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THE PRINCESS ANNE INDEPENDENT NEWS

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VOLUME 6, ISSUE 10 • MAY 10, 2020

BERRY BOOM

After adjusting operations to the novel coronavirus, Virginia Beach strawberry growers are reporting huge demand in a season that may last a while. **Page 12.**

Where to find local strawberries in Virginia Beach, from prepicked berries at farm stands and markets to pick-your-own family farm operations. **Page 14.**

Isaac Marzioli/Shutterstock

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AGRICULTURE

Pungo Blueberries Etc. ends you-pick operations after four decades as a tasty southern Virginia Beach summer favorite

The family farm's blueberries will still be available through local farm stands and area restaurants.

BY JANE BLOODWORTH ROWE

PUNGO — A summer tradition is over as Juanita and Robert Burns of Pungo Blueberries, Etc., are ending their pick-your-own blueberry and blackberry business.

Locals can still indulge in their blueberries, which will be sold at farm stands and restaurants, but the couple is no longer raising blackberries and will no longer open the fields to you-pick customers.

"There's no easy way to quit after 40 years," Juanita Burns said during an interview this past week, "but it's time we slowed down."

She and Robert Burns have been raising blueberries since 1980. The long days attending to customers in the summer heat was becoming wearing, she said.

Robert and Juanita Burns both grew up on farms in rural Arkansas. After Robert retired from the Marine Corps, they decided to return to their rural roots and bought land on Muddy Creek Road in Pungo.

They weren't sure what they wanted to raise, but, after doing some research, they opted for blueberries. At that time, they weren't grown commercially in Virginia Beach.

"No one here had ever grown blueberries, and we were told that they wouldn't grow here," Juanita Burns said.

They chose to plant rabbiteye berries, a variety usually associated with the Deep South. In fact, the first bushes that they set out died, but that was the result of sawdust, not cold weather. The couple mulched with sawdust without realizing that some of it

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8]

INSIDE

4 LETTER: Appreciating our teachers and those helping children learn in strange times.

10 OCEANFRONT: A restaurant works to support local first responders – and to survive.

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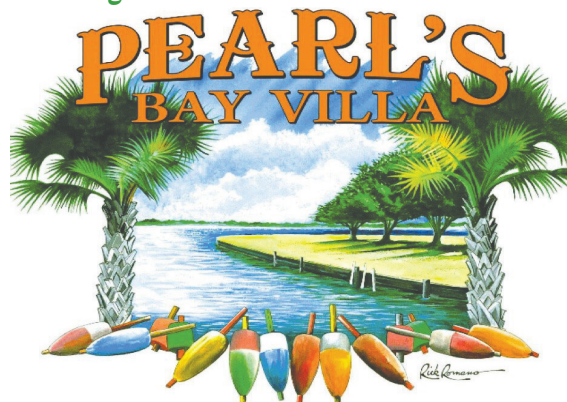
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Upcoming Publication Dates

May 24	July 5
June 7	July 19
June 21	August 9

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VPA Virginia Press Association

Reopening: Beaches remain closed in first phase, little change for struggling restaurants

BY JOHN-HENRY DOUCETTE

VIRGINIA BEACH — The first phase of Virginia's plan to ease back into normal after enacting restrictions to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus is expected to go into effect on Friday, May 15, but there is little change for struggling restaurants and beaches will remain closed, aside from fishing or exercise.

Economically speaking, it was a blow to Virginia Beach, where some officials had hoped to reopen the beaches by Memorial

Day. The commonwealth's largest city is home to a tourism industry that has been hurt by the shutdown, and some — while expressing concern about public health — have been planning for the beaches to come back, as well as for the loosening of restrictions on restaurants.

Gov. Ralph Northam, speaking in Richmond, on Friday, May 8, said Virginia may loosen some restrictions on businesses on May 15. But restaurants will be relegated to takeout and delivery and now outside dining, for those who can do so, at 50 percent of capacity. That

means dining rooms stay closed. And, again, restrictions on beaches stay in place.

"Beaches are currently open for only exercise and fishing," Northam said during a press conference. "That will remain the case in phase one." And the same goes for beaches at state parks, he added.


"Looking forward, we are setting a high bar to ease beach restrictions," Northam said. "It will require a comprehensive and sustainable plan for cleaning, social distancing, education and enforcement."

Virginia Beach Mayor Bobby Dyer, reached by telephone later that day, clearly was disappointed by the governor's announcement.

"We gave them what I thought was a very workable, doable, acceptable plan," Dyer said. "We need our beaches open," the mayor added. "We need our restaurants open. We need to start a comeback."

On April 27, Dyer wrote to Northam seeking a "measured opening" of the beaches during the initial phase of the Virginia Forward Plan,


[CONTINUED ON PAGE 11]



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Letter: Appreciating our common goal to educate our students

Dear Editor:

Every year, the first full week of May is designated as Teacher Appreciation Week. This year it will come and go without the generous luncheons sponsored by Parent Teacher Student Associations and sweet homemade cards offered by thoughtful children – and that is just fine.

Teachers are diligently working from home and doing the best they can to support the most important teachers a child can ever have, their own parents and extended family. Teachers appreciate all that the community does to support the children we love as though they were our own.

We know that families are navigating uncharted waters and juggling many balls as they work from home and facilitate the lessons provided by classroom teachers. We appreciate all you are doing to keep your children safe, educated and loved.

This together time is simultaneously challenging and precious. Cherish it in some small way – and reach out to your child's teacher for help. Your child's teacher is just as anxious as you are and stands ready to help when called upon.

It is my sincere hope we can all celebrate American Education Week in November and honor all the community members who teach

our youth. It is also my hope that, now that the community has experienced the joy of teaching, they will stand beside educators as we advocate for improved school funding, professional pay for school employees and better learning conditions for students.

Thank you, parents and families, for all you do.

We hope to see you soon.

— Dawn Euman, Salem Lakes

Ed. – The author is a teacher at Landstown High School in Virginia Beach and the secretary of the Virginia Beach Education Association.

Letter: We thank those who have served Virginia Beach so well for so long

Dear Editor:

My military family came to this area for what was to be a 12-month stay. We had our orders for Charleston, S.C., when the military decided not to move us. We were just renting, so we decided to buy a permanent home. We wanted a place that we could afford, with good schools and a place to build a church. There weren't many subdivisions in Virginia Beach at that time. When ours opened, we knew that this would be the place that we would call home.

Soon, Chief Jim Cervera would arrive in Virginia Beach to serve as a police officer, and, shortly after, Deputy Chief Tony Zucaro would

follow. We had our police to keep us safe. At a time when we need them most, it is time for them both to leave – not because they choose to or that they are not able to do their jobs but because they both are reaching the retirement age of 65.

I'm glad that Zucaro is able to stay on a little longer as the acting police chief, like Tom Leahy stayed on as acting city manager, so that others can see the real them that I have seen over the 40 years that I have been here in Virginia Beach. I would like to thank all three for their service.

— Linda Russell, Cardinal Estates

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GOVERNMENT

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Ed. — Given the public health emergency, a number of meetings and events have been canceled due to the new coronavirus, and the public is advised to avoid gatherings. This is a standard schedule of events we run. Please check and use discretion.

► Virginia Beach City Council:

Formal sessions on first and third Tuesdays, 6 p.m., City Council Chamber, Building 1, Municipal Center. Normally first and second Tuesdays in July and December only. Call (757) 385-4303 for information. As this edition went to press, city offices remained closed to the public.

► Virginia Beach Planning

Commission: Formal hearing second and Wednesdays, noon, City Council Chamber, Building 1, Municipal Center; informal briefing second Wednesdays, 9 a.m., City Manager's Conference Room, Building 1, Municipal Center.

► Princess Anne District Town

Hall hosted by Councilmember Barbara Henley: Meets 5:15 p.m., fourth Thursdays, Building 19, Municipal Center. Reach Drew Lankford via (757) 409-4353 or dlankfor@vbgov.com for information.

► Virginia Beach Agricultural

Advisory Commission [Quarterly]: Meets 7 p.m., second Monday in January, April, July and October, usually in the agriculture department conference room, second floor, Building 14, Municipal Center. Call (757) 385-5775 for information. The April meeting was canceled.

► Virginia Beach Board of Zoning

Appeals: Meets 2 p.m., first Wednesday, except July, when it meets the third Wednesday. Informal session is at 1 p.m., Room 234, City Hall. Formal session is 2 p.m. in City Council chambers. Call (757) 385-8074 for information.

