

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a bright red, long-sleeved, wrap-style dress, is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is standing in a jewelry store. To her left, there are several wooden jewelry displays on shelves, holding various necklaces, earrings, and bracelets. In the background, there are more jewelry displays and a rack of hats in various colors (pink, grey, blue, brown). The lighting is warm and indoor.

a Slice of Smithfield

Spring 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Picking up the Pieces
A Family Tradition



Local Roots. Global Reach
ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Meet Your Supervisors

 DISTRICT 2 (FORMERLY NEWPORT DISTRICT) William M. McCarty Chairman	 DISTRICT 4 (FORMERLY WINDSOR DISTRICT) Joel Acree Vice-Chairman
 DISTRICT 1 (FORMERLY SMITHFIELD DISTRICT) Renee Rountree	 DISTRICT 3 (FORMERLY HARDY DISTRICT) Rudolph Jefferson
 DISTRICT 5 (FORMERLY CARRSVILLE DISTRICT) Don G. Rouse II	

ISLE CARES

CHOICE • ACCOUNTABILITY • RURAL HERITAGE
EXCELLENCE • SERVICE

CARE CARD
IsleCares.com is a website hosted by Isle of Wight County providing relevant information and up-to-date county news. Sign up on IsleCares.com to receive the monthly "Isle Cares" e-newsletter.

Want to comment on an experience you've had with the county? With the online CARE CARD, citizens can provide feedback on their experiences with county staff and services. Printed cards are also available at county offices. Just fill out the card, drop it off or mail it, and the appropriate staff member will respond to your concerns or questions, or pass along your comments.

Newcomer's Guide #100 2020

WELCOME TO THE ISLE!

The Isle of Wight County Newcomer's Guide provides all the information those who are new to the area and residents need on county services, recreational opportunities, elected officials, utilities, emergency services, and much more. The guide is available at the county complex or it can be downloaded from the county's website.

IWUS.net
757.357.3191

NEW TO THE COUNTY?
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REFUSE & RECYCLING CENTERS

- Hours:** Mon. & Tues., Thurs. - Sat. 7 am - 7 pm
Sun. 1 pm - 7 pm, closed Wed.
- Wrenn's Mill R&R Center, Smithfield 356.1040
 - Jones Creek R&R Center, Carrollton 356.1037
 - Carroll Bridge R&R Center, Windsor 356.1018
 - Stave Mill R&R Center, Windsor 242.3597
 - Carrsville R&R Center, 516.2851
 - Camptown R&R Center, Franklin 516.2850
 - Crocker R&R Center, Windsor 356.1026
 - Walters R&R Center, Carrsville 516.2852

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PARKS

- Camptown Park
- Heritage Park
- Jones Creek Boat Ramp
- Joyner's Bridge Boat Ramp
- Nike Park
- Riverview Park
- Robinson Park
- Tyler's Beach Boat Ramp, Harbor & Public Beach
- Fort Boykin Historic Park
- Historic Fort Huger

SMITHFIELD FARMERS MARKET
SINCE 2002

Smithfield Farmers Market

Saturday Mornings, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
115 Main Street, Downtown Smithfield

2024 SEASON

- Farmers Market 9-12:30, BSV parking lot, 115 Main St.
- Specialty Markets 9-12:30, BSV lot, 115 Main St.
- Pickers Markets 9-1, 2nd Sat.'s, April - Nov., Joyner Field
- Spring Vintage Market 8-3, Sat., April 20, Fairgrounds
- Smithfield Arts Festival 9-4, Sat., May 18, Main St.
- Autumn Vintage Market 9-4, Sat., Sept. 28, Main St.
- Christmas Tree Lighting, 6-7, Fri., Nov. 22, 228 Main St.
- Mistletoe Marketplace 3-8, Sat., Nov. 23, Main St.
- Carrollton Christmas Market 10-3, Sat., Nov. 30, Old Point National Bank, Hwy. 17

DOWNTOWN HAPPENINGS

- Downtown Sidewalk Sale Sat., April 20, 10-5
- May Day Night Out Thurs., May 2, 5-7:30
- Scarecrow Stroll, Oct. 14-31, All Day
- Witches Night Out Thurs., Oct. 24, 5-7:30
- Merchant Christmas Open Houses Nov. 2-3, All Day
- Elves Night Out Thurs., Dec. 19, 5-7:30

APRIL

6: OPENING DAY Specialty Market
13: Pickers Markets begin
20: Spring Vintage Market
Downtown Sidewalk Sale

