

Media Clips for June-August 2015

<http://www.dailypress.com/business/tidewater/dp-tidewaterbiz-fort-monroe-brewery-20150623-story.html>

Craft brewery eyes Fort Monroe

By Tara Bozick

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JUNE 23, 2015, 6:25 PM | HAMPTON



The Oozlefinch Craft Brewery is negotiating to possibly lease a building at Fort Monroe. Here is a rendering, shown in June 2015, of what the building could look like after renovations (Jen Stringer, owner of For the People Projects, LLC)

Fort Monroe Authority is in talks to lease space to a startup craft brewery.

Russ Tinsley, 31, shared his dream of opening The Oozlefinch Craft Brewery to the Fort Monroe Authority's board of trustees on Thursday during the public comment time. The brewery had not been on the board's agenda and the board didn't take up the issue.

"One of our main goals is not only to tell the stories from Fort Monroe's history but to tell it through the flavors of the beer," Tinsley said later in an interview.

Tinsley, a homebrewer, had been working with the Fort Monroe Authority since December 2012 to identify a space originally for a brewpub, or a restaurant that brews beer for sale on-site. He wanted to be in a casemate space near the Casemate Museum, but that wasn't financially feasible. So last summer,

he changed his business model to a craft brewery that would have an on-site tasting room with distribution to local restaurants.

The Oozlefinch Craft Brewery is negotiating to possibly lease a building at Fort Monroe. Here is a rendering, shown in June 2015, of what the building could look like after renovations. (Jen Stringer, owner of For The People Projects, LLC)



Then in February, Tinsley attracted investors to get the project funded. He also worked with Fort Monroe Authority to identify Building 12 at 81 Patch Road in the Wherry Quarter as a more viable spot for a craft brewery.

Fort Monroe Authority Executive Director Glenn Oder confirmed that The Oozlefinch has started the lease negotiation process. Divaris Real Estate is the leasing agent. Oder said a craft brewery fits the Fort Monroe master plan for a mixed-use community and finds an adaptive reuse for the historic building, built around 1915.

"We're excited about small startup companies at Fort Monroe," Oder said, adding, "The story of the Oozlefinch is part of the history of Fort Monroe."

Tinsley and his wife Rebekah, of Newport News, had been trying to come up with a name when they learned about the tale of a fictitious bird called The Oozlefinch at the Casemate Museum.

A Capt. H.M. Merriam spoke often about the existence of the "Oozlefinch" around 1905, describing it as a "bird which flew tail foremost to keep the dust out of its eyes," according to a copy of a June 21, 1919 article provided by the Casemate Museum. That article was written by Col. Ernest R. Tilton, whose wife bought the original Oozlefinch statuette in a small shop in Hampton. The large-eyed statuette had a home by the bar of the Fort Monroe Club and became a mascot of the Coast Artillery.

Tinsley recently bought an "Oozlefinch" statuette that an antique picker found and plans to put it behind the brewery's bar. The business would still need to get licenses in order to produce beer with a 15-barrel brew system, he said.

"It really will be a destination brewery," Tinsley said. "It's a change of scenery."

Bozick can be reached by phone at 757-247-4741.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-hampton-police-investigate-suspicious-device-mercury-blvd-20150625-story.html>

Device found near Fort Monroe determined to be training aid, police say

JUNE 25, 2015, 1:46 PM | HAMPTON



Military training device. Hampton Police Division, A military training device prompted a multi-agency response in Hampton at the Fort Monroe Bridge.

Officials have determined a device found near Fort Monroe Thursday afternoon was an inert training aid, police said.

A public works employee found the device under the bridge that leads to Fort Monroe, Sgt. Jason Price said in a news release.

Crews from the Newport News Fire Department Bomb Squad, Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, FBI, and U.S. Coast Guard worked to determine the device was not a hazard, Price said.

The device was identified as a military training aid and was turned over the U.S. Navy, he said.

A section of E. Mercury Boulevard leading up to the bridge was closed during the investigation. The road reopened just before noon.

Previously: 10:56 a.m.

East Mercury Boulevard in Hampton is closed at the bridge to Fort Monroe while crews investigate a suspicious device.

