

**Community calendar**

**Wednesday, May 18**

**NARFE meeting**

The NARFE breakfast meeting is May 18, 8:15 a.m. at the Nansemond River Golf Club. Rajiv B. Nanavaty, MD of Neurology Associates of Suffolk will discuss Alzheimers.

**Windsor AARP**

Windsor Chapter AARP meets May 18, 10:30 a.m. at the Windsor Ruritan Clubhouse. Speaker is Ruth Stanley, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia. Public invited. 357-5191.

**Soccer tryouts**

Smithfield Soccer Club tryouts will be held May 18-21. Visit [www.smithfieldsoccerclub.org](http://www.smithfieldsoccerclub.org) or call 365-9291 or 357-6397.

**MOMS club**

The MOMS Club of Suffolk-Isle of Wight open house is Wednesday, May 18 at Oakland Christian Church, Suffolk, 10-11:30 a.m. At home moms are invited to enjoy food, games and prizes. Visit [moms.meetup.com/5545](http://moms.meetup.com/5545) or call 238-2244.

**Barbecue fundraiser**

The Hunterdale Ruritan western beef barbecue fundraiser is May 18, 3 p.m. with Fat Ammons Band and adult beverages. Tickets (\$25): Fred's, Smith Jewelers, Manry/Rawls (Courtland), Donna's Hair Flair or club member. 569-8607, 562-5441 or 617-9418.

**Coffee klatsch**

The Isle of Wight County Museum curator will pull an item from the collection and discuss its significance on May 18, 10:30 a.m. Bring coffee. Curator brings doughnuts. 356-1223 or [www.historicisleofwight.com](http://www.historicisleofwight.com).

**Effective parenting**

Trinity UMC offers "Effective Parenting in a Defective World: How to raise kids who stand out from the crowd" on Sundays beginning June 5, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Coffee and snacks at 9:30 a.m.

**COP volunteers**

The Christian Outreach Program needs new volunteers to help with projects, moving furniture and the like. If interested, call 357-5354.

**PDCCC registration**

Registration is ongoing for the fall 2011 semester at Paul D. Camp Community College and continues through Aug.18. Classes begin Aug. 22. View class schedule and register at [www.pdc.edu](http://www.pdc.edu).

**Outer Banks raffle**

Breast Friends Relay for Life team offers a 2 night/3 day stay at the Outer Banks. \$5 donation. Drawing on June 3. 376-0870 or [tangirlkc@gmail.com](mailto:tangirlkc@gmail.com).

**E-commerce class**

PDCCC offers Introduction to E-Commerce and Principles of E-Commerce. For information contact [dlydick@pdc.edu](mailto:dlydick@pdc.edu) or 925-6325 or [rtureman@pdc.edu](mailto:rtureman@pdc.edu) or 925-6329.

**Theater Camp**

Smithfield Little Theatre will offer a two-week 70-hour theater camp from June 20-July 1, ending with a performance July 2 for children ages 9-16. Registration is ongoing. For information visit [smithfieldlittletheatre.org](http://smithfieldlittletheatre.org), <http://ironstreetproductions.com/> [ISPYYouthProgram.aspx](http://ISPYYouthProgram.aspx), 969-1419 or [ironstproduction@aol.com](mailto:ironstproduction@aol.com).

**4-H camp**

Isle of Wight 4-H camp is the week of July 11-15 for ages 9-13 at the Airfield 4-H Center in Wakefield. Call the extension office at 365-6262 or e-mail [vnichols@vt.edu](mailto:vnichols@vt.edu).

**Photo class**

Registration deadline is May 19 for Take Better Pictures class, Arts 8010-01-9 (30129), to be held Tuesdays, May 24-June 21, 6-8 p.m. in Room 209 at PDCCC's Smithfield Center. Cost is \$85.

• See CALENDAR p. 14



Photo by Priscilla Thomas

The Taurus II rocket, built by Orbital, is a medium class space launch vehicle that provides reliable access to space.

**Take a trip to "MARS"**

By Priscilla Thomas  
*Special to the Times*

It takes less than a day to visit MARS.

Not the planet of course, but close.

Located off Virginia's Eastern Shore is NASA's Wallops Flight Facility and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport — better known as "MARS."

The flight facility offers an array of summer camp opportunities for children, high school and college age youth.

Adults can learn about the work at MARS by going through the Visitor's Center on Wallops Island.

For those unfamiliar with space lingo, MARS launches rockets for use in gathering scientific information, and serves as the home base for NASA's balloon program. It is one of only four U.S. spaceports licensed to launch rockets that put things in orbit around the earth.