FEEDBACK

The Princess Anne Independent News welcomes letters to the editor and commentary on local goings on. Reach us via letters@princessanneindy.com, social media or our snail mail address, P.O. Box 7064, Virginia Beach, VA 23457. Letters must include the author's name and neighborhood of residence. Please include a phone number with letters or emails. We won't publish it.

QUOTED

"More than any particular policy outcome, Americans want a sense that their nation can regain the spring in its step and can adopt a robust realism regarding the Leninist party-state that is its principal adversary. The first step toward a jauntier, safer America is to make the election a referendum on the right question: 'Is this really the best we can do?'"

— George Will, "Only one of these candidates is actually able to stand up to China," *The Washington Post* [Wednesday, April 29]

MEDIA

Popular online

THE INDEPENDENT NEWS

These stories are popular online at princessanneindy.com. Follow us at Facebook via @princessanneindy and Twitter via @PungoPublishing. Editor John Doucette is on Instagram via @johnhenrydoucette.

► "Where to find strawberries in Virginia Beach," April 30

► "In Memoriam: Pungo's Roy David Flanagan Jr., farmer and family man," April 30

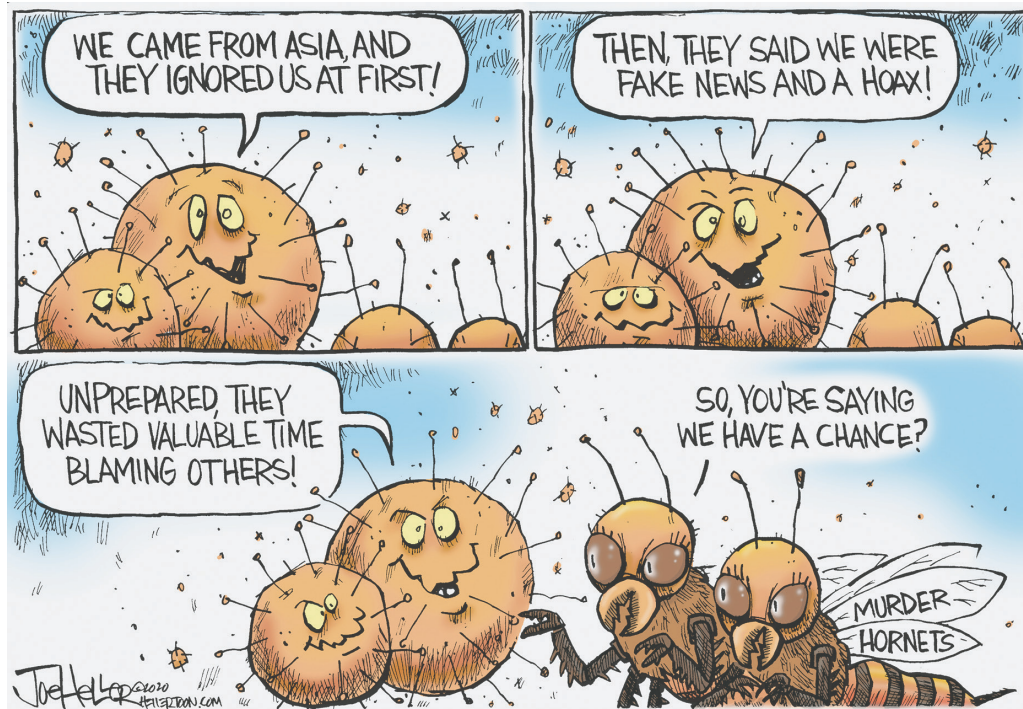
► "Kiggans: Masks are needed — and ongoing effort to provide them can bring about unlikely alliances," May 2

► "The Princess Anne Independent News, Vol. 6, No. 9 [online edition]" April 26

► "Henley: Budget efforts continue during coronavirus uncertainty," May 5

► "Farmer John: Building a garden starts with healthy, living soil," May 2

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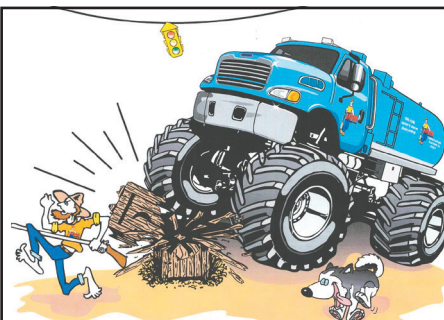
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FARMER JOHN

Building a Garden, Part Three: Addressing a few common questions about pest control and some plant varieties that do well in these parts

BY J.D. WILSON

SIGMA

In the first two parts of this column series, “Building a Garden,” I wrote about how it’s all about the health of the soil – the biology and the organic matter.

I can’t emphasize this enough. You feed the soil, and the soil feeds the plants.

It’s a dance between the soil microbes and the roots and, of course, photosynthesis. Use well-made compost, mulch and organic products. This is the basic approach. I believe in it. I practice it.

I want to now address some common questions in two basic categories, pest control and vegetable varieties for our area. This is important to know when you build the garden and continue it.

I’ll start with pest control and – oh, boy – that is a lot to share all at once. The first part is easy to say, but it takes time to accomplish. It all goes back to soil health, again, as the answer.

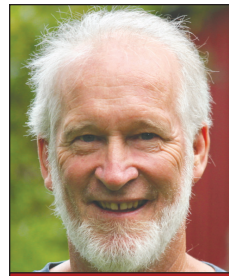
The healthier the soil, the healthier the plant, and, of course, the healthier the person who eats the plant. The healthy plant defends itself much better against bugs and disease. It’s just like us. If you are healthy, you have a better immune system. Research has shown that bugs are especially attracted to the weakest plants.

The next step is to create a healthy ecosystem in your yard or on your farm. Plant beneficial habitat areas to attract the bugs who eat pest bugs. This is your garden security. You bring on the ladybugs and all the rest of the gang.

You have to get a little education on pest life cycles and learn how and at which stage to intervene with a natural solution. Bugs love flowers and herbs, some for habitat and some for food, while they hunt for the pest. You can also purchase seed packs with a variety of beneficial habitat plants in it. I make sure

there is always something flowering in my garden to keep my security team engaged.

If you run into trouble, there are also a number of companies specializing in organic pest control, such as Peaceful Valley Farm



J.D. Wilson

Supply, Arbico, Johnny’s Select Seeds and Seven Springs Farm. You get an education just reading the catalogs, which list solutions for each problem or pest. For example, spinosad and bacillus thuringiensis, or Bt, products are even effective on fire ants.

As to the larger pests with fur, feathers and teeth? You’ve gotta go to the next level of defense. Where I live, I have to use deer fence seven and one-half feet tall. They just won’t share. They eat it all. Bite the bullet, and put up that fence. With a good install, it should also keep out raccoons.

Let the grass grow up thick around the base of the fence because that deters digging animals from going under. And don’t forget trapping. If you are so inclined, I have some good recipes for varmint stew.

If you want all of your blueberries, you have to use bird netting or build a hawk and owl hotel. Unfortunately, we are in competition with them. The word is out about how blueberries are delicious. Once you get the techniques of protecting the garden down, it gets easier.

Varieties to plant in our area are another big topic. There is a seed company I like specializing in southern seeds called Southern Exposure Seed Exchange. I’m sure there are others. There are so many choices and so many braggers about their favorite – the best and biggest this or that. The choices change based on the season and your taste buds.

Norman Chan/Shutterstock



Those seeking a nice return while saving space in the garden might try pole beans or snow peas, according to Farmer John. The snow pea is pictured at left.

I can only name a few in this space. For tomatoes, I love the sun gold cherry, Juliet is a remarkable roma, and celebrity is a reliable slicer. All three have good disease resistance.

I should mention I also use compost tea sprays for disease suppression. I grow between 10 and 20 tomato varieties each year, and any one of them might do well in a given year.

My favorite sweet pepper is Carmen, which is reliable and tasty. Orient charm is a really good eggplant. In fact, there are a number of Asian vegetable varieties which stand out and grow well here. Hakurei turnip is one.

You can’t beat green beans, which are always good in summer. And please don’t turn up your nose at okra. Just learn new ways to cook it. There are many.

My favorite watermelons are sugar baby and crimson sweet.

For space saving, try pole beans and sugar or snow peas. You get a nice return for the growing area.

These are just a few of my faves.

You can keep planting new and different things as an area opens up. Just don’t forget your fertility, if you do that.

There will always be something to eat with this thinking. We just turned under our last wintered-over kale and chard, as the newly planted kale is growing right behind.

