



A winning combination
Silver Hand Meadery in Williamsburg claims six gold medals at the Virginia Governor's Cup.
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24-HOUR COVERAGE OF WEST POINT, KING WILLIAM, NEW KENT AND KING & QUEEN

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KING WILLIAM

Local boy wins title at archery nationals

By Alison Johnson
Correspondent

KING WILLIAM COUNTY — Just two years ago, Charles "Hunter" Carlton picked up an archery bow for the first time, simply aiming to have some fun.

Fast forward to this summer, and the 12-year-old King William resident has won a national championship in the sport.

At USA Archery's Junior Olympic Archery Development Target Outdoor Nationals, held in July in Alabama, Hunter shot to the top of a more experienced field to earn a gold medal. His hands only shook with a bit of nerves toward the end of the three-day competition.

"I just slowed down between shots, set my feet, bowed my head and prayed to God to give me strength," he says. "That always calms me down."

Hunter won the Compound Bowmen Men Division for ages 10 to 12. Compound bows have a levering system with pulleys and wheels, known as "cams," and are popular with many hunters for their accuracy.

The first two days of the JOAD tournament were qualifying rounds with 72 arrows shot in each. Hunter ranked second overall and then triumphed in three head-to-head elimination rounds on the final day, besting 11 of the top young archers in the nation.

"I was by far surprised," he relates. "I just want to keep it going as far as I can."

A homeschooled student, Hunter signed up for archery in 2019 after spotting a newspaper notice about the King William 4-H Shooting Sports Club. The club includes shotgun, rifle and archery programs.

Turn to Archery, Page 2



Charles "Hunter" Carlton recently won the USA Archery JOAD Target Nationals in Decatur, Ala. He won the championship for the Compound Bowmen Division, receiving a gold medal in the elimination match and silver in the qualifier match. COURTESY OF TRACEY CARLTON



The Pamunkey Museum is located in the Pamunkey Tribal Reservation and is open for visitors from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. GAYA GUPTA/STAFF PHOTOS

'The collection has become its own collection'

Pamunkey Museum director plans to restore, revitalize center

By Gaya Gupta
Staff Writer

Step into the Pamunkey Indian Museum, located at the tribe's reservation in King William, and each artifact will transport you to a different age.

Stone points dating 12,000 years ago. A treaty from 1677 between several tribes and the English crown, guaranteeing the indigenous members control over their homeland. Ceremonial headwear and dresses worn in the 1930s.

But the museum's timeline, depicting traditional pottery styles through the Pamunkey's history, stops in 1980. Untouched for more than 40 years, the exhibition's displays are still dotted with carefully cut circles containing information about the artifacts, carefully typed out. In fact, Shaleigh R. Howells, the museum's director, is considering putting the typewriter used to write these descriptions on display.

"The collection has become its own collection," Howells said.

Decades later, the museum is ready for a change. Howells, who joined the museum in June, is working with Pamunkey tribal members to breathe new life into the space by rotating in new objects and displays, building an online platform for Pamunkey artisans, and introducing new programming for tribal members.

"When COVID happened, (the museum) had no online presence, no online program-



Shaleigh R. Howells, cultural resource director and museum director at the Pamunkey Indian Tribal Resource Office, plans to help the museum digitize its records and exhibits.

ming, no way to do that. They realized very quickly that they needed to build capacity," Howells said. "I'm here to help do that."

Returning to its traditional yearly schedule, the museum reopened its doors post-COVID in April and will be open until November. Howells, however, said the museum is considering either changing the museum's normal hours and schedule or using its "off" months to host school visits

and events. Howells said she has seen an average of about 30 visitors each weekend this summer.

The museum first began construction in 1979 with the help of Warren Cook, a Pamunkey tribal member; archaeologist Erret Callahan; and members of the Pamunkey community.

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Forgotten election among the tales in Williamsburg history

By Wilford Kale
Correspondent

In the late 1920s through the early 1930s Williamsburg was known by many as "the city where time stood still."

It could have had that appellation because, with the emergence of Colonial Williamsburg, the area along Duke of Gloucester Street and its side avenues began more and more to look like the 18th century, rather than the

20th century. There was even a book written with the title.

There was, however, an honest reality to time standing still.