While at the Visitor's Center, check out the exhibits, videos, and hands on displays that describe past projects at Wallops Island. Projects have included rockets, scientific balloons, the orbital tracking station and more. If you are visiting when there is a sounding rocket launch, the Visitor's Center has a rooftop observation deck from which you can watch the launch.

Wallops Flight Facility was established in 1945 and was the nation's first rocket launch facility.

Research at Wallops helped develop components for the human space program including the Mercury program. In the 1970s, it expanded its activities to include Earth and ocean studies, and runway surface and aircraft noise reduction studies. It is now NASA's principle facility for managing and implementing suborbital research.

WFF supports aerospace technology development, operates the Wallops test range and manages an Orbital Tracking Station. NASA Wallops operates a research airport and their aircraft serve as research platforms to study ecological systems, ice formations, ocean dynamics and to actively study the Earth's atmosphere.

The NASA Balloon Program office is also on Wallops Island. The balloons support space and Earth science research by carrying equipment like telescopes and sensors to an altitude of 120,000 feet.

NASA's balloon program isn't about everyday party balloons, said Keith Koehler, spokesman for NASA, Wallops Island.

The balloons are made of 22 acres of material similar to sandwich wrap, he said.

"The balloon can lift experiments weighing more than an SUV. They typically fly for 12 to



The support structure for launch pad OB at Wallops Island.

24 hours but can fly for as much as weeks at a time. Wallops engineers are working on a balloon system for flights up to 100 days," he said.

In the future, MARS is looking to participate in re-supply missions to the international space

station, as well as serve as a launch site for commercial space transport vehicles currently in the planning stage — attracting companies like SpaceX, Bigelow and Armadillo.

• See MARS, p. 24



**How to visit Wallops Island**

The NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center is open Thursday -Monday through June from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

From July 4 through Labor Day, the facility is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information call 757-824-1344 or 824-2297.

The Flight Facility also provides tours for schools and other groups through the NASA Visitor Center. Interested parties can call 757-824-2298.

**To get there**

Cross the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel and drive approximately 90 miles north on US-13. At the T's-Corner stoplight turn right (east) on VA Rt. 175. Continue on Rt. 175 for about six miles. The Visitor Center will be on your right (south) across from the main base. Landmarks include a road sign for the Visitor Center and large rocket exhibits on the grounds. Turn right into the parking lot.



A group tour of the horizontal integration facility. Priscilla Thomas is pictured second from the left.



Students show off their rockets at Wallops Island summer camp.

## Jr. rocket scientists

### Youth programs at Wallops Island

Each year nearly 50 high school and college students from around the country spend their summer at Wallops as interns for learning experiences.

The Virginia Space Flight Academy offers Space Flight Adventure Camp at NASA Wallops Flight Facility. These are co-ed summer camps for ages 11-15.

Youth who are interested in rockets, robots, micro-gravity, aerodynamics, extra-terrestrial travel, weather or astronomy explore behind the scenes at WFF.

Campers build and program small robots and participate in a mock rocket launch in a real NASA mission control room, sitting at the same computers NASA uses for the real launches. They are also provided with a tour of the MARS launch facilities.

Space Flight Adventure Camps are a week-long (Sunday through Friday) and run

July through late August. There are also one-day, two-day and three-day options available September through May. Virginia Space Flight Academy can individually design group programs to meet the needs of Scout or other groups.

For more information visit their website [www.VaSpaceFlightAcademy.org](http://www.VaSpaceFlightAcademy.org) or call 824-3800.

There are programs that demonstrate science to children of all ages like "Amusement Park Physics" May 21 and "Ring Around the Planets" May 28. A schedule of programs is available at [HYPERLINK "http://www.wff.nasa.gov/vc"](http://www.wff.nasa.gov/vc) or call 757-824-2298.

Young visitors can earn a NASA lithograph and Space Ace certificate by completing an activity list. There's also gift shop with models, patches, games, clothing and NASA souvenirs.

# MARS

• Continued from p. 13

In the works right now is the Taurus II, which is tagged for routine space station re-supply missions in 2012.

"Historically the range has been considered more of a test range. While we launched sounding rockets on a routine basis, the range continued to test new vehicles. With the Taurus II, we expand from a test range to also being an operational range, conducting orbital launches on a routine basis," said MARS spokesman Keith Koehler.

The Taurus II is tentatively scheduled for a demonstration launch in December.

Also scheduled is a May 2013 moon launch for NASA's LADEE (Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer, aboard a Minotaur launch vehicle). Each year, there are about 25 sounding rocket launches at Wallops Island.

