

6 Friday, May 6, 2016

LOCAL NEWS

Longtime pastor set to retire after 45 years

Marcellus Harris Jr., longtime pastor and community activist, is retiring after 45 years of service to his church, First Baptist Church Morrison.

Harris has been an activist for justice and racial equality and was a vocal supporter of Allen Iverson during his 1993 trial.

"In ministry, Rev. Harris is known for his unconventional, invigorating delivery and persona. His congregants regard him as an intellectual pastor who rarely uses sermon notes, knows every member by name and aids them in times of need," an announcement from the church said. "A fond memory of children who grew up in the congregation are summer trips every Friday to tourist sites and entertainment venues in Hampton Roads that he personally drove them to in the church van. His presence followed many of these children by weekly phone calls as they matriculated through college."

Harris began his ministry in 1969 and became pastor of First Baptist Church Morrison in 1971. A pastoral retirement and anniversary celebration is planned at 6 p.m. May 14 at the Newport News Marriott at City Center. Tickets are \$55 and can be purchased by calling 757-880-5301.

Harris' son, Marcellus "B2" Harris III, an academic counselor and head football coach at Denbigh High, was elected to Newport News City Council on Tuesday, defeating Vice Mayor Rob Coleman.

His term begins July 1.

Warehouse proposal moves forward

The planning commission on Wednesday recommended the City Council approve a conditional-use permit to allow for a mini self-storage warehouse at the current site of the Centre Court Racquet Club.

The indoor tennis facility at 12445 Warwick Blvd. closed Saturday after about 45 years.

The site is just south of Todd Stadium. The facility will have two full-time employees, said Timothy O. Trant II, attorney for Kaufman & Canoles, at the meeting.

The City Council will consider the matter May 24.

The Southeast CARE Coalition, a local environmental organization, will host an air quality workshop from 1 to 3 p.m. May 21 at the Moton Community House, at 201 Jefferson Ave., according to a news release.

The air quality workshop on May 21 also will cover asthma and allergies.

The workshop, conducted in correlation with Asthma Awareness Month, will cover information about asthma, allergies and air quality, as well as legislation regarding asthma plans in schools.

The group has been lobbying state officials to install an air-monitoring system in the Southeast Community to track pollutants from coal dust, the shipyard and 1-664 vehicles. The event is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Old Dominion University, the Greater Southeast Development Corp. and All From One Inc.

Registration is not required. For more information, contact Linwood DeBrew at 757-604-5367 or Angela Harris at 757-236-7972.

Cliff can be reached by phone at 757-247-7870.

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Art show returns

With artwork from nearly 40 artists displayed against a scenic York River backdrop, Art at the River offers views within a view.

The annual juried art show returns to Riverwalk Landing for a third year Sunday.

Though newer and smaller than other outdoor art shows in the area — think Art on the Square or An Occasion for the Arts — Art at the River has a personality of its own, serving to enrich the local art scene.

The more than 40 exhibiting artists come from the Tidewater area and beyond, including Richmond and the Outer Banks. Many artists are local to York County.

Susan Powell, chair of Art at the River's committee, described the range of mediums: photography, oil, acrylic, watercolor, pen and ink, pottery, jewelry and glass.

And an additional dose of fresh art will be displayed in the Freight Shed concurrent with Art at the River. There, a separate special exhibit presents art from York County high schools, selected by art teachers from among 47 student entries.

The show will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and admission is free. For more information, visit artattheriver.com.

Brauchle can be reached by phone at 757-846-4301.



Marcellus Harris Jr., center, cheers with Andrew Shannon, left, and son Marcellus "B2" Harris III, right, who was elected Vice Mayor Rob Coleman for the North District seat Tuesday in the Newport News City Council.

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IT'S IN THE BUDGET: GLOUCESTER

\$50,000 for broadband study

Gloucester County has included \$50,000 in its capital improvement plan for fiscal year 2017 for a broadband study to explore options for improving broadband access in the county.

The capital plan was approved along with the county's budget in April. The money is expected to be used to hire a consultant to help the Board of Supervisors decide whether the county should pursue its own municipal broadband network and how much it would cost.

Stephanie Tinsley, the county's director of financial services, said the board was hoping to explore grant-funding options to cover the cost. A request

for bids for the consultant could be issued after July 1, Tinsley said. The recent resignation of the county's information technology director could delay the process while the position is filled.

—Frances Hubbard

Line by line

Each day the Daily Press highlights a line item from a local government budget.

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Museum hosting Derby events

The Muscarelle Museum of Art will host a weekend of festivities over the course of Kentucky Derby weekend, including a wine auction and beer festival.

The festival will take place from 12:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday at Barksdale Field.

Call 757-221-2600 or visit muscarelle.org/bbq for more information. All proceeds benefit the Muscarelle.

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