In 1913 there was a kind of backwardness about Williamsburg. City Council became involved in a debate over a question of citizenry interests: whether to continue to pay someone to wind and keep repaired the clock in the tower of Bruton Parish Church.

Charles Person, the town's

watch and machinery repairman, previously had an annual contract to handle the clock in the tall tower.

After a lively, but brief discussion, council decided not to approve a new \$50 contract and the clock fell silent.

That, however, was not the biggest reason the town stood still. It forgot to hold an election a year earlier in 1912.

Turn to History, Page 2



The city clock was in the tower of Bruton Parish Church in this circa 1875 photo. COURTESY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER JR. LIBRARY, THE COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG FOUNDATION

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State leaves decision on masks to schools

By Matt Jones
Staff Writer

Virginia wants unvaccinated students and staff to keep wearing masks this fall — but won't require it.

That means the decision will be left to local school boards. In guidelines the state health and education departments released last Wednesday, officials said the emergency order requiring masks in schools wouldn't be extended. It expired Sunday.

The state "strongly recommends" schools require all students and staff wear masks indoors at elementary schools.

At middle and high schools, the state wants schools to require masks for at least unvaccinated students and staff. The state doesn't spell out how schools could check vaccination status and suggests districts ask their attorneys about what they can do.

The request comes in the form of "guidance" — it doesn't carry the force of law and some districts seem likely to ignore it. Arguments currently playing out at school boards around the state are likely to continue.

Some school boards, including Chesapeake's, have already said they won't require masks without a state order. An effort to pass a similar resolution in Virginia Beach failed July 20.

State officials said the guidelines were meant to give districts flexibility. "Schools occupy a special place in the life of our communities, and we need to do everything we can to keep everyone in them safe," said State Health Commissioner Dr. Norman Oliver in a news release. "This guidance is aimed at protecting students, educators, and staff while also providing localities with flexibility."

Masks continue to be required on school buses, part of an order from the Centers for



Indian River Middle School students keep their distance from one another in the hallways in November. At middle and high schools, Virginia wants schools to require masks for at least unvaccinated students and staff. **STEPHEN M. KATZ/STAFF**

Disease Control and Prevention requiring face coverings on public transit.

Leading medical groups have given a mixed bag of recommendations on masks, but most suggest that masks should be required for at least some students.

There are no vaccines available for children under 12, and there's a plethora of evidence that children do contract and spread COVID-19, even if it's not at the rate of adults. There have been over 109,000 cases in people under the age of 20 in Virginia.

The American Academy of Pediatrics issued a recommendation last week saying all students and staff should wear masks, since vaccines are not yet available to chil-

dren under 12.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention only recommends that unvaccinated people be required to wear masks, although the federal agency also says schools with fewer vaccinated people or high transmission should consider a requirement. The CDC's recommendations have underpinned most school districts' approaches in Hampton Roads.

Gov. Ralph Northam said in a news release that they're still listening to the AAP and CDC.

"Virginia has followed the science throughout this pandemic, and that's what we continue to do," Northam said.

In Virginia, mask requirements in schools have stayed even as other rules were lifted. After Northam's emergency order expired at the beginning of July, the state health commissioner issued the order that required masks indoors in instructional settings.

About 36% of 12- to 15-year-olds and 49% of 16- to 17-year-olds are vaccinated in Virginia, according to state data. Those relatively low numbers — compared to a 53% of the entire state — underpinned the extension and the state's guidance.

The guidance from the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Education includes other recommendations for the 2021-22 school year. The state recommends that schools keep their multi-layered mitigation measures including masks, physical distancing, ventilation and screening testing when possible.

If schools can't come up with a system to monitor vaccination status or struggle to enforce non-universal masking policies, the guidelines leave the door open to requiring masks at any grade level. Other possible reasons the state gives include low vaccination rates or increasing COVID-19 transmission in the community.

Students should stay at least three feet apart when possible, the state recommends. When masks can't be worn, such as when eating, the state recommends trying to keep people spaced out.

If COVID-19 starts rapidly spreading in schools though, the state recommends schools return to many of the policies of the past year — requiring universal masking, enforcing more physical distancing and temporarily restricting extracurricular activities.

