

Community calendar

Thursday, March 24

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. 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, March 25

FISH FRY - The Men's Club at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 300 Smithfield Blvd., will sell fish dinners from 5-7 p.m. Drive-thru only, \$10 per plate. Meal consists of fish filets, french fries, hush puppies and homemade coleslaw.

Saturday, March 26

ANNUAL FLEA MARKET - The Woman's Club of Smithfield will have its annual Flea Market from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Smithfield Center, 220 N. Church St. Donated items can be dropped off at the center Friday, March 25, from 9 a.m.-noon. Sale categories include linens, home decor, treasure chest, furniture, outdoor and garden, sporting, children's area, clothing and crafts. Admission is free.

APPRECIATION DINNER FOR VIETNAM VETERANS - American Legion Post 49 of Smithfield invites all Vietnam-era Veterans for a special appreciation dinner and program at the Legion Hall, 818 S. Church St. in Smithfield. Social hour will begin at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. provided by The Cockeyed Rooster Cafe. This event recognizes veterans for their service during that period and aligns with the presidentially declared Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29. There is no cost for attendees. However, reservations are required. Call 757-357-9239 and leave your name, number of attendees and a call-back phone number before March 20.

VFW BREAKFAST - Post 8545 will have its community breakfast from 7-10 a.m. The menu consists of scrambled eggs, sausage gravy and biscuits, fried cornbread, hash browns, chilled fruit and coffee and juice. The price is \$9 per adult, \$5 for kids under 12, and free for kids under 5. Located at 223 Washington St.

Sunday, March 27

THIS LITTLE PIG CAME TO MARKET - 2 p.m. Upton Sinclair's The Jungle, published in 1906, exposed the working conditions of the meat-packing industry and led to the creation of federal food safety laws. Born from these changes in the early part of the 20th century, the hog-slaughtering industry greatly impacted local farmers. Smithfield weathered these changes and continues to thrive today as the Ham Capital of the World. Learn more about the historic changes in industry procedures with former Smithfield Times Publisher John Edwards. Held at the Isle of Wight County Museum, 103 Main St., Smithfield. For information, www.historicisleofwight.com or 757-356-1223.

Tuesday, March 29

LUNCH & LEARN - Vietnam Veterans Day 12:30 p.m. As the nation commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, Albert Burckard will discuss his experiences during the Vietnam War in combat in the I Corps region of South Vietnam from 1969 to 1971. Held at the Isle of Wight County Museum, 103 Main St., Smithfield. For information, www.historicisleofwight.com or 757-356-1223.

Wednesday, April 27

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD DINNER - Smithfield Rotary and Smithfield Ruritan's Smithfield Citizen of the Year Award Dinner at 6 p.m. at the Smithfield Center 220 N. Church St., Smithfield. T. Carter Williams will be honored as the 2021 Citizen of the Year. Past recipients will also be honored. Fiftieth anniversary of event will be celebrated. Open to the public with limited seating. Tickets are available for purchase at Ringo's Donuts, 1200 S. Church St., Smithfield.

• See CALENDAR, p. 10

From Smithfield to Ukraine



Local businesses band together to send humanitarian relief

By **Stephen Faleski**
 Staff Writer

When Russian forces invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, Wendy Addison, owner of downtown Smithfield's Relic's store, took to her business's Facebook page to call for prayers on behalf of her Ukrainian friend, Olena Bohienstiel.

Bohienstiel, who creates the handmade soy lotion candles for sale in Addison's store, has family in Ukraine. As of the first day of the invasion, Bohienstiel's brother and his family had sought shelter in an underground metro station.

"Her mother, brother, all of her family is there," Addison said.

Now, as the war reaches a grim one-month milestone, Addison and dozens of other downtown Smithfield merchants have banded together to raise money for relief.

"It was just one of those situations where I don't know what to do ... if you don't know what to do, just do something," Addison said.