It’s a rhythm you can get into.

You can be as elaborate or simple as you want, but just keep growing.

Bon appétit.

Wilson, a farmer and consultant, writes about sustainable farming and gardening for The Independent News. Reach him via farmerjohnnewearth@yahoo.com.

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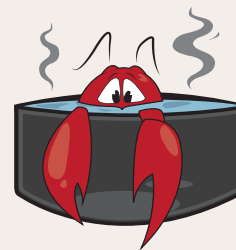
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AGRICULTURE

Pungo Blueberries ending pick-your-own operations after four decades, but owners say berries still will be available at local farm stands, restaurants

[CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE]

was still green, and it robbed the soil of nitrogen as it broke down.

Replacement bushes thrived, but it took about five years before they were fully productive. Still, the couple persevered and, with the help of sons Perry and Rob opened Pungo Blueberries, Etc., in 1984. They found that it was a learning curve for the customers as well as for them.

"Nobody had ever seen pick-your-own blueberries before," Juanita Burns said. "We had to educate people about how to pick them and what to do with them when they were picked."

To market the business, she mailed advertisements and handed out free samples of her homemade jams at the Pungo Strawberry Festival. She began printing and distributing recipes at her stand, and later, she compiled two cookbooks, Red, White and Blueberry and Red, White and Blueberry Second Time Around."

Over the years, the couple grew elephant garlic, raspberries, and even kiwi, and Juanita Burns made and sold jams, which she's decided not to do this year.

The biggest challenge, Robert and Juanita Burns said, was weed control.

The biggest satisfaction was getting to know the customers and seeing the children grow up and return to pick with their own children.

"I enjoyed seeing these people, and I looked forward to it every year," Juanita Burns said.

"We've had three generations in the same family coming," said Pungo resident Nancy White, who worked as a cashier at the farm

for over 30 years. "I won't know what to do with myself this summer."

White also helped prune the bushes, which is done in late winter. She loved the work, although she acknowledged 13-hour days in July and August could be challenging.

"We worked through the coldest part of the year and the hottest part of the year," White said. "Still, I couldn't have worked for better people."

Harold and Brenda Owens, owners of Harold's Restaurant, are among the loyal customers who made Pungo Blueberries a summertime tradition. They picked berries for their own use as well as to bake into desserts at their restaurant, and Brenda Owens said that her lemon blueberry cheesecake was a favorite with customers.

"We have been picking there for many, many years," Brenda Owens said. "I have spent many mornings out there picking."

This year, the pruning went on as scheduled and the berries are ripening, but there won't be any customers in the orchard.

Locals may still have a chance to pick their own blueberries this year at Culliphers' Berry Patch, 772 Princess Anne Road, where the Cullipher family grows highbush blueberries, an earlier variety of berries.

Cullipher Farm Market at 1444 Princess Anne Road has been open for online orders during strawberry season because of restrictions related to the novel coronavirus, but the orchard could open for pick-your-own blueberries if the situation relaxes.

The berries may be ripe by late May depending on weather conditions, farmer Mike Cullipher said during an interview.



Juanita Burns, seen in a 2016 file photo, says Pungo Blueberries, Etc., is ending its you-pick operations, though its berries still will be available through local stands and at restaurants. The family farm has been a centerpiece of summertime in southern Virginia Beach for four decades.

File/The Independent News

SUDOKU EDITED BY MARGIE E. BURKE

Difficulty: Easy

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HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9. The solution to this puzzle will appear in the Sunday, May 24, print edition of *The Independent News*.

Ed. — This is a new puzzle for *The Indy*. I may try out some different puzzles and other features in the coming editions. Please email me via jhd@princessanneindy.com if you would like to see other puzzles or with any feedback about this or our regular crossword, also edited by Margie Burke of The Puzzle Syndicate. The crossword is on Page 19.

"Where Jesus is the light."

John 10:10



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Amanda Marano of Harvest, a restaurant at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront, fills out notes of thanks to first responders before the restaurant delivers meals to them through its Meals for Heroes program. Cards name customers who buy the meals at a discount.



During coronavirus restrictions, food for first responders, others on the front lines

BY JOHN-HENRY DOUCETTE

OCEANFRONT

Early on a recent morning, Michael Mauch worked in the kitchen of Harvest, the family-run Oceanfront restaurant at Atlantic Avenue and 18th Street, to make breakfast for city first responders.

In March, near the end of the Harvest's first year in business as a farm-to-table restaurant, the novel coronavirus led Virginia to shut-down restaurant dining rooms, among the many restrictions on commerce that have left businesses in the resort city reeling.

Harvest is among the eateries that have managed to remain open by offering takeout, curbside service and delivery options. It's been tough lately, of course, though it was — until the virus — a good first year.

After the closure of dining rooms, the restaurant also started offering "Meals for Heroes." Customers buy discounted breakfast sandwiches the restaurant makes and delivers to people providing services to the public during the coronavirus emergency. It helps first responders, medical workers and others while helping the restaurant operate.

Mauch, a Pungo native, lives in the rural community with his wife, Amanda Marano, and their 2 ½-year-old daughter, Grace. Their restaurant features locally-grown produce, big plans for rooftop dining and goals of Mauch to include more produce he grows himself in dishes — a little of everything, he says. Their produce comes now from Honeysuckle Sweet Farm, an urban farm along Virginia Beach Boulevard.

Soon, Marano arrived with Grace.

Mauch looked up from his work and greeted them.

"She hasn't eaten yet, has she?" he asked.

"No," Marano said.

Breakfast was on the way.

"Wash your hands," Marano told the child before it was served in the otherwise empty dining room.

The couple lived at the Oceanfront for a while, working in other businesses, but then they moved to the country, back to Pungo, Mauch's home.

"We realized a drive was okay," Marano said.

"I always realized that," Mauch offered.

"I had to realize it, too," she said.

If Mauch could do anything else, his wife said, he'd be a farmer.

"As a small farmer, you can't support your family," he said.

"That's why we support local farmers," Marano said.

"We feel like if we can get through this, we can get through anything," Mauch said, speaking of the past few weeks.

Soon it was time to deliver meals to, on this morning, nearby firefighters and police. Among them was Firefighter Cameron Powell of A Shift, Company 11.

"This is the first time I've had Harvest, so I'm looking forward to it," Powell said. "We really appreciate it."

Then Mauch delivered nearby to the police and civilian personnel at the Second Precinct.

"You said your wife made them?" asked Edie Dennis, a precinct desk officer.

"We're at Harvest, just down the street," Mauch said.

He explained Meals for Heroes, how the customers ordered the sandwiches.

"We make and take them to all the people on the front lines," Mauch said.

"Thank you so much for thinking of us," Dennis said. "That is so sweet."

She got his contact information for a thank you note, and she said citizens and businesses have been checking in and bringing food.

A moment later, the round of deliveries was done. Mauch said it was a good feeling.

"Just a sense of community," I guess, he said.

Learn more about Harvest and Meals for Heroes online via harvestvb.com.



► Above, Michael Mauch of Harvest delivers Meals for Heroes to the Second Precinct on Wednesday, April 29.

► At right, Mauch and Amanda Marano, owners of Harvest, are seen with their daughter, Grace.

► At middle right, Virginia Beach Firefighter Cameron Powell, seen with Mauch, said he and his colleagues appreciated the delivery of the meals.

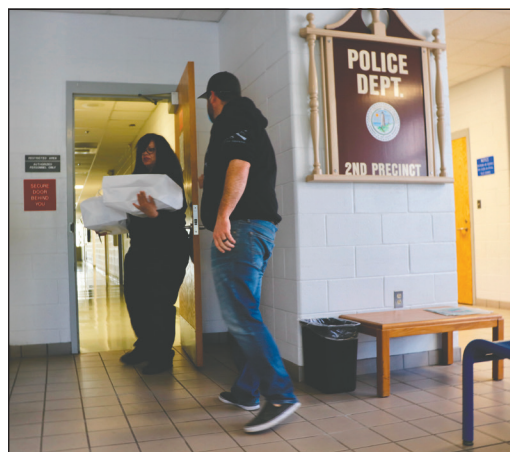
► At far right, Precinct Desk Officer Edie Dennis said businesses and citizens have made a number of gestures of support to city police.



FRONT



John-Henry Doucette/The Independent News



Northam: Beaches not a yet a part of Virginia 'gradual' reopening plan

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3]

the playbook for restoring normalcy and commerce to the commonwealth.