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Archery

from Page 1

Hunter immediately liked archery so much that he began dreaming of opening his own training and equipment facility in the future. William Bush, his 4-H coach, pegged him as a natural talent who could take the sport seriously yet still stay relaxed.

"I just taught him a few tricks on the bow, but he took it from there," Bush says. "He works really hard at what he does. He practices all the time, and he handles himself very well. I expect him to go far."

Hunter has scored wins at multiple tournaments in Virginia, but the Alabama competition was his first out-of-town trip. More than 720 archers participated in various age and bow categories at the site.

In February 2021, Hunter began training at Shooters Archery, a Beaverdam facility that has a JOAD program. There, coach Alan Alfonso has emphasized the critical mental components of the sport, which are just as important as upper body strength.

For example, Hunter has learned that he can only control his technique before an arrow leaves the bow, not shifting factors such as wind speeds or humidity levels that might affect its trajectory, says his mother, Tracey Carlton.

"Alan takes the focus off the score and puts it on what is in your power," Carlton says. "If you start rushing or get frustrated, you're going to mess up. Or if you shoot a bad arrow and you can't regroup fast, you won't do well."

Adds Hunter: "You can't mess around or get upset. You've got to stay focused." As for his arms, they don't usually ache until late in a practice session or competition.

Carlton has been shocked at her son's composure under pressure. "In Alabama, my heart rate on my Fitbit was over 100 when it's usually really low," she recalls with a laugh. "It was intense — very fast-paced in the final rounds. But Hunter looked as cool as a cucumber."

Hunter, who also enjoys basketball, fishing and hunting, is a polite, humble boy who likes to help other 4-H participants, Bush says. He practices archery for an hour or two daily, whether working with a coach or shooting at targets in his backyard.

Tracey Carlton and her husband, Blair, have found archery to be a perfect physical and mental challenge for Hunter and his sister Sierra, 9, who has picked up a bow as well.

"It's an individual sport, but you're also part of a team environment," Tracey Carlton notes. "People might think it's dangerous, but it's done in a safe, controlled way. I'd encourage any parent to look into it."

Hunter plans to keep competing in state and national tournaments as he finishes middle and high school. He then hopes to join a college archery team — James Madison University has a strong program, he says — and one day go to the Olympics.

And along with that future archery center, he'd like to run a pig farm.

"I just really love pigs for some reason," he explains. "I'd be happy living around a lot of them."

For now, Hunter is grateful to have found an activity that brings him both joy and accolades. "God helps me and gives me strength," he says. "I have the right coaches, and my family and friends help me. I love to shoot. I don't even know why. I just do."

Alison Johnson, ajohnsonp@yahoo.com



Hunter Carlton, 12, lives in King William and has been shooting archery since 2019, when he first began competing with the King William 4-H Shooting Sports club. **COURTESY OF TRACEY CARLTON**

History

from Page 1

The Virginia Gazette had a headline in its June 13th edition: "Electoral Board Forgot All It and Voters Likewise"

The story said that no election was held in Williamsburg on state-wide local Election Day, June 11, 1912.

"All of the present municipal officers hold over till their successors are elected and qualified. Electoral board forgot that there was to be an election Tuesday and failed to provide ballots for the voters," the story said.

"(Circuit Court) Judge (David G.) Tyler decides that it would be illegal to hold an election when the board had failed to comply with the law in the preparation of ballots ten days before the day of election. That is about all there is to the story of the failure to hold a regular election Tuesday."

An accompanying Gazette editorial said missing the election "is not nearly so serious as some would make it appear. The lapse of the memorial of the (electoral) board is reasonable in view of the fact that most of us had lost sight of the regular election..." There were no candidates challenging office holders.

The editorial chastised the citizenry. "Why try to make a mountain out of a mole hill. Let us have no special election for it is an unnecessary expense."

The Richmond Times-Dispatch, however, in an editorial later in June 1912 called Williamsburg "Lotus Land."

"No fretful political cares disturb the Lotus Land of Williamsburg. Serene in her memories the ancient town sleeps on in the sun, letting no temporary vexation of mundane affairs break in upon her Rip Van Winkle slumbers."

In 1913 in response to the decision not to pay to wind the clock in the Bruton Parish Church tower, the Times-Dispatch again responded editorially.

