buttered steamed potatoes and hush puppies. Drive-thru service only. Proceeds support community activities.

**HEART MOM 5K RUN** - 8:30 a.m. Windsor Castle Park, 705 Cedar St., Smithfield, presented by Farmers Bank. Fee includes a race shirt, finisher medal, fresh finish flower and two beverages at post-race party. The charity partner for this event is Luter Family YMCA. For information, email info@jandaracing.com.

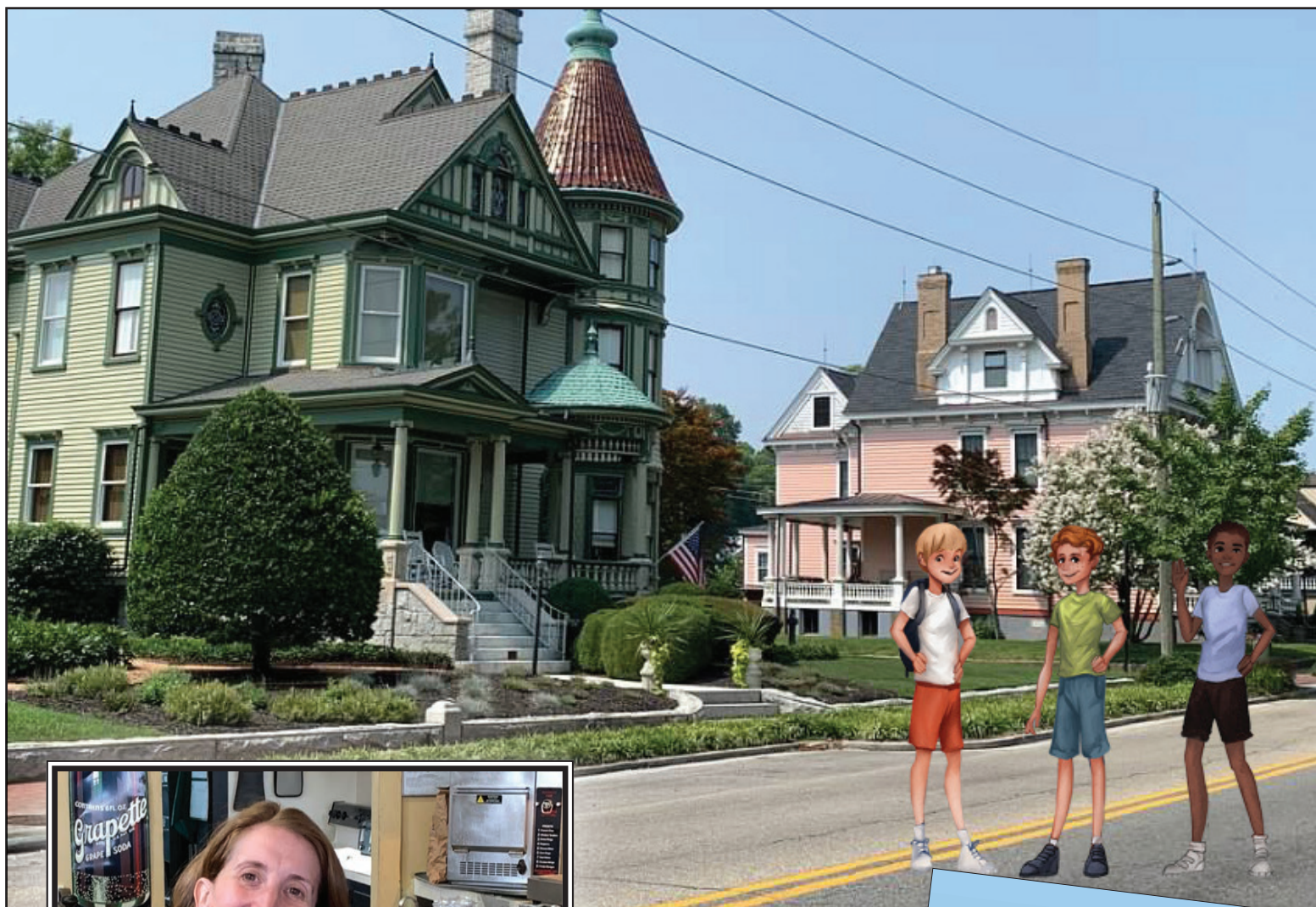
**PLANT SALE** - Western Tidewater Master Gardeners will host a plant sale 9 a.m.-noon at the Carrollton Library, 14362 New Towne Haven Lane. Cash or checks only.