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<p>MAY</p> <p>2: May Day Night Out 18: Downtown Smithfield Arts Festival (No Farmers Market)</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Su</td><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		<p>JUNE</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Su</td><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	<p>JULY</p> <p>13: Christmas in July Specialty Market</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Su</td><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa			1	2	3	4	5							6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				<p>AUGUST</p> <p>10: National Farmers Market Week Specialty Market</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Su</td><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa							1							2							3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>28: Autumn Downtown Vintage Market, Main Street (no Farmers Market)</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Su</td><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>14-31: Scarecrow Stroll 24: Witches Night Out 26: Ham-o-Ween Specialty Market</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Su</td><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>2-3: Merchant Christmas Open Houses 9: Veterans Day Specialty Market 22: Christmas Tree Lighting 23: Mistletoe Market (no Farmers Market) 30: Carrollton Christmas Market (no Downtown Farmers Market)</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Su</td><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa							1							2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>7 & 21: Holiday Craft & Food Specialty Markets 14: Christmas Parade (no Farmers Market) 19: Elves Night Out</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Su</td><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
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FANS OF THE MARKET:
SMITHFIELD FLAGS

SMITHFIELDFARMERSMARKET.COM

Smithfield Farmers Market
ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

a Slice of Smithfield

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Photographer

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Designer

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Regional Sales Manager

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Mitzi Lusk
Marketing Consultant

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a Slice of Smithfield

Baseball is back

Here at Slice, we love many rites of spring. Opening day at the Smithfield Farmers Market, egg hunts and the community Easter sunrise service at Windsor Castle Park quickly come to mind.

Yet our favorite just might be the return of baseball, our favorite sport, after a long winter.

Baseball's familiar sounds are in a league of their own: the crack of a bat, the smack of the ball hitting the catcher's mitt, even the mild-mannered heckling of an umpire calling balls and strikes.

Isle of Wight is blessed with opportunities to visit a diamond. Recreational leagues for the kiddos are getting started this month, as are the Smithfield High Packers, whose improbable run to the Class 4 state championship game last spring had us all root, root, rooting for the home team.

If you want to see the pros in action, Harbor Park, where the Triple A Norfolk Tides play their home games, is an easy drive. Even D.C. is relatively accessible to see big leaguers in action once or twice a year. (Will the Nats get back on track this year?)

Enough about baseball.

We hope you enjoy this Spring 2024 edition of Slice, including the inspiring story of Carla Harris, who came to Smithfield for a fresh start in retail after a long career in journalism and the loss of her husband and mother. Go see her sometime at Hamtown Mercantile.

And then there's the story of an Isle of Wight Academy teenager who routinely beats adults at his sport of choice. We won't say more here, but you're sure to get a charge out of the story.

We wish all of our readers a pleasant, enjoyable spring. Hope to see you at the ballpark.



Steve Stewart

Inside this Issue



PICKING UP THE PIECES

8

Carla Cash Harris lost the two most important people in her life in a span of two years. "My life blew up," she says, but a Smithfield retail venture is helping her make a fresh start.

Where Am I?

In each edition, the Slice staff provides a challenge of sorts, testing how much of Isle of Wight and Surry counties you really know. We photograph some location that is readily accessible and open to the public, and see if you can tell us where it is.

If you know where this photo was taken, submit your answer, along with your name and contact information, to news@smithfieldtimes.com. If you're right, you will be entered for a chance to win a \$25 gift card.

So, if you know where this is, let us know. If you're right, you could be a winner. Go out and enjoy!





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- Art Exhibitions
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- Family Movies



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'MY GOD, YOUR GOD' | APRIL 13



ARTRAGEOUS | APRIL 27



THE HIT MEN OF COUNTRY | MAY 18
Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts | SuffolkCenter.org
110 W. Finney Ave. Downtown Suffolk 23434 | 757.923.2900








Dr. Robert Baer Dr. Kevin DeHart Dr. James Bota Dr. Tara Buehler Dr. Charlene Oldfield Amy Volkmann, PA-C

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Picking up the pieces

Widow makes fresh start as Smithfield retailer

Story by Brandy Centolanza

Carla Cash Harris, owner of the new Ham It Up Boutique in Hamtown Mercantile, knows all too well what it's like to have to turn lemons into lemonade when the unexpected happens. Two years ago, her world was turned upside when her husband suddenly passed away while she was living in Emporia.

"I lost both my mother and my husband within two years of each other, the two most important people in my life," she said. "My life blew up, and it was up to me to decide what to do with the pieces."

Her husband, Woodrow Harris, had been an elected official who served on the Emporia City Council, while she had enjoyed a career as a journalist, broadcaster and talk show host on television and radio for more than three decades. Instead of giving in to her grief, Harris decided to start a new chapter of her life.

"With great loss comes great opportunity, if you just look for it," she said. "I decided not to wither and wallow, but instead to make a fresh start."

A fan of Smithfield after having visited the area twice a year with her best friend on each of their birthdays for many years, Harris felt it was the perfect place to start over. She bought a house and moved to Smithfield in May 2023.