"Time has always worried Williamsburg. The people didn't know what to do with it. There was so much of it; it was so persistent. They tried abolishing the calendar, but time kept up. Now they will kill time by stopping the clock."

"There is a malicious rumor that the unwound clock has stirred many to fever heat. This is a plain lie. The native Williamsburgers never stir. He never lets his anger be aroused for fear it should rouse the rest of him. He regards a fever as a breach of decorum."



The museum's gift shop features work from 20 different artisans, all members of the Pamunkey Tribe. **GAYA GUPTA/STAFF**

Museum

from Page 1

The museum opened its doors Oct. 11, 1980.

The museum takes advantage of every possible wall it can fit with information. Each display takes the visitor back into an age of history — first, the Paleo Age, also known as the Ice Age, then into Archaic life, and finally the Woodland stage.

The museum features dozens of arrowheads from around the country and the world — from Pullman, Washington, to Branson, Missouri, all the way to Bordeaux, France. Many of them were either donated or brought in by outside donors.

The idea of "ownship" is very much a white, western concept, said Howells. "Here, a lot of it is community ownership," she said. "Many things may be on long-term loan."

Part of Howells' work will include cataloging the museum's contents into a digital archive, work she has experience with in past museum positions.

A Massachusetts native, she received her bachelor's degree in history and political science from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and a master's degree in museum studies from Harvard. Prior to joining the Pamunkey Indian Museum, she was museum technician and assistant registrar at The Valentine, Richmond's oldest museum.

Howells also hopes to feature some of the museum's own archaeological collections and work with tribal members to create modern exhibitions focusing on more contemporary Pamunkey work.

"When this exhibit was put together, it was very much driven to be archaeological, showing a representation of native people over time," Howells said. "We're looking to kind of get a refocus."

On the other side of the museum's timeline exhibits are examples of lithic technology, traditional pottery, and ceremonial clothing. Here, Howells can often put names to the archived items — a headpiece that once belonged to Chief George Major Cook, who was elected in 1902, alongside a dress worn by his wife. A glass case of pottery includes several pieces donated by tribal members.

Some of Howells' favorite moments in the museum are being able to watch tribal members come in and pick out pottery done by their ancestors or relatives, putting a face with a piece.

While Howells works closely with the Pamunkey tribal council and tribal members to support and direct the museum, she herself is not Pamunkey. In fact, she doesn't have any tribal affiliation.

But the Pamunkey community has welcomed her, and Howells plans to

If you go

What: The Pamunkey Indian Museum and Cultural Center

Where: 175 Lay Landing, King William, 23086

Hours: Thursday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Cost: Tickets adult (18 and older) tickets: \$5; children (4 and older): \$3; senior citizens (65 and older): \$3

Info: pamunkey.org/museum-cultural-center, museum@pamunkey.org, 804-843-4792

continue directing the museum the same way it was founded: driven by indigenous voices.

"I'm not gonna whitewash this institution. That's not what I'm here to do," Howells said.

Creating an online platform for the museum's artists is one of the first steps to empowering native voices, she said.

The gift shop, which now can handle credit card transactions, features the work of more than 20 Pamunkey artists. Some of the pieces, made by young artisans and tribal elders, are worth more than \$1,000. Building an online platform for these artists will help give them a bigger platform and audience for their work, said Howells.

Howells also recognizes the museum has stayed largely the same for so many decades, leading her to focus efforts on new tribal programming, which includes bringing back classes on pottery and wood instruments but also introducing new instruction as well.

"Everyone's been here. And it's been the same since that very time they've come," she said. "I'm really excited to get more tribal programming, and I want people to have a reason to come to the museum, or come to the cultural center, especially post COVID. We have a lot of tribal elders here on the reservation, and being able to offer some things for them that are outside of the home is really important."

As an outsider, Howells believes that going to a museum built and curated with such strong tribal voices is reason enough to visit. And even though the museum's location is remote, in the stretches of King William County on Lay Landing Road, Howells stresses it's well worth the trip.

"Coming here is an experience in and of itself — you truly have to have a destination in coming here," Howells said with a laugh, gesturing at the museum's rural surroundings. "The collection is phenomenal. It's one of the only collections in the area that is truly was done with tribal input. And that's important."

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