**U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FLOTILLA 59** - Will meet at 7 p.m. in the American Legion Post 49, 818 S. Church St.. All are welcome to attend, including anyone interested in joining as a volunteer. The USCG Auxiliary offers vessel safety inspections and boater safety classes, among other training. For more information contact Mark Middlecoop, Public Affairs Officer, at 757-334-6523 or visit www.aux59.org.

**Sunday, May 8**

**VE DAY: A Bill Mauldin Retrospective** - 2 p.m. Victory in Europe Day, the day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces in 1945, which marked the end of World War II in Europe, will be the lecture topic. William Henry Mauldin was an American editorial cartoonist who won two Pulitzer prizes for his work. This lecture will be a look back on his life and work as well as a look at some of the work by native Smithfield resident Col. John "Jack" C. Dashiell, 1927-2017. Isle of Wight County Museum, 103 Main St., Smithfield. 757-356-1223. www.historicisleofwight.com.

• See CALENDAR, p. 10



Author Tara Fisher wrote a book about her family's adventures, which included a trip through Smithfield. (Photos courtesy of the author)

**Author shows Smithfield some LOVE**

By Lauren McMillen  
 Contributing Writer

"Virginia is for Lovers" is a saying that can be found throughout Virginia, including on license plates and signs. This saying is why you can find LOVE signs throughout the state, including in front of welcome centers, rest areas and tourist stops, such as Main Street in downtown Smithfield.

Many people make it a priority to find the signs and take pictures in front of them. Tara Fisher went a step further.

An adventurer who lives in northern Virginia with her family, Fisher set out to find LOVE signs. They decided on a goal of 100 signs and have surpassed that goal while exploring different regions of Virginia over the past two years.

After talking with a friend, she decided to write a book about her family's adventures. "Virginia is for Adventurers," available through Amazon, Apple Books and Barnes & Noble in both paperback and electronic versions, is based on her family's quest to find as many LOVE signs as they could. Her family's adventures were her biggest inspiration, however she also decided to write it as an additional resource for fourth graders to learn about Virginia.

Her book highlights Virginia's outdoor areas, many of which are historical sites, like Jamestown and the many battlefields. Fisher decided to make it a scavenger hunt for the LOVE signs to make the book more fun for fourth graders to read and learn more about Virginia while doing it.

The fact that the kids can follow the scavenger hunt by visiting the LOVE sites makes it all the more interesting. If they cannot go visit the sites physically, they can go online and see pictures and videos on her website for the areas they visited: <https://virginiaisforadventurers.com/>.

Asked what intrigued her about Smithfield, Fisher said she went online to search for small towns to visit and Smithfield popped up. After visiting Smithfield, she decided to add her time here to her book.

"The Isle of Wight Museum with the oldest ham, and the Queen Anne style architecture" was Fisher's favorite part of Smithfield. She also had a lot to say about how much she appreciated the welcoming and friendly people of Smithfield, especially those in the Visitor Center on Main Street. The employees there were extremely helpful and hospitable, she said, making Smithfield a natural choice for inclusion in her book.

Driving through Smithfield, one sees multiple pig statues. The pork industry is why Smithfield's own LOVE sign, located in front of The Smithfield Times office, has two slices of bacon for the V. What first-time visitors to Smithfield might not know is that those pig statues are a scavenger hunt to find multiple statues with unique themes painted on them. These pigs will lead you through Smithfield to different locations. Fisher thought it would be fun to write a scavenger hunt within a bigger scavenger hunt, so she briefly mentions the pig statues and that you can hunt for them all.

Fisher believed that readers would be interested in learning more about their hometowns and other areas of Virginia that they may not have heard about before. Instead of just giving the information, she does it in a creative way by making it into a scavenger hunt for the LOVE signs. She said she wanted to find a way to get people out exploring Virginia, but outside instead of just reading about it.