"As you know," Dyer wrote, "our 28 miles of beaches on the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay help create one of the top economic engines for our city and the commonwealth."

Dyer's letter added that beaches offer a mental health benefit. "We have an opportunity to provide that safe outlet for residents and visitors on one of the widest beaches on the East Coast," he wrote.

The letter spells out steps that would help manage concerns about spreading the virus, which can cause the disease Covid-19. These include signs about social distancing, patrols by safety ambassadors, more enforcement, suspending bus trolley service and some parking constraints at city garages.

Recent visits to Sandbridge and the Oceanfront showed most people seem to be respecting the beach closures, though the resort area was busy on a recent weekend, especially on the Boardwalk and along Atlantic Avenue. On Saturday, May 2, some people drove on Atlantic Avenue or held signs along the sidewalk or Boardwalk protesting restrictions.

"Today is to let everyone know we want Virginia to be open again," said Joshua Macias, a founder of Vets for Trump. "The governor says you can only go out to exercise. Well, we're exercising our rights."

Northam has said Virginia's reopening will be gradual, and the first phase will depend upon conditions and data related to the virus.

"I want to reassure Virginians we are not opening the floodgates here," Northam said on Friday, May 8, in Richmond. "We are not flip-

ping a light switch from closed to open. When the time is right, we will turn a dimmer switch up just a notch.

"The reality is that the virus is still in our communities, and we need to continue our vigilance and social distancing, handwashing and wearing of face protection when we're out and about."

Phase one is the first of three phases expected to last about two or three weeks, and Northam's order to stay home will change to a "safer at home order," according to a summary by the Virginia Press Association.

In phase one, changes include allowing non-essential retail operations to have 50 percent of the store's capacity rather than 10 people at a time. Restaurants and breweries can let patrons sit outside at up to 50 percent of capacity if the establishment has an outdoor seating permit. Gyms can hold outdoor classes only, salons can reopen by appointment and with strict social distancing standards and houses of worship can hold indoor services up to 50 percent of capacity.

As of Friday, May 8, 22,342 cases have been reported in Virginia, including 3,049 people who were hospitalized and 812 reported deaths.

In Virginia Beach, the business community is preparing for reopening, including developing a public service announcement about operations and safety and efforts to support various businesses in implementing safe practices.

Dyer and Tony DiSilvestro of the local restaurant chain Ynot Italian met at the Great Neck Ynot location to film part of the PSA on Saturday, May 2. Dyer spoke with report-

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 17]



John-Henry Doucette/The Independent News

Despite appeals, including from Virginia Beach Mayor Bobby Dyer, beaches will not reopen in the initial phase of relaxed restrictions related to the novel coronavirus, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam said this past week. The phase may start May 15.

Sujit and Kaylah Samudre of Chesapeake pick berries at Flanagan Farms in Pungo on Sunday, May 3. It was the first time at a you-pick stand in southern Virginia Beach, where farmers report a strong crop this year and lots of demand for berries in fields where safety precautions are in place due to the novel coronavirus. Kaylah Samudre said they planned to make strawberry dump cake with their haul from the strawberry fields.



John-Henry Doucette/The Independent News

Strawberries: A great crop meets consumer demand, boosting local farm stands

BY JOHN-HENRY DOUCETTE

PUNGO — A few weeks ago, there was some uncertainty about how local produce stands and pick-your-own operations would navigate concerns about the novel coronavirus and restrictions that have meant significant pain for a number of other economic drivers here.

Fast forward to a Sunday in May, where farmer Robbie Vaughan stood in a busy parking lot at Vaughan Farm's Produce on Princess Anne Road, and it is clear as day that a strong local strawberry crop is being met by serious demand from consumers who are heading to the county and picking out fields, with some weekdays resembling weekends.

"We are jammed," Vaughan said during his duties directing customers through the lot and — due to constraints meant to ensure social distancing — to another family farm patch and even some other stands to make sure his farm did not get overcrowded.

"Usually, this time of year, we've had 600, 700 pickers," he said on Sunday, May 3. "This year we've already had over 3,000 pickers"

A number of factors have aligned. Farmers

said a warm winter meant an early season, and recent weather has kept berries growing. Additionally, customers are coming for a variety of reasons — a desire to buy local food, worries about big grocery stores, wanting to get out.

Vaughan said he had never had an April like this one for yields and crowds.

City Councilmember Barbara Henley, a Pungo farmer who represents the Princess Anne District, even mentioned the strong early strawberry season during a City Council meeting on Tuesday, May 5.

"I am so glad the strawberry crop is great and people want to pick them," she said.

During a telephone interview on Friday, May 8, Henley said it has been an "outstanding" crop, which came about three weeks early, and weather conditions mean the season could be prolonged, perhaps through most of May.

"It's been a really good crop, and folks have been anxious to get outside," Henley said, adding that consumers have called ahead about what protections are in place when they arrive at you-pick locations and people are

engaging in social distancing.

"It's been good to see people so concerned, wanting to enjoy it but also be careful," she said.

"If anybody complains about strawberry season thus far, I think they're lying to you," said Roy Flanagan, Virginia Beach's extension agent.

Flanagan is also a Pungo Farmer who has seen a lot of demand at Flanagan Farms at Muddy Creek and Princess Anne roads. [Ed. — Flanagan is kin to John Doucette, editor of The Independent News.]

"We had a day last week we opened at noon," he said during a telephone interview. "We changed the voice mail, Facebook at 12:15 because we were packed. ...

"We had great reason to be optimistic, but you never know until you get into it," he said.

Hedging, as farmers do, that the season is early, Flanagan said early demand for you-pick berries has been unusually strong during a season that could extend to June.

"It's too early in the season to call it the greatest thing ever, but it's a major blessing right now," he said.

"Three weeks in, you can't ask for better," Virginia Beach Agriculture Director David Trimmer said. "Our crowds are great. Our supply is good. All we need is more sun, drier weather and a little bit warmer at night."

Trimmer said some of the demand is people wanting to get out of the house.

"We appreciate the support for our Pungo strawberries," Trimmer said. "The only thing we caution the visitor on is to utilize the phone numbers and the websites and social media. ... We've got plenty of blooms. We may carry this into June if Mother Nature treats us right."

In addition to farm stands reporting interest in pick-your-own strawberries and other locally grown produce, local meat has also been sought out during the pandemic and related concerns about meat supplies.

Billy and Bernadette Vaughan of Coastal Cattle, a family run beef farm with a retail Meat Shack on Vaughan Road, said the place has been booming in recent weeks.

Shortly after a recent supply of meat was

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 14]

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Farming: A strong season is underway for growers, local stands; demand for locally raised meat is booming, too

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12]

processed and returned to the farm for sale, customers kept coming, and the beef went.

Coastal Cattle still has some restaurant business despite the challenges that industry faces right now, but direct sales to customers are extremely strong.

"I think people are honestly going stir crazy and they need to get out," Billy Vaughan added. "We've gotten more new customers during this, and hopefully they'll stick."

During a visit to the Meat Shack this past week, two freezers were empty and a unit in the middle of the shack had a few cuts left.

More beef is on the way, the Vaughans said, and the family plans to increase its supply in the coming months.

"Hopefully, that will keep us in stock," Bernadette Vaughan said.

Derek Eason of Cartwright Family Farm said demand for its local pork has been strong over the past few weeks, through online orders and sales through its retail market near where North Muddy Creek and Indian River roads meet.

"There's been a surge of new customers," Brittany Timbreza, his fiancé, said. "It's really interesting to see that shift during this time, especially."

"People are starting to realize they don't have to go to the grocery store," Eason said.

The business has seen challenges in sales to restaurants, overall, but sales direct to consumers have been very strong.

"We're definitely making it up," Eason said.

In Blackwater, the Market at Land of Promise Farms, a new venture by a familiar name in local agriculture, was just beginning to offer its local pork products to consumers as this edition of *The Independent News* went to press.

Farmer Ryan Horsley said the family farm, which is known for its grain farming operations and for raising pigs, including show animals, has provided pork products to neighbors in the past, but has been toying with the idea of direct sales to consumers for years.

"What kind of kicked it into gear was the virus and the shortage of meat," he said during a telephone interview this past week.

The market just put out its price list on social media, and Horsley said he hopes to see what the demand is and maybe grow the venture.

Small, local operations may have strong demand now, but, even once the crisis ends, local farms have had a number of new customers who may come come back.

And it never hurts for people know where it comes from.

"The locally grown product," Horsley said. "The fact that people know when they come pick it up from our place it was raised out back."