This Friday, they'll kick off their "Smithfield Cares, A Weekend of Giving" campaign. Participating stores will place collection jars next to their cash registers decorated in Ukraine's blue and yellow national colors. The money raised will go to Mercy Chefs, a Portsmouth-based international aid organization that has been providing pre-packaged meals, shelf-stable food, water and other necessities to Ukrainian refugees.

"I don't have enough words to say how I feel right now ... It's really meant a lot," Bohienstiel said of Smithfield's relief effort, speaking to The Smithfield Times by phone March 22.

"They are 'boots on the ground,'" said Karen Collier of The Main Gourmet, a specialty food store on Main Street who will be among the participating retailers.

The organization is currently shipping supplies to Poland to help Ukrainians who've been able to evacuate, but they've also crossed the border into Ukraine to deliver

supplies too.

"We're really excited about supporting an organization that was close to home, doing something that was physically on the ground there," Collier said.

In addition to collecting cash donations, Collier will be selling \$10 raffle tickets. She plans to pick three random winners by the start of April, who will each receive a \$100 gift certificate to her store.

Christ Episcopal Church has already donated the proceeds of its March 18 Open Mic Night to the relief effort.

Also participating in the collection effort is Nansi Strickland of When Pigs Fly.

The group of merchants have also arranged for a booth at this Saturday's farmers market, which will be held in the Bank of Southside Virginia's parking lot on Main Street. There, they'll take additional donations. The booth, like the collection jars, will be decked out in blue and yellow.

Bohienstiel's Virginia Beach-based Coastal Candle business is also making gift baskets, one of them will go to the farmers market, and another to Relics to be raffled.

"Smithfield's a cool little town, and we all come together to do what we can when we can," Addison said.

She hopes her efforts will inspire other small towns to take similar initiatives.

The collections will continue through March 31 and be delivered to Mercy Chefs on April 1.



Local businesses and houses show support for Ukraine



Tim Jones coordinated with Christ Episcopal Church to donate the offerings from the Open Mic Nite to the Mercy Chefs - Ukrainians Relief Effort.



Community calendar

Wednesday, Aug. 31

ANNUAL ISLE OF WIGHT ARTS LEAGUE MEMBERS SHOW AND SALE - Art Center @319 Main Street, through Aug. 31. A perennial favorite when all art league members exhibit their newest and best artwork. Free admission to the gallery. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday noon-4 p.m. For information call 757-357-7707.

Thursday, Sept. 1

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 \$800. 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, Sept. 2

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES - Griffin Lane will perform country, soul and classic rock tunes to conclude the 2022 Downtown Smithfield Summer Concert Series on the front lawn of The Smithfield Times. The free concert starts at 7 p.m.

WINDSOR FIRST FRIDAY CONCERTS AT THE GAZEBO - 6-9 p.m. Free monthly concerts at Wesley F. Garris Event Park, 18 Duke St., Windsor. Food and beverages for sale on site. Bring a lawn chair. The Silver Street Band will perform.

Sunday, Sept. 4

WINDSOR CASTLE WALKING TOUR - 2 p.m. From the site's pre-colonial existence to the present day, Windsor Castle tells the history of the development of Smithfield. Join this free walking tour through history, including the house and several of the outbuildings. Meet on the front steps of Windsor Castle, 301 Jericho Road, Smithfield. www.historicisleofwight.com. 757-356-1223.

HOMECOMING SERVICE - Sandy Mount Baptist Church of Smithfield will have its Homecoming Service at 1 p.m. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Wendall Waller of Christian Home Baptist Church of Windsor. Revival guest speakers will be Elder Terrell Batten of Rising Star Baptist Church on Sept. 6, the Rev. Dr. Melvin Blackwell of Little Zion Baptist Church on Sept. 7 and Bishop Eldridge Lucas of Emmanuel Baptist Church on Sept. 8. Services begin at 7 each night.

Tuesday, Sept. 6

POST 49 MEETING - American Legion Post 49 of Smithfield will hold its membership monthly meeting at the Legion Hall, 818 S. Church St. Social hour begins at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. and a business meeting at 7 p.m. All current and former Legionnaires are encouraged to attend. Qualifying veterans are invited to attend dinner and the post meeting. For membership information contact Jules Sullivan, julesinsurry@gmail.com, or call the post at 757-357-9239.