"I love the area, and always felt it would be a nice place to live one day," she said. "The people here are some of the friendliest people I've ever met, which is what you hope for when you move."

During the holiday season at the end of last year, Harris took a job at Hamtown Mercantile. An opportunity later arose for her to open a place of her own in the shopping complex and she jumped on it.

"I wanted a space of my own," she said. "My plan was to come to Smithfield and



open a store that sells Virginia products, peanuts, gourmet foods, art, crafts, items like that."

Her shop, Ham It Up Boutique, opened in February. The store specializes in "bling and accessories at an affordable price," Harris said. She sells bags and jewelry, among other merchandise, including products with pigs like pig socks, earrings, and totes. A friend helped her come up with the name for her boutique.

"If you think about it, ham it up means being playful, jovial, having fun," Harris said. "Many of my items are whimsical. When people come into my store, I want

them to find something that is fun. Life is too short to wear boring accessories."

Though the shop has only been open a short time, the response has been positive.

"It's been wonderful," she said. "The community has been so incredibly supportive, and I know it is cliché, but the people at the mercantile are really like a family. I love interacting with the customers and I hope I can put a smile on people's faces the way they have on mine."

Harris plans to expand her store's offerings when she moves into a larger space at Hamtown Mercantile later this

spring.

Though the past few years have been tumultuous, Harris has been able to endure thanks to her faith and attitude.

"You control your own destiny," she said. "You decide if you are going to have a good day or a bad day. When a storm comes, you can decide to cry or dance in the rain. I chose to dance. I hope others who are also going through a rough time know that it will be okay. Maybe not today, but it will be okay."

For more information on Ham It Up Boutique, visit www.hamitupboutique.com.



Carla Cash Harris describes the offerings at her Ham It Up Boutique as "whimsical," in keeping with her belief that "life is too short to wear boring accessories."

IT'S A FAMILY TRADITION

Isle of Wight Academy teen races boats - and he's very good at it

Story by Phyllis Speidell, Writer
Photos by John H. Sheally II, photographer

Grant Liddycoat is too young to legally drive the family car, but the sophomore at Isle of Wight Academy excels in racing high powered hydroplanes.

He began racing powerboats when he was just 9 years old, starting with light weight outboards in the American Power Boat Association Junior Class. In 2021 he moved up to inboard hydroplanes, a 13-year-old competing against veteran adult drivers, and won the North American Championship and the Eastern Divisional Championship of the APBA. He also earned the East Coast Rookie of the Year title. In 2022 he won the APBA Summer National Title and was the National Champion of the APBA T class – the 1.5 Litre hydroplanes that run up to 80-85 mph.

He is the youngest driver to ever win each of the titles in the APBA.

“Sometimes it’s weird racing against guys that are in their 30s and 40s, but now they’ve gotten to know me and how I race so they’re not as surprised,” Grant said.

His racing record is impressive, especially for a teenager, but even more so when you understand what a hydroplane is.

Hydroplanes are prop-riding racing boats with outboard sponsons, capable of moving along lakes and rivers at up to 200 mph. The boats’ history springs from the early 1900s when organized powerboat racing launched and the sport became internationally popular.

Today’s sleek water-skimming hydroplanes developed from the early 1950s when surplus World War II aircraft engines often powered the boats and the competitive boat drivers were as well-known as NASCAR drivers today. Band leader Guy Lombardo, World War II Navy veteran Bernie Little, Californian Bill Muncey, an eight-time gold cup champion, and Chip Hanauer, who drove one of the sport’s most famous hydroplanes, the Miss Budweiser, were among the leading drivers.



Grant and his mother Kim

Not too many years ago, the hydroplanes’ distinctive “Wa Wa” sound echoed over Mill Creek near Fort Monroe, the Elizabeth River and the Pasquotank River. Several of the most renowned hydroplane builders and drivers were local – Henry and Larry Lauterbach, Chris Hall Sr., Earle Hall and Chris Hall Jr. and speed record holder Bob Rowland – and often tested their boats, sending up rooster tails on local waters. For years, the Lauterbachs crafted beautifully powerful hydroplanes in their workshop in Suffolk.

Grant and his parents, Scott and Kim

Liddycoat, both experienced hydroplane drivers, carry on the sport today when hydroplane racing is less known.

Scott Liddycoat, a second-generation hydroplane racer, is the son of Canadian hydroplane builder and racer Lorne Liddycoat, who, the family said, didn’t really care about prize money, but just loved the competition. Father and son worked on the boats and went to the races together. Scott took the wheel when he was 19 and hasn’t given it up yet. One of the top inboard hydroplane drivers, he has moved up to the more powerful unlimited hydroplanes,

earning championships in each class.