Hampton police, Fire & Rescue, Newport News police and the Newport News Fire Department Bomb Squad are on scene.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/editorials/dp-edt-confederate-flag-editorial-20150701-20150630-story.html>

Opinion: Remove the Confederate flag from official places and move forward

JUNE 30, 2015, 10:52 PM

The Army of Northern Virginia battle flag, the familiar and controversial "Confederate" banner, is coming down.

Virginia, Mississippi, Tennessee and Georgia are reconsidering its appearance on license plates and official emblems. It has been removed from the capitol grounds in Alabama. And the time is coming, and we hope it is soon, that it will be lowered from its prominent perch near the South Carolina statehouse.

If we could consign it to museums and history books, we would. It has caused so much pain to so many people here in Virginia that we wish it was never unfurled over our cities and towns.

We have myriad reasons for that position.

For most Virginians, but especially our black citizens, the Confederate flag recalls the barbaric legacy of slavery. It is a reminder that ancestors plucked from Africa were packed up and shipped to this continent at a terrible human cost.

Those who survived the journey found no comfort on Virginia soil, where they tilled the land under threat of violence. The names of some commonwealth slaveholders are lost to time and memory, while history still sings in praise of others, such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

Many factors led to the armed conflict between North and South. Key among them was the insistence by Confederate states that this horrific institution be preserved.

So when the Civil War came, an untold number of slaves ran from that flag and others that fled over the Confederacy. Thousands of these men, women and children risked life and limb to find freedom in the shadow of Fort Monroe, and settled here on the Peninsula along the banks of the Hampton River.

However, it was also under that flag that our commonwealth's best and brightest marched to their death — some 31,000 in fact. That they were led by talented military tacticians, such as Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, did not spare them a terrible fate on bloody fields.

Many Confederate flags were rolled up when the war was lost. They were tucked away in attics, barns and sheds, pulled out only for rare appearances at veterans' events, where soldiers from the Union and those from the Confederacy shook hands in peace and remembered those lost.

It is on the monuments to the dead where those flags may still find favor, since the regrettable waste of so much life should be remembered. Those who died under that flag deserve to be honored in its shadow.

It is right and just that we do this. But there is a fine line between commemoration and celebration. And this flag played a key role in another chapter of our nation's history. We should look clearly on it as well.

When raised atop statehouses and courthouses, as the flag was in the Civil Rights era, it was an act of defiance against integration. It was waved by cowards wearing hoods and by others who had no reservation about showing their faces as they fought against equal treatment under the law.

They used this particular flag, this "battle" flag, not to honor the dead or to celebrate southern heritage, but to preserve racial division and project hatred. It is this modern legacy that the former Confederate states must confront.

For so many of our citizens, that flag flapping in the wind is a reminder of the Jim Crow era and the wounds it inflicted. And no scab can heal if we keep picking at it with a constant reminder of violence, oppression, injustice and inequality.

Some who display this Confederate flag cruelly revel in the racial intimidation it provokes.

A great many more consider it as a symbol of Southern pride, the solemn belief that we do things better down here — certainly better than those Yankees do it up North.

For the North, however, the war is only a memory. Its residents long ago turned the page on that conflict. We must take the flag down to do the same. Then maybe, just maybe, we can turn our attention to the real battles before us.

Because today, the South's fight should be to build better schools for all our children, since achievement in the classroom leads to a life of success. That is true at Heritage High School in Newport News, as it is at Poquoson Middle School, as it is at Hampton's Robert E. Lee Elementary School.

Our fight should be for economic opportunity, so that more of our residents can pursue the blessings of prosperity through gainful employment and hard work.

And we should be fighting for a truly equal justice, since everyone should enjoy safe streets, good health care, reasonable social services and a reliable safety net if they should ever need that helping hand.

Removing the Confederate flag from official places of honor will not ensure our victory in these battles. But it may provide assurance that all of us, regardless of race, wealth or status, are on the same side.

So roll it up. Take it down. Put it away. May its removal take with it the pain and misery it witnessed.

Let the South turn its attention to these modern battles, so we might make a future free from the insidious legacy this flag embodies.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-mcauliffe-fort-wool-20150702-story.html>

McAuliffe takes trip to Fort Wool

By Robert Brauchle

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JULY 2, 2015, 9:05 PM



Joe Fudge / Daily Press

Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Dorothy McAuliffe are taking a boat from Ft. Monroe to tour Fort Wool with some state-level people, Sen. Mamie Locke and Executive Director Glenn Oder of the Fort Monroe Authority. Mike Cobb tells the history of Ft. Wool to (Left) Gov. Terry McAuliffe and (Middle Right) Dorothy McAuliffe and Sen. Mamie Locke.