Ultimately, MARS' goal is to foster the growth of commercial space activities and invest in new capabilities.

### Launches

Launches from MARS, depending on weather, time and size, can be seen as far away as Detroit and New York.

Space junkies can keep track of a mission by checking the

webcast at [HYPERLINK "http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/webcast/"](http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/webcast/)

NASA also posts updates during launches on Facebook and Twitter.

Launches can be cancelled or postponed for a variety of reasons, so scheduling a trip based solely on a particular scheduled launch isn't advised, but if you happen to be near NASA Wallops Flight Facility during a launch, you can tune in on your radio to NASA 760 AM (range of 5-10 miles from the Visitor's Center) to stay updated as you watch the launch.

(Staff writer Diana McFarland contributed to this report.)

## Surry schools receive state grant

SURRY — Surry County Schools received \$448,554 to develop a data system and warehouse that consolidates assessment and other student data from multiple sources.

The Virginia Department of Education awarded grants totaling nearly \$2 million to 41 school divisions to expand the capacity of teachers and administrators to improve teaching and learning through data-driven decision making — and to help divisions meet and exceed new federal reporting requirements.

The funded projects include the creation of centralized data warehouses and information portals to allow educators and ad-

ministrators to link data from multiple sources and create reports to identify the needs of students and teachers.

All of the projects are consistent with the commonwealth's efforts to expand the capabilities of Virginia's nationally recognized longitudinal-data system while safeguarding student privacy.

"These grants will accelerate

### JMU graduate, scholarship

•Scott Hopkins recently graduated magna Cum Laude from James Madison University with a degree in chemistry. He is the son of Julie and Larry Hopkins of Smithfield.

— especially in smaller school divisions — the development of data systems capable of providing detailed information educators and administrators must have to assess the instructional needs of students and plan professional development for teachers that is focused on raising achievement," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Patricia I. Wright.

•Courtney Amburgey is the recipient of the Smithfield Ruritan Club's \$1,000 scholarship. Amburgey attends Smithfield High school and plans to attend Longwood University in the fall.

Buy - Sell - Hire  
Trade - Rent  
in The Smithfield  
Times Classified Pages  
Call Now 357-3288 !!

25 Years Experience

# HOHMANN

## BUILDERS

Class A Contractor **757-238-3401**

CUSTOM HOMES • ADDITIONS • RENOVATIONS  
"Your Dream ~ Your Home ~ Our Passion"

ASK ABOUT ENERGY STAR

EARTH CRAFT HOUSE Virginia

Kari M. Dechenne, MD & Daughter

## Caring For Your Family As We Care For Our Own.

SHANNON M. POPE, MD - Board Certified in Pediatrics & Internal Medicine  
THOMAS C. POPE, MD - Board Certified in Pediatrics & Internal Medicine  
KARI M. DECHENNE, MD - Board Certified in Family Medicine  
SARA T. POPOVICH, PA-C - Certified Physician Assistant

**Dr. Dechenne Welcomes New Patients.**  
Newborns...Toddlers...Children...Adolescents...Adults

201 Gumwood Drive • Smithfield, VA  
(757) 357-3331

## IT'S MULCH TIME!

Call for YEAR ROUND Delivery!

**SATURDAY PICK-UPS**  
at the Mulch Pile • 8am - Noon  
19252 Battery Park Road

## BRISTOW'S LANDSCAPING

PLANT DESIGN & INSTALLATION **357-7395**  
Ask about our DO-IT-YOURSELF package! [www.bristowlandscaping.com](http://www.bristowlandscaping.com)

# Trinity LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Building Foundations for Life

## Showcase

A Museum Excursion into Learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
May 25, 2011 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Take a tour and see..  
Sound work habits  
Important research skills  
Critical thinking  
Essential communication skills  
Effective problem solving

For More Information  
Contact Sheila Moore  
757.245.2576  
smoore@trinitynn.com

6812 River Road, Newport News, Virginia 23607  
Trinity is an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme Candidate School

## Smithfield Family Dentistry

Old Fashioned Caring & Twenty-First Century Dentistry!

- Personal, Advanced Artistic Dentistry with Care & Concern
- New Patients are Always Welcome
- Delta Dental Provider

Now offering expanded Friday hours

**P. Milton Cook, Jr. DDS**  
309 Main Street • Downtown Smithfield

Call Today for a Convenient Appointment! **357-4121**  
[www.smithfield-dds.com](http://www.smithfield-dds.com)