► **D'Mond and Michelle Mason of Foxfire brought their children, D'Mond II and Elijah to Vaughan Farm's Produce on Princess Anne Road and said they were having a blast. Here, Elijah shows off a berry fresh from the field for his father.**

► **Below left, Coastal Cattle's Meat Shack retail location on Vaughan Road has seen heavy demand for its local beef over the past few weeks as consumers, including new customers, seek out food from local sources. A cooler tells the tale.**

► **Below right, Charles Figueroa and Sofia Salas, who are engaged, pick berries together at Flanagan Farms at Princess Anne and North Muddy Creek roads.**



Where to find strawberries in Virginia Beach

THE INDEPENDENT NEWS

PUNGO

Strawberries are here, and produce farmers have opened fields and farm stands with steps in place to address concerns about the novel coronavirus — and they report strong demand in the early weeks of the season.

The following is a list of Virginia Beach U-pick and pre-pick strawberry farms, markets or stands based upon information compiled by the Virginia Beach Cooperative Extension office and released by the Virginia Beach Department of Agriculture.

Please check by phone or on social media for hours and availability of berries before heading out to a farm stand — and take precautions such as social distancing or staying home if you are sick.

Virginia Beach is the largest strawberry producing locality in the commonwealth, according to the city agriculture department, and the value of the crop here ranges from \$750,000 to \$1 million each year.

► **BayBreeze Farm:** 1076 Sandbridge Road; (757) 721-3288. [Pre-pick only.]

► **Brookdale Farm:** 2060 Vaughan Road; (757) 721-0558.

► **Cindy's Produce:** 2385 Harpers Road; (757) 427-2346. [Pre-pick only.]

► **Cullipher Farm Market:** 1444 Princess Anne Road; (757) 721-7456. [Pre-order of pre-picked berries only via cullipherfarm.com and pick up at stand.]

► **Flanagan Farm:** At Princess Anne and North Muddy Creek roads; (757) 426-5585.

► **Flip Flop Farmer:** 3244 New Bridge Road; (757) 426-9908.

► **Flip Flop Farmer:** 1166 Culver Lane; (757) 536-8069. [Pre-pick only.]

► **Henley Farms:** 3484 Charity Neck Road; (757) 426-7501 or (757) 426-6869.

► **Henley's at Pleasant Ridge:** At Princess Anne and Pleasant Ridge roads; (757) 426-7501 or (757) 689-6196.

► **Salem Berry Farm:** 1763 Salem Road; (757) 818-3156.

► **Vaughan Farms' Produce:** 1258 Princess Anne Road; (757) 615-4888.

► **Virginia Beach Farmers Market:** 3640 Dam Neck Road; (757) 385-4388. [Pre-pick only.]

RELATED: Read previous coverage about state agriculture guidance for pick-your-own and individual farm stands during the novel coronavirus emergency, including an interview with State Agriculture & Forestry Secretary Bettina Ring, at princessanneindy.com.



The dictionary defines essential as "absolutely necessary, extremely important."

We define it as the American worker.

To the food service worker, to the grocer, to the Teamster keeping America rolling - we thank you.

To our doctors and nurses working so diligently to get us through this crisis - we thank you for your amazing efforts and dedication.

To the nearly 500 Virginia Beach officers and detectives who the Virginia Beach Police Benevolent Association represents - we thank you.

Thank you for staying at your post 24 hours a day, seven days a week, while others are ordered to stay home.

Thank you for risking your health and safety as we add yet another item to the long list of dangers faced in our job.

Thank you to the families and loved ones of our officers for your sacrifice. You didn't sign up to serve, but your sacrifices are many.

We know you want them home. We know you want them safe. Thank you for sharing your hero with the city of Virginia Beach.

We promise we will always fight for them.

We will never forget that they are essential to someone.

Virginia Beach Police Benevolent Association Local 34



COLUMN

Trump, Northam pay lip service to worker safety at meat processing plants

You can tell a lot about a person by assessing his priorities. So it's clear President Donald Trump places a greater value on beef, pork and chicken than he does on human life. It could be due to his love for Quarter Pounders and other fast food.

Think that's hyperbole? Consider this:

Trump hesitated to invoke the Defense Production Act to fight the novel coronavirus. Bipartisan members of Congress, governors and others repeatedly called on the president in March to use the 70-year-old law to force private companies to boost production of ventilators for patients and personal protection equipment for health care workers. (He did issue a memo in early April to get specific companies to produce ventilators.)

There was no arm-twisting needed at the end of this past month, however. That's when Trump used the very same act to order meatpacking and production plants to stay open. I understand he's trying to boost the food supply and the economy, but those areas pale in comparison to the medical needs of this pandemic.

In his executive order, the president said: "It is important that processors of beef, pork, and poultry ... in the food supply chain continue operating and fulfilling orders to ensure a continued supply of protein for Americans."

What, tofu won't suffice? I love bacon as much as the next guy, but Americans could use more fruits and vegetables in our diet, anyway.

Trump acknowledged the outbreaks of Covid-19 among workers at some facilities. A White House fact sheet also noted the plants should follow federal guidelines to ensure worker safety.

But the president's executive order focused more on the

need to keep the slaughterhouses grinding than in safeguarding employees from the virus. The plants, you see, are "critical infrastructure" under the Defense Production Act, Trump contends.

Did the administration's conversations with executives of major meat-processing companies play a role? I'd bet a burger on it.



Roger Chesley

I don't trust the feds to supply workers the clothing, masks and other gear they need to help halt the spread of the virus. The government has been slow in making sure enough Covid-19 tests are available, for example, during the outbreak. Its pledges have little credibility.

The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, which represents more than 250,000 meatpacking and food processing employees in the United States, says the speed of the production lines often forces workers to stand closer than the recommended six feet in social distancing. Members fear the companies will fight any push to slow production.

UFCW estimates 20 meatpacking and food processing workers have died from Covid-19. Thousands more have either tested positive for the virus, self-quarantined, are awaiting test results or are in stages of recovery. Nearly two dozen plants, the union says, have closed at least temporarily in the past two months.

And since Big Business has a chum in the White House, union members are right to think they'll be considered nothing more than table scraps.

Meanwhile, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam has been less-than-proactive, too.

Activists for workers in the commonwealth have pleaded with Northam, a Democrat, and the feds to issue "enforceable standards" – rather than simply make recommendations on plant safety. The activists say much is being asked of workers, but they're not getting robust protections in return. Less timidity from the gov would help.

Such meat and poultry plants are a big part of Virginia's economy. State and federal officials inspect 122 meat processing plants in Virginia. Federal data from 2019 show chickens raised for meat – rather than eggs – and cattle and calves are responsible for more than \$1.3 billion in cash receipts.

Nor have the plants in Virginia been immune from Covid-19. For example, chicken plants on the Eastern Shore operated by Perdue Farms and Tyson Foods have continued to operate despite rising numbers of infections, according to *The Washington Post*.

"Hospital officials said Tuesday that there are nearly 100 cases of Tyson employees or people who came in contact with them contracting Covid-19," *The Post* reported in late April, "while the Perdue plant has about 80 such cases."

So far, comments by Trump and Northam on protecting plant workers have amounted to lip service. Those workers, toiling under tough, dangerous conditions, are right to fear the worst.

Longtime columnist and editorial writer Roger Chesley worked at The Daily Press and The Virginian-Pilot from 1997 through 2018. This column originally appeared in The Virginia Mercury, a nonprofit online news organization you can read at its site, virginiamercury.com.

COLUMN

Pets cared for by the the Virginia Beach SPCA are still in need of homes

VIRGINIA BEACH

It's not always easy to find a new home when you're a mature lady, and that's the situation that Tank finds herself in.

Tank, a five-year old domestic shorthair cat, had lived in the Virginia Beach Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals since her owners surrendered her in December. Tank is an adult, which means she is a little harder to place in a new home, according to Kate Baldwin, the chief communications and community relations officer of the Virginia Beach SPCA.

"Kittens and puppies go much more quickly," Baldwin said in late April.

Still, it's not impossible to place mature animals. Two older females, a mother-daughter pair that were too closely bonded to be separated, were adopted on one recent day.

Tank, a spayed female, was surrendered by her owners because they had allergies and because she had problems getting along with the family dog, but she is generally a sweet kitty who is used to being around older children. Because she's considered a long-term resident, the SPCA offered a 50 percent reduction in the normal adoption fee of \$85. Reduced fees are also offered for senior cats

eight years or older or cats that have been in the SPCA 30 day or longer.