HAMPTON— As Fort Monroe officials prepare for thousands of visitors on Independence Day for the site's annual fireworks display, a smaller outcast of Virginia's history will sit unoccupied just offshore.

The state's spotlight on Fort Wool may become brighter in the upcoming years.

Flanked by close to two dozen police, politicians and state-level staff, Gov. Terry McAuliffe's flotilla of Virginia

Marine Resources Commission boats motored through the waters of Hampton Roads harbor on Thursday morning to visit the island fort.

McAuliffe's Fort Wool tour lasted just an hour before he moved on, but the governor said the trip was needed to help him gauge how the state can better use historic sites to improve tourism.

"Tourism is a huge business for us, I talk all the time about building a new Virginia economy, and tourism and our heritage sites are a key element in doing that," McAuliffe said. "I've heard this is a great historic site, I just wanted to see it for myself."

The governor made no promises on Thursday about future plans for Fort Wool.

The fort is on an artificial island that sits on the northern edge of the Willoughby shoal just off the southern end of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel.

For westbound drivers, Fort Wool is the island fortification with the large American flag they pass when entering the tunnel.

The Army developed the property as a companion post to Fort Monroe in 1819 and abandoned the island in 1967.

With millions of Virginia taxpayers dollars being spent to maintain Fort Monroe, both state and city officials are trying to determine how Fort Wool plays in the state's plan to attract history buffs to Hampton Roads.

The city of Hampton leases the property from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

"What we need to do is a realistic, long-range plan for the property," said Department of Conservation and Recreation Director Clyde Cristman. "The history is so rich ... we need to look at what can be done out here."

Fort Wool is only accessible by boat, and was off-limits from 2003 to 2006 after Hurricane Isabel wrecked the pier.

Retired Hampton History Museum curator J. Michael Cobb, who led the tour Thursday, said visitation to the island has waned in recent years.

Portions of the fortification are off-limits to the public because of the crumbling stone and concrete, and small trees are growing from cracks formed by years of neglected maintenance.

Private boats can still dock during daylight hours. The city treats Fort Wool like a park: If city parks are closed, then so, too, is the island fort.

Since the site does not have electricity, solar power is used to light the flag at night.

According to Hampton Parks Director Jim Wilson, the city spends about \$50,000 annually on maintenance at the fort, including dock repairs and money for replacement flags.

Hampton Mayor George Wallace and Vice Mayor Linda Curtis joined McAuliffe's tour.

Curtis said Fort Wool's stone casemates reminded her of a less well-kept version of Fort Monroe.

"If it could be maintained in sections, small chunks, it could be an incredible asset," she said. "It's really something everyone should see."

Wallace said he was glad the tour showed McAuliffe's interest in Fort Wool, and hopes it will lead to a stronger partnership between the state and city to promote the fort as an attraction.

Despite waning visitor interest in recent years, Cobb said he has seen some activity on the island recently.

"I was out here yesterday, and I saw a sea turtle for the first time in probably 25 years," he said. "That was a surprise."

Brauchle can be reached by phone at 757-846-4361.

WHAT IS FORT WOOL?

- Named for Gen. John E. Wool, commander at Fort Monroe, this island fortress was built with granite boulders to be a companion to Fort Monroe and to guard the entrance to Hampton Roads.
- Originally called Fort Calhoun, it was outfitted with cannons on a protected platform and in tiers of casemates. In 1834, then-Lt. Robert E. Lee was assigned to oversee the placement of large boulders around the perimeter that would contain the island. It was an occasional retreat for President Andrew Jackson. Concrete batteries were built in the 20th century to modernize the post to counter naval warfare, including submarines.
- The fort was closed after World War II. The land reverted to the commonwealth after the property was abandoned by the Army in 1967,







<http://www.dailypress.com/entertainment/things-to-do/dp-fourth-july-pictures-009-photo.html>

4th of July at Fort Monroe



Event attendees watch the fireworks display during the 4th of July celebration at Fort Monroe in Hampton, Va., on Saturday, July 4, 2015. Adam Pennavaria / Daily Press



<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-fort-monroe-headquarters-tour-20150723-story.html>

Historic Fort Monroe post office gets makeover

By Robert Brauchle

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JULY 23, 2015, 7:40 PM | HAMPTON



The Fort Monroe Authority has moved into a new headquarters at Ingalls and Fenwick Roads. (Robert Brauchle/Daily Press / Daily Press)

Employees who balance the books are not jammed into a single bedroom anymore, and the deputy director doesn't have visitors walking into his office asking where Abraham Lincoln once slept.