Thursday, Sept. 8

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 \$800. 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).

TELL ME A STORY - 10:30 a.m. This Isle of Wight County Museum program, geared for children ages 3-5, introduces youngsters to the symbols of Isle of Wight and features books, songs and games. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free. Theme is farm equipment. www.historicisleofwight.com. 757-356-1223.

FROM BROADWAY TO MAIN STREET



Top from left: Harry Johnson, Carrie Morgan, Kaitlin Little, Nancy Pile-Griffin, Bob Strozak, Amelia Vanhoorebeck, Erika Stoup, Mark Hall, James Eanes and Adam Smith give an encore performance of "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey at the end of the concert. At left, Mark Hall and his niece, Erika Stoup, perform "Time Stops," from the musical "Big Fish." Above, Nancy Pile-Griffin performs "Vacation" from the musical "Pump Boys & Dinettes." Below left, Amelia Vanhoorebeck reprises her performance of "There Are Worse Things I Could Do" from the musical "Grease." Below, Harry Johnson and Kaitlin Little perform "All I Ask of You," a duet from "The Phantom of the Opera." Bottom, Gary Parsons still has his playbill from SLT's 1997 production of "Gold Dust," in which he acted.

Little Theatre salutes June Hurst

By **Stephen Faleski**
Staff Writer

In 1962, roughly 18 months after Smithfield's only movie theater shuttered, a group of townspeople set out to fill the entertainment void by performing a murder mystery play in the old Smithfield High School on James Street, now the town's library.

The play, titled "The Cat and The Canary," opened on Aug. 17 of that year — marking the beginning of what is today known as the Smithfield Little Theatre.

The SLT celebrated its 60th birthday by performing a Broadway variety show for the Downtown Smithfield Summer Concert Series on Aug. 26, dedicating the performance to the sole surviving member of the 1962 cast: June Hurst.

Gary Parsons, who acted in Hurst's 1997 production of the musical "Gold Dust," remembers Hurst's passion for theater well.

"She was kind of a tough

director," said Parsons, who's been a member of SLT since 1989. "She knew what she wanted the characters to be like."

Hurst, he recalls, often worked in tandem with her late husband, Jim, who served as the theater's set designer for many years. Jim died in 2005, but theater-goers can still hear a recording of his voice ahead of every production telling the audience to enjoy the show.

Jim directed 17 shows for SLT from 1967 to 2001, operating out of a repurposed cotton gin, the sole building on Commerce Street to survive Smithfield's 1921 fire.

"She ruled the stage with an iron fist," Parsons said, but "was also good enough to listen to the actors' ideas."



then-Chief Executive Officer Joseph W. Luter III had approached the theater about acquiring the cotton gin site for the company's headquarters, and offered \$500,000 toward the construction of a new theater elsewhere.

"We wouldn't have this theater if it wasn't for him and his diligence over the contractors. ... Jim was down there every single day," Parsons said.

In its 60-year existence, the theater has inspired multiple generations of Smithfield residents to become involved in its productions, and has attracted performers from across the Hampton Roads region. Amelia Vanhoorebeck, who reprised her performance of "There are Worse Things I Could Do" at Friday's concert from SLT's 2017 production of "Grease," is the daughter of Jennifer Kohms, one of the theater's past board members.

Jim Hurst, Parsons recalls, was instrumental in overseeing the construction of the theater's current home adjacent to The Smithfield Center on North Church Street. In 1999, while Parsons was serving on SLT's board of directors, Smithfield Foods'

Community calendar

Thursday, Sept. 22

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 \$800. 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, Sept. 23

BARROW FAMILY ANNUAL MEETING - The Barrow Family Association of America will have its annual meeting Sept. 23-25 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Hampton Inn in Smithfield. Seeking anyone with Barrow/Virginia ancestors. For information, call Jane Barrow at 540-693-4413.