Reduced fees of \$175 are also offered for dogs seven and older or long-term resident dogs. The usual fees for dogs range from \$210 to \$350 for puppies, and kittens under a year old cost \$150 to adopt. All fees include spaying or neutering if needed, some vaccinations, other medical treatment and a microchip.



Jane Bloodworth Rowe

As always, the SPCA has a number of cats, dogs, and small animals

available for adoption. Despite the current novel coronavirus pandemic, people are still coming out to adopt animals, Baldwin said.

So far, there's also a slight decrease in the number of animals that are being surrendered for adoption. In March, for example, 227 animals were adopted and 161 were received for adoption by the SPCA.

"The adoption rate is staying pretty

steady," Baldwin said. "We were anticipating a bit of an increase in the number of animals coming in because of financial stress, but we've actually seen a bit of a decrease."

She added it may be because fewer people are moving or going through other major life changes that force them to surrender animals.

It's also possible, Baldwin added, that because pet owners are spending more time at home, their animals are getting more attention from them. A primary reason for behavior problems in pets is that they don't receive enough attention.

The pandemic has forced some changes in operational procedures at the SPCA, however. Because only 10 people are allowed in the shelter at a time, it's necessary to make an appointment by email or by telephone if you want to surrender or adopt an animal.

The clinic, which offers medical care at a reduced price to income-eligible families, is still open for appointments, but owners aren't allowed to enter the building, Baldwin said. Instead, a staff member will pick up and return your animal from your car as you wait in the parking lot.

Donations are always welcome, and there's a drop box outside the building for in-kind

items such as food or blankets.

Because of the novel coronavirus, the SPCA isn't accepting used supplies right now, but you can still donate new bedding or other supplies that are still in the packaging to the organization.

Donated pet food goes to a food pantry helping financially burdened pet owners

Donations are particularly needed now because the SPCA had to postpone its annual Wags and Whiskers Gala, a major fundraiser held at the Cavalier Hotel that typically raises over \$100,000, Baldwin said. That event, which was scheduled in March, is now tentatively scheduled for June 20. For more information about this event or to buy tickets, visit vbspc.com/gala. And for more information about SPCA services, including the clinic, adoptions and donations, visit vbspc.com or call (757) 427-0070.

As for Tank? Her image was posted to the SPCA website this month as one of the recent adoption success stories. She has a home.

Jane Bloodworth Rowe is a regular contributor of columns and reporting to The Independent News. Her work also has appeared in The Virginian-Pilot.

Beaches: City Council talks readying for reopening, but it may be a while longer

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11]

ers after the taping about plans to get the city economy moving.

"Today's purpose ... is to open up as a community, not just as individual restaurants," DiSilvestro said during an interview. "Being open [for takeout] since the beginning of the coronavirus, we've definitely learned some tried and true procedures and processes above and beyond our normal sanitation."

He said that if one restaurant dining room or business opens in a way that negatively affects consumers, it will ripple out throughout the business community. Everyone needs to be consistent when dining rooms and businesses such as gyms reopen, he said.

"It's one thing to wear gloves," he said, stressing the need for staffs to be fully trained. "It's another thing to wear gloves and have an awareness about why you're wearing them. Same thing with face masks. People need to take this seriously."

Ynot, with six locations and 450 employees, has remained open with its full staff, and DiSilvestro said that has allowed them to train for weeks. The industry is trying to share best practices, and DiSilvestro is sharing what his business has learned.

"We're all working together as a team to

try and make sure we provide the safest experience you can possibly have when you're walking into any hospitality, customer service situation," he said.

They're trying to stress "opening right."

The state of the city's beaches – and its impact on the hospitality industry and locals – has been discussed during recent city meetings, including some held via digital communication and, on Thursday, May 7, a meeting of the City Council at City Hall during which council members were together again, though spread out and wearing masks.

During the meeting, the City Council also discussed moving forward on a process to select a new city manager, including ensuring safety for the candidates due to the virus.

Vice Mayor Jim Wood listed changes to the City Council reconciliation process during the Thursday, May 8, meeting – suspension of an increase in stormwater fee for the coming year, which was to be the next year of a planned, multiyear increase, and restoration of funding to city schools anticipated to have been lost due to the Covid-19 crisis.

The full reconciliation letter and a discussion of what the changes mean is available online via vbgov.com.



Virginia Beach Mayor Bobby Dyer and Tony DiSilvestro of Ynot Italian on Saturday, May 2, discussed goals for how to successfully open businesses, including restaurants.



► Above, City Councilmember Aaron Rouse, who holds an at large seat, was among the council members who asked about the city's preparations to reopen beaches. "People are going to find a way to the water," he said. ► At right, City Councilmembers Sabrina Wooten of the Centerville District, and Michael Berlucci of the Rose Hall District listen to a briefing during a City Council meeting on Thursday, May 8.



City Councilmember Barbara Henley, who represents the Princess Anne District, said she wanted to know the effects of the funding changes upon the stormwater program.

Deputy City Manager David Bradley said there would be no impact upon the stormwater fund because the general fund would be used to offset the reduction.

The city would identify money in the general fund, likely through positions. Schools funding also would come through salary savings due to a hiring freeze instituted due to the public health crisis, Bradley added.

Wood said the schools funding would go toward the Princess Anne High School capital project and also to renovations at other schools.

Henley said it was important to handle a proposed tax relief program for citizens and businesses to ensure help gets to people who need it. She urged strict accounting and tracking of how relief programs work and "make sure it's dispensed in a fair and appropriate fashion."

After Henley spoke, Dyer noted that the city hoped to start reopening soon. He said businesses and families are strained, echoing comments by City Councilmember John Moss, who holds an at-large seat.

"A lot of the businesses that are going to be reopening are already behind," Dyer said.

City Councilmember Guy Tower, who represents the Beach District, added, "A number of these programs were existing programs that already were in our budget and the actual dollar amount that we have devoted, so far, that directly helps our business community is really a very small percentage of our total budget, of the adjustments we've made."

Tower was among those looking forward to businesses reopening safely. Again, he spoke a day before the governor's announcement.

"I want this city to be a leader in reopening safely," Tower said, "and I hope we prosper from being a leader in doing that, but our

businesses really do need more help, in my opinion."

He said other cities are not as dependent upon tourism, which has been hard hit, including extensive job losses.

"We may need to give a little extra help when we can find it," he added.

City Councilmember Louis Jones, who represents the Bayside District, said he was concerned that other beach communities in other states are reopening before Virginia Beach can do so. He asked Acting City Manager Tom Leahy to discuss the plan for Virginia Beach and its beaches.

Leahy said a presentation was scheduled on that topic for Tuesday, May 12. The city would then have the benefit of what Northham planned to announce about reopening.

"If we are in a position where we can open the beaches on May 16, are you prepared to do that?" Jones asked during the meeting.

"Talking about getting the beaches open, if that comes the 16th or Memorial Day or not, regardless, I feel we need to be ready," said City Councilmember Aaron Rouse, who holds an at-large seat.

He said people have been stuck at home and want to get out.

"The moment the governor does give the okay for the beaches to be open ... people are going to find a way to the water," Rouse said.

A day later, in Richmond, it became clear that Virginia Beach has a bit more time to prepare.

The City Council is scheduled to consider the FY21 budget and capital spending plan on Tuesday, May 12, at City Hall. Information about the revised spending plan and reconciliation letters from the City Council are available online at vbgov.com/budget. A story about a budget proposal related to funding for beach management in Sandbridge is online at princessanneindy.com in the online PDF version of the Friday, March 29, print editions.

WORTH READING

A balanced portrait of Ben-Gurion's complexity

BY ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

VIRGINIA BEACH

Distinguished Israeli historian and author Tom Segev has an uncanny talent to transmit history in a riveting way. His 2018 book about David Ben-Gurion's tumultuous life in fateful times for the Jewish people and humanity is based on a newly released treasure trove of archival material. With this material, Segev's *A State at Any Cost*, translated by Haim Watzman, sheds more light on the interaction between complex times and a complex personality whose uncompromising leadership led to the 1948 creation of the State of Israel and shaped its future direction.

Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, was a politician-philosopher-poet – or equally the other way around, which he might have preferred. He was born in Plonsk, Poland, on Oct. 16, 1886, as Daveed Yosef Green and died on December 1, 1973 in Tel Aviv, Israel, shortly after the Yom Kippur War. Indicative of his attachment to realizing the Zionist dream of statehood in the ancestral homeland, he regarded the date of his arrival in Jaffa, Palestine, on Friday, Sept. 7, 1906 from Odessa as his preferred birthdate. It is so engraved on his grave in the Negev's desert.