The Fort Monroe Authority has moved into its renovated headquarters in a building that once served as the Army's post office and customs house. The space still incorporates parts of the building's historic features but with modern amenities and extra space to stretch.

"We're close to a \$10 million-a-year operation, so we need some space to work and perform the functions you'd expect from an organization this size," Fort Monroe Authority Executive Director Glenn Oder said. "We've created a space that serves both the authority and the public who would like to rent downstairs."

The authority's new office sits at Ingalls and Fenwick roads in a building identifiable by its red brick and clock tower. The authority had operated out of a building inside the stone citadel's moat known as Old Quarters One in a building that will eventually be transferred to the National Park Service.

The move and renovation will cost close to \$600,000, nearly half of which was used for structural repairs and to install elevated water heaters, update electronics and improve the basement sump pump, authority deputy executive director John K. Hutcheson said.

Earlier estimates placed the project at closer to \$400,000, according to Daily Press reports. Hutcheson and Oder said final costs were hard to estimate until contractors opened walls and thoroughly inspected the building's vital systems.



The Fort Monroe Authority has moved into a new headquarters at Ingalls and Fenwick Roads. (Robert Brauchle/Daily Press / Daily Press)

Termite damage thought to be in one room affected many, and electronics once used to support the Army were unnecessary or unneeded. The money to pay for the structural repairs comes from the Virginia Department of General Services.

The authority did save money by using surplus tables, chairs and desks left by the Army to furnish the building, Oder said.

"We want to have a grand opening in the end of summer or early fall," Oder said.

Once complete, the authority will rent the ground-floor lobby, conference rooms, restrooms and kitchenette to bridal parties and corporate events.

Brides will be able to get ready in the post office and cross the street to Continental Park to their wedding.

Authority staff believes the new office can act as a "showroom" for developers interested in renovating buildings at Fort Monroe.

The demand for buildings on Fort Monroe is feast or famine, depending on whether the space is residential or commercial.

While occupancy rates for apartments and homes hovers around 95 percent, authority officials have had a harder time attracting businesses to office and warehouse spaces.

There are still plenty of vacant buildings on Fort Monroe. Close to a million square feet of commercial real estate space — the equivalent of about five Walmart Supercenters — is spread throughout the property.

Authority officials hope their new headquarters will show that existing buildings can be renovated to meet developers' demands.

"It's an example of an adaptive reuse, and it shows people what can be done with the historic structures here," Oder said.

Inside the post office, contractors refinished some of the original wood floors and incorporated the historic mailboxes into the building's design while installing new heating and air conditioning systems and electronics.

Fireplaces were uncovered to add to the historic aesthetic, although they're ornamental rather than functional.

The building's iconic clock is idle now, although the mechanisms from the Seth Thomas Clock Company still work and will be put into motion in the near future.

"It's right twice a day," Hutcheson joked. "We just need to start it at the right time and it will be working again."

Brauchle can be reached at 757-846-4361.

<http://www.dailypress.com/entertainment/music/dp-fea-military-bands-20150725-story.html>

Free military band concerts fill the August calendar

By David Nicholson

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JULY 25, 2015, 1:59 PM

The Hampton Roads region is blessed with several excellent military bands, and August is a great month to hear them in outdoor settings.

Pack a picnic, grab a lawn chair or blanket, and get ready for an evening of music under the stars. The best part: concerts are free. Here's a look at the many choices available this month:

Fort Monroe Authority Summer Concert Series

This series takes place in Continental Park adjacent to The Chamberlin senior living facility on the grounds of Fort Monroe in Hampton. This summer's lineup includes bands from the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army.

Concerts are 7 p.m. Thursdays, weather permitting. There will be food vendors, though no alcoholic beverages.