In the early 2000’s Kim Liddycoat went to a hydroplane race with a co-worker and fell in love with the sport. At a 2002 race in Maryland, she met Scott and fell in love again. When the couple married, she decided to try racing and drove a 1.5 Litre hydroplane that Scott built for her. Grant used the same boat when he raced in that class.

In 2008 she learned that she was pregnant and gave up driving but remained active with the sport, often as a scorer at the events.

“From the time Grant was 6 weeks old he was at the starting line with me,” she said, adding that he grew up learning his numbers from racing score sheets.

Scott recalled Grant toddling around the workshop while he was building hydroplanes for himself and other drivers.

“Those three are the three musketeers,” said Chris Hall Sr. “Scott, Kim and Grant are very close and a wonderful family – they make a team.”

Hall, the former owner of Bluewater Yacht Sales in Hampton, now lives in Manteo, North Carolina, is still active in hydroplane racing and considers Scott a “world class driver.” Currently Scott drives Hall’s Bluewater Special, a 25-foot Grand National hydroplane and former Miss Budweiser boat.

Hall has watched Grant’s racing career surge.

“I’ve never seen anything like him,” Hall

said. “He’s the real thing.”

Others in the sport have been impressed as well, including Lupton Motor Sports, a boat racing family from New Zealand. They invited Grant to visit and drive a few hydroplanes in New Zealand. Then they offered to pay for his new boat – the Send It. The boat, built by Scott and Grant, is a bright red 2.5 Litre stock 17-foot carbon fiber hydroplane with a kiwi on the hull — a salute to his New Zealand friends.

Showing off his boat, Grant reels off its features like a veteran boatbuilder, easily talking about engines, manifolds, blocks, and aluminum vs cast iron motor heads.

““He understands boats and the engineering that goes into them,” Scott said. “You have to know enough to get yourself out of trouble.”

That knowledge may explain why Grant claims he’s never felt scared while driving.

“When I first started racing boats, my friends were still playing baseball,” he said. “Some get what boat racing is all about and think it’s cool, but others watch and ask, “You parents let you do that?!”

Hydroplane racing can be dangerous, sometimes fatal, and people have questioned the wisdom of allowing a young teen to drive such a powerful machine.

“You are always concerned – he’s your kid,” Scott said. “But I am confident in his driving – I coach him all the time and I think he will be better than I was. We want to give him the best opportunity and the best equipment.”

Kim Liddycoat said she is on edge whenever Scott or Grant is racing - until she sees that the boat is functioning as it should.

“But how can you bring a child into the world of hydroplanes, let him watch us race and then tell him he cannot do it too,” she said.

Past racing accidents prompted stronger safety requirements and better equipment. She said that drivers now need to be scuba certified and demonstrate in a dunk test that they can escape from an overturned boat.

Grant drives a hydroplane with a canopy and special safety belts. He wears a Hans restraint like those worn in motorsports as well as a breathing mask.

Fortunately, the hydroplane racing season works well with his academic calendar. His parents insist that his continued racing is dependent on his grades – and he maintains an A/B average. During the off season he stays in shape playing striker with a travel soccer team.

But there is no doubt that racing is his first love.

As he slips his slender 6-foot frame into the cockpit of the Send It, a smile lights his face – and he becomes one with the boat.

What does this unique teenager see in his future?

“I haven’t developed any job plans yet,” he said. “But I am looking forward to furthering my sports career in hydroplane racing.”



Grant's new hydroplane, the Send It.



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Last edition's Where Am I?

The Where Am I? challenge in the Winter 2024 edition ventured far from Smithfield's Historic District, where most of our gems reside. Sixteen readers correctly answered that the photo was taken at historic Nike Park, site of the former Nike-Ajax missile base that is now home to the Isle of Wight County Parks and Recreation Department. Sarah Dale was randomly drawn as the winner of a \$25 gift certificate from the Christmas Store.



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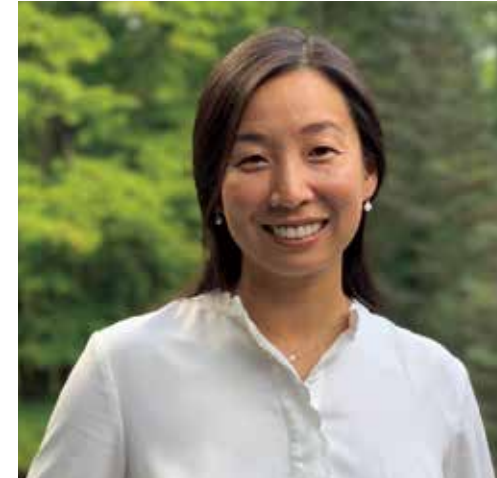
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