Though both admired as one of Israel's leading fathers – and reviled for his autocratic style as a “dictator,” his finest hour – rightly identified by Segev – was his heroic decision to declare Israeli statehood on May 14, 1948, immediately following the British departure from Palestine and ending its Mandate of 1917. The British were caught between the powerful rise of Jewish and Palestinian national movements. Ben-Gurion knew that a massive Arab attack would follow the Independence Declaration, but it was an 11th-hour opportunity that could not be missed.

The author is to be commended for his artful weaving of myriad and intriguing pieces into a coherent whole while retaining high suspense from beginning to end. The risk in a work of that magnitude is to lose sight of the forest for its multiple trees, which the author avoids while walking in a minefield of contradictions reflecting Ben-Gurion's complicated personality and the multilayered reality he faced. Ben-Gurion was known as an obsessive collector of books which he would ship home when abroad. “The books could be a substitute for the friends he did not have, and could fulfil his urge to rule, perfectly lined up as soldiers,” Segev writes.

He favored Plato though he copied in ancient Greek from Aristotle. He identified with Plato's model of philosopher-king which might partially explain Ben-Gurion viewing himself as both a serious philosopher and a determined leader who expected obedience. He required the absolute need for statesmanship in the reborn Jewish state.

Ben-Gurion, claims Segev, who regarded the Jewish return to tilling the land as

Zionism's hallmark, himself lacked interest in agriculture and engaged only briefly in it. Thus, he displayed his inner contradictions and savvy political double-talk. This is also attested to in his attitude toward the significant Arab presence out numbering the Jews in Palestine.



Israel Zoberman

While following the Zionist policy of “maximum land/minimum Arabs,” he was caught up in the moral issues of how to respond to Arab violence and terrorism preceding the 1948 War of Independence, which became the Palestinian “Nekba.” It is clearly revealed that Ben-Gurion supported action to expel Arab villagers, whereas in prior years he opined, “According to my moral perspective we do not have the right to discriminate against even one Arab child even if we may thus accomplish all that we want.”

Morality appears relative and subject to changing circumstances and immediate needs congruent with having a Jewish State, Ben-Gurion's paramount objective, given that the Arabs rejected the U.N. 1947 Partition Resolution. Segev emphasizes that Ben-Gurion was being faithful to his underlying assumption that “Hebrew Work” by Jews only was essential to a Jewish State, along with doubting that peace was attainable with the larger and hostile Arab population.

Officially, he testified prior to the 1947 U.N. Partition Resolution that coexistence was possible. Inner convictions and practical politics need not mix – or “the objective justifies the means.”

While he felt for the tragedy of the Arabs who became refugees, their hasty departure on mass without a fight led him to conclude, “History has now proven who is really connected to this land and for whom it is a mere luxury that can easily be given up.” Obviously, it was more complicated, and the trying implications are still with us today.

Segev offers, “He – whose life was dedicated to fulfill the Diasporic Jewish people's national vision – failed to appreciate the galvanizing power of exile and the Palestinians' national yearnings.” However, did Ben-Gurion have a better alternative?

Ben-Gurion had a measure of guilt for not doing enough to save lives during the Holocaust. His encounter with the surviving remnant of European Jewry weighed heavily on him. The author concludes, “Saving Jews was not at the center of his activities.” He could not bring himself to visit Poland at war's end. Yet he was relentless for having the survivors leave Poland for Germany through the B'richa (Escape) Organization headquartered in Paris.

My family and I were among the close to 200,000 Jewish refugees who were able to

make it out of Poland. Ben-Gurion's goal was to bring them all to the emerging Jewish State, where my own family arrived on April 1949, when Israel was about to celebrate its first Yom HaAtzmaut, Independence Day.

Though Ben-Gurion was welcomed in the displaced persons camps with near messianic fervor, he could not reciprocate with a heartfelt warm embrace. “Many times, it seemed that what they missed most was a listening ear,” the author writes. “Ben-Gurion could not demonstrate fatherly sympathy with their personal pain; he internalized the Shoah as a national disaster.” In his meeting with U.S. Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, he asked to create a temporary Jewish state in Bavaria for the Jewish refugees which was denied.

But the General agreed to settle in the American Zone a large number of fleeing East European Jews. I was, with my own Polish family, from 1947 to 1949 in Germany's Wetlar Displaced Persons Camp, where I finally underwent B'rit Milah (circumcision) at age two and a half. My father Yechiel served on the camp's council.

Ben-Gurion stated, “It is a Zionist interest that in the American Zone should be a large Jewish force.”

And he bemoaned that the Shoah deprived the risen nation of its best human potential:

“I see the awful historical meaning of the Nazi slaughter not in the terrifying number of the slaughtered Jews, but in the specific annihilation of that portion of our people that it alone from Jewry's segments, was capable and equipped with all the qualities and talents necessary for building a state ... More than Hitler hurt the Jewish people whom he knew and hated, he damaged the Jewish state whose emergence he did not foresee.”

Segev offers us a plausible evaluation of Ben-Gurion's leadership role: “He was among those of the world's leaders who labored to lead their people toward historical redemption and trusted their ability to accomplish it; his ideological determination knew no bounds and his imagination had no boundaries: both taught him that everything was possible and almost every price was worthwhile. As a leader that was his main strength: people believed in him because he believed in himself.” Indeed, Ben-Gurion's single-mindedness and devotion to his cause of creating a Jewish state was his crowning glory of shining lights. It also reflects shadows of compromised human conduct which was perhaps unavoidable given the magnitude of the challenges he faced and natural human flaws.

Segev succeeds in offering us, while walking on a tightrope, a balanced perspective of a great and conflicted man.

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is the founder and spiritual leader of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach, and the honorary senior rabbi scholar at Eastern Shore Chapel Episcopal Church.

CORONAVIRUS RESOURCES

Ed. — The novel, or new, coronavirus is named “SARS-CoV-2.” The disease it can cause is coronavirus disease 2019, or Covid-19. It is considered a pandemic by the World Health Organization. In late January, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar II declared a public health emergency in the U.S. The World Health Organization has called Covid-19 a pandemic. North Carolina and Virginia have declared emergencies, with a number of restrictions in place, and President Trump has declared a national emergency. The following information was compiled from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Virginia Department of Health, the City of Virginia Beach and the World Health Organization.

Find Information

- **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** cdc.gov/covid19
- **Virginia Department of Health:** vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus or call the public information line at (877) ASK-VDH3
- **City of Virginia Beach:** emergency.vbgov.com/coronavirus
- **Virginia Beach Schools:** vbschools.com
- **North Carolina Division of Public Health:** publichealth.nc.gov or reach the N.C. COVID-19 Call Center at (866) 462-3821.
- **Albemarle Regional Health Services:** arhs-nc.org
- **World Health Organization:** who.int

Background (Mainly From The CDC)

Known symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. CDC recommends seeking medical advice if you develop symptoms and have been in close contact with someone known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of the virus. Reported illnesses have ranged from very mild, including some with no reported symptoms, to severe, including illness resulting in death. Older people and people of all ages with underlying health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease and diabetes, seem to be at higher risk of developing serious illness. Medical officials have urged people to call their health care provider before coming in.

Prevention

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Wash your hands after going to the bathroom and before eating or preparing food.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer only if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or a sleeve, not your hands, when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid non-essential travel.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily, such as doorknobs or phones.
- Health officials recommend “social distancing,” steps made to prevent the spread of disease, such as staying at least six feet away from anyone, especially people who are coughing or sneezing, and avoiding crowds. According to the CDC, putting distance between you and others who are sick is especially important if you are at high risk of getting sick yourself.
- WHO and others recommend against greeting people by shaking hands.
- The CDC and others recommend wearing cloth face coverings or masks in public.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ashville Park

4/27 – larceny, 2000 block Kittridge Drive

Back Bay/Blackwater/Creeds/Pungo Areas

4/26 – domestic assault, 900 block Princess Anne Road

4/27 – domestic assault, 900 block Princess Anne Road

5/1 – weapon law violations, 1900 block Pleasant Ridge Road

5/1 – hit and run, 1900 block Pleasant Ridge Road

Cardinal Estates

4/23 – narcotic violations, 1300 block Skylark Drive

Chelsea

4/30 – narcotic violations, 2200 block Brownshire Trail

4/30 – larceny, 2200 block Brownshire Trail

Courthouse/Municipal Center Areas

4/25 – shoplifting, 2400 block Nimmo Parkway

4/28 – identity theft, 2500 block James Madison Boulevard

4/28 – fraud, 2500 block Pamlico Loop

4/29 – domestic assault, 2500 block Brewer Arch

5/1 – att. fraud, 2400 block Princess Anne Road

5/4 – hit and run, 2500 block Tournament Drive

Dam Neck Area

4/27 – larceny, 1600 block General Booth Boulevard

4/30 – hit and run, 1600 block General Booth Boulevard

5/1 – fraud, 2200 block General Booth Boulevard

5/3 – domestic assault, 1500 block Boles Place

5/4 – fraud, 3400 block Dam Neck Road

Hillcrest Farms

4/23 – larceny from motor vehicle, 2500 block Eagles Lake Rd.