FOOD PANTRY - The drive thru Campbell's Chapel AME Food Pantry will be open 1-4 p.m. at 20279 Brewers Neck Blvd., Carrollton.

Saturday, Sept. 24

DOWNTOWN AUTUMN VINTAGE MARKET - 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Enjoy shopping in the 100-300 blocks of Main Street for antiques and vintage wares, farmhouse, recycled and refurbished finds. Free admission. For information call 757-357-5182.

WORLD FAMOUS CHICK-A-QUE - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Benn's United Methodist Church, 14571 Benns Church Blvd., Smithfield. Half of N.C.-style barbecue chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, roll for \$12. Drive-thru pickup only. Desserts available in drive-thru line. Advance tickets are recommended, as it's usually a sellout before the event. Call 757-357-3373 for tickets.

FALL BAZAAR - 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Sweet Haven Holy Church of God, 22188 Brewers Neck Blvd., Carrollton. Call Patricia Matthews at 757-342-7378 for table reservations.

ISLE OF WIGHT HEALTH FAIR - 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Main Street Baptist Church, 517 Main St. "Why Your Mental Health Matters" speaker panel will be 9-10 a.m. The Health Fair is 10 a.m.-1 p.m. For information contact Jessica. Macalino@rivhs.com Masks are required.

Sunday, Sept. 25

LIONS RECRUITMENT - The Smithfield Lions Club is looking to add members to accommodate the increased demand for vision and hearing screenings in schools and the community. Those with volunteer hours available are invited to visit with club members from 1-3 p.m. at 14138 Norsworthy Drive, Carrollton. Prospective members can join the club for free. The \$35 annual dues will be waived for the first year. Applications and new member packets will be on site, and attendees can train that day to learn how to conduct the vision and hearing screenings to be part of the current school screening schedule. This event is also for existing new Lions and Leos to learn how to properly use the equipment to test hearing and vision.

MEN'S DAY - Campbell's Chapel AME. 11 a.m. The Rev. Dr. Kim Shivers, pastor of Solomon's Temple Church, will be the guest speaker.

RAY BENNETT IN CONCERT - 11 a.m. Whitehead's Grove Baptist Church, 18366 Benns Church Blvd., Smithfield. Call 757-255-9036 for more information.

Monday, Sept. 26

ISLE OF WIGHT GOP COMMITTEE MEETING - 7 p.m. Hope Presbyterian Church, 13490 Benns Church Blvd., Smithfield.

Tuesday, Sept. 27

FALL LANDSCAPE WORKSHOP - Alcohol Ink on Yupo Paper, 7-9 p.m. at Arts Center@319 Main St. Instructor is Tammy Burgett. Participants can bring their own photo for inspiration, or use the examples provided. Students age

• See CALENDAR, p. 10



Above, Danielle and Natalie Lackey of Carrollton watch Danielle's son, Levi, play in a tire filled with corn kernels. Below, Jordan and Taylor Chaffer, both of Smithfield, wait in line for a ride. Left, Tara Brooks, Julianne Tise, Maria Ptakowski and Susan Lawhorne of Suffolk's Allonge' Dance Academy perform on the Barton Ford Stage. (Stephen Faleski/The Smithfield Times)



Fair Days



Above, Erica Scott and her son, Anthony Knight, both of Carrollton, try their hand at axe throwing. Right, Lacey Swagger of Windsor, North Carolina, helps her daughter, Paisley Nelson, onto a pony.



Above, Isle of Wight County Fair Queens Miss Madelyn Cosby, Teen Miss Keegan Shannon and Junior Miss Emma Hasty meet and greet attendees during the dance acts at the Barton Ford Stage. Left, Jelena, Yasmine, Balyiah, Yons and Wooka Micks, of Suffolk and Chesapeake, stop for iced tea.



Above, Isle of Wight County Schools agriculture student Carie Thomas and her mother, Brooke, exhibit pigs from the school system's student-run farm. Left, Jason Duck of Windsor helps his daughter, Josie, hold and fire a cork gun at red solo cups.