Holland Pines

5/3 – larceny, 1200 block Warwick Drive

Lago Mar

4/27 – motor vehicle theft, 900 block Verano Court

Landstown Area

4/30 – domestic assault, 2500 block Salem Road

4/30 – domestic assault, 2000 block Twinflower Court

5/4 – domestic assault, 2500 block Salem Road

5/6 – commercial burglary, 3300 block Princess Anne Road

London Bridge Area

4/25 – larceny, 2500 block Quality Court

4/26 – larceny, 400 block Central Drive

5/2 – larceny from motor vehicle, 500 block Central Drive

Lotus Garden

4/24 – larceny, 2700 block Atwoodtown Road

5/4 – destruction of property, 2600 block Atwoodtown Road

North Landing

4/24 – domestic assault, 2300 block Rod Poceschi Way

4/24 – domestic assault, 2300 block Rod Poceschi Way

Ocean Lakes

4/28 – domestic assault, 1800 block Mizzzen Lane

4/28 – domestic assault, 1800 block Mizzzen Lane

4/28 – larceny, 1000 block Culmer Drive

4/29 – larceny, 2100 block Tennyson Court

Oceanfront

4/24 – hit and run, 800 block 13th Street

4/24 – assault, 800 block 24th Street

4/24 – assault, 800 block 24th Street

4/24 – disorderly conduct, 100 block Atlantic Avenue

4/24 – assault, 200 block Atlantic Avenue

4/24 – destruction of property, 1500 block Atlantic Avenue

4/24 – narcotic violations, 1600 block Atlantic Avenue

4/24 – trespass real property, 2400 block Atlantic Avenue

4/24 – narcotic violations, 300 block Norfolk Avenue

4/24 – trespass real property, 2600 block Pacific Avenue

4/24 – drug equipment violations, 800 block Virginia Beach Blvd.

4/25 – trespass real property, 700 block Atlantic Avenue

4/25 – drug equipment violations, 1800 block Atlantic Avenue

4/25 – domestic assault, 300 block Norfolk Avenue

4/26 – larceny, 300 block 27th Street

4/26 – assault, 200 block 24th Street

4/26 – narcotic violations, 2400 block Pacific Avenue

4/27 – recovered vehicle, 1700 block Arctic Avenue

4/27 – domestic assault, 600 block 22 1/2 Street

4/29 – shoplifting, 2600 block Pacific Avenue

4/29 – domestic assault, 2700 block Pacific Avenue

5/1 – domestic assault, 300 block 24th Street

5/1 – larceny from motor vehicle, 300 block 25th Street

5/1 – larceny from motor vehicle, 300 block 25th Street

5/1 – destruction of property, 300 block 25th Street

5/1 – hit and run, 2800 block Arctic Avenue

5/2 – hit and run, 300 block 16th Street

5/2 – motor vehicle theft, 1000 block Atlantic Avenue

5/2 – aggravated assault, 1800 block Atlantic Avenue

5/2 – narcotic violations, 1800 block Atlantic Avenue

5/2 – domestic assault, 300 block Norfolk Avenue

5/2 – shoplifting, 700 block Virginia Beach Boulevard

5/3 – narcotic violations, 2900 block Atlantic Avenue

5/3 – overdose, 100 block 10th Street

5/3 – narcotic violations, 800 block 14th Street

5/3 – domestic assault, 400 block 24th Street

5/3 – domestic assault, 400 block 24th Street

5/3 – destruction of property, 200 block 9th Street

5/4 – hit and run, 800 block 24th Street

5/4 – forgery by perscription, 300 block Laskin Road

5/5 – larceny from motor vehicle, 400 block 21st Street

5/5 – larceny, 400 block 21st Street

5/5 – domestic assault, 700 block 21st Street

Pecan Gardens

4/25 – fraud, 3500 block Bancroft Drive

4/30 – assault, 3500 block Forest Glen Road

Pine Hurst Estates

4/23 – shoplifting, 2200 block Upton Drive

5/2 – shoplifting, 2200 block Upton Drive

Princess Anne Park

5/2 – assault, 2000 block Glenn Mitchell Drive

5/3 – narcotic violations, 2000 block Glenn Mitchell Drive

Princess Anne Woods

4/29 – domestic assault, 2200 block Dulwich Place

5/1 – assault, 2200 block Dulwich Place

Red Mill Area

4/23 – domestic assault, 2000 block Roger McClung Lane

4/27 – obscene phone call, 800 block Ringfield Court

Redwing

4/28 – larceny from building, 1500 block General Booth Blvd.

4/29 – identity theft, 1500 block Hummingbird Lane

5/2 – hit and run, 1300 block Petrell Drive

River Oaks

4/30 – identity theft, 2600 block Cypress Vine Court

Salem Lakes

4/28 – identity theft, 1800 block Rock Lake Loop

4/28 – all other offenses, 3900 block Antelope Court

4/28 – larceny, 1900 block Buckhorn Court

4/29 – hit and run, 3900 block Salem Lakes Boulevard

5/4 – destruction of property, 3900 block Lantana Place

Seatack

4/23 – hit and run, 100 block Birdneck Road N

4/23 – shoplifting, 1000 block Virginia Beach Boulevard

4/24 – narcotic violations, 100 block Birdneck Road S

4/29 – identity theft, 1000 block Kenya Lane

Shadowlawn Area

4/24 – larceny, 500 block Winston-Salem Avenue

5/3 – hit and run, 100 block Indian Avenue

Strawbridge

4/23 – identity theft, 1800 block Wandsworth Drive

4/25 – shoplifting, 1100 block Nimmo Parkway

4/26 – domestic assault, 1200 block Rose Galaxy Landing

West Neck Area

4/24 – hit and run, 2700 block West Neck Road

Sources: Currituck County Sheriff's Office & Virginia Beach Police

APRIL 26 PUZZLE SOLUTION

S	C	O	R	E		S	T	E	P		S	H	A	G
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ACROSS

1 Done in a rush

6 Spanish appetizer

10 Bobby Flay creation

14 Leader of the pack

15 Encircled by

16 Wild about

17 Thunderous event

18 Many a black-clad teen

19 Astin of "Lord of the Rings"

20 Give an edge to

21 Monaco casino locale

23 Vegas industry

25 List of people

26 ___ acid

28 Pacino's "___ of a Woman"

30 Be a chatterbox

31 Marital pledge, old-style

33 Underground drain

37 Feeling

39 Give the OK

41 Repair, as software

42 Gulf of Naples isle

44 2003 Nicolas Cage film, "Matchstick ___"

45 Police weapon

47 Unmitigated

49 Polite detail

52 Glossy fabric

54 Young person

56 Drive-___

59 Twelve Oaks neighbor

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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60 Zingy taste

61 Reverent

62 Burn a bit

63 Dark doings

64 Positive pole

65 "___ cow!"

66 Crime-stopper spray

67 Long-legged bird

7 In the middle of

8 Aniston ex

9 Stick firmly

10 Earthquake, for one

11 Chemically inactive

12 Ready to be

tossed

13 Kind of society

21 Prefix with

wave or phone

22 Plot together

24 Make less

severe

26 Like fine wine

27 Showed up

29 Crack, in a way

32 ___ in a blue

moon

34 Girl's future

35 In a dead heat

36 Cost of living?

38 Custodial

40 "Guardians of the Galaxy" star

Chris

43 Poisonous element

46 Word with solar

or nervous

48 Peeper part

49 "Of course",

slangily

50 State with a

panhandle

51 Snorkeler's sight

53 Vantage point

55 Spanish wine

57 Ill-mannered

58 Manipulator

61 Fido's foot

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