Admission and parking are free. Here's the schedule:

Aug. 6. — U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Wind Ensemble. Led by Lt. Cmdr. Mark Corbliss, the wind ensemble is the largest of the band's performing units. Its repertoire ranges from traditional martial music to patriotic favorites and selections from the wind band literature.

Aug. 13 — U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Rhythm in Blue Jazz Ensemble. This 13-member group presents jazz music with a patriotic theme.

Aug. 20 — U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Four Star Edition. This ensemble of nine musicians offers a high-energy show of today's rock and country hits plus classic rock songs.

Aug. 27 — U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Concert Band. Made up of more than 40 professional musicians, the concert band performs orchestral classics, marches, Broadway hits, jazz standards, movie music and patriotic favorites.

"Music Under the Stars," Fort Eustis

The popular series by the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Band returns to Magnolia Park along the James River on the grounds of Fort Eustis in Newport News.

The hour-long concerts begin at 7 p.m. Thursdays during August.

Passes to access the base are available at the visitor's center at the entrance to Gate 1 on Fort Eustis Boulevard.

Driver's license and vehicle information is required. You can also obtain a form for a pre-screened pass online at tradoc.army.mil/band/

Lawn chairs and blankets are recommended. The base allows alcoholic beverages and pets, and local groups will be selling food. In the event of rain, information will be posted on the website and Facebook page. Here's the schedule:

Aug. 6 — Marches and Symphonic Standards

Aug. 13 — Reliving the Dream (Alumni Concert)

Aug. 20 — A Night at the Opry

Aug. 27 — Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture"

Summer Breeze Concert Series

These 90-minute concerts take place at 7 p.m. Wednesdays in Merchants Square on Duke of Gloucester Street in Williamsburg. Concert-goers are advised to bring a lawn chair. Here's the schedule:

Aug. 5 — TRADOC Arsenal Brass. The nine-piece ensemble performs hits from popular groups such as Youngblood Brass Band, Trombone Shorty and Bonerama, as well as classic hits from artists such as Michael

Jackson and Amy Winehouse.

Aug. 12 — U.S. Air Force Rhythm in Blue Jazz Ensemble.

Aug. 19 — TRADOC Rock Band. The band's repertoire includes classic rock, pop and country music.

Aug. 26 — U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Concert Band.

Yorktown

Military concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. most Tuesdays during August on the performance stage on Riverwalk Landing along the Yorktown riverfront.

Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and/or lawn chairs for seating. Several free parking lots are nearby.

More information on the series is available by calling the York County Parks, Recreation and Tourism office at 757-890-3500 or going online to visityorktown.org. In the event of inclement weather, call the York County Weather Event Hotline at 757-890-3520 for updated information. Here's the schedule:

Aug. 4 — U.S. Coast Guard Ceremonial Band from the Yorktown Training Center. This all-volunteer band of students from the training center regularly performs military honors, changes of command, retirements and memorial services. The repertoire is primarily marches and hymns.

Aug 5 (Wednesday) — U.S. Fleet Forces Band, Norfolk. This performance commemorates the 97th anniversary of The Naval Weapons Station Yorktown. The band represents the commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command and is the largest of the Navy's 11 Fleet Bands.

Aug. 11 — U.S. Air Force Rhythm in Blue Jazz Ensemble. A versatile jazz, blues and funk group that performs seven decades of American music from contemporary jazz artist such as Chick Corea and The Yellowjackets to big band greats like Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington and Glenn Miller.

Aug. 18 — U.S. Air Force Blue Aces. The Blue Aces perform rock, R&B and other popular American music.

Aug. 25 — U.S. Army TRADOC Jazz Combo. The ensemble draws from classic jazz, ballads, blues, soul, bossa nova, and contemporary tunes for its performances.

David Nicholson can be reached by phone at 757 247-4794.

http://www.knoxnews.com/opinion/columnists/mike-butler-antiquities-act-aids-protection-of-lands_92606149

Mike Butler: Antiquities Act aids protection of lands

3:00 AM, Jul 25, 2015

This past week some of our closest family friends embarked upon a Griswoldesque vacation by driving through the magnificent landscapes of southern Utah, northern Arizona and California on their way to San Francisco.

On this trip, they are taking the time to see many of America's grandest national parks and monuments.

And in case you missed it, another significant thing occurred — President Barack Obama announced the creation of three new national monuments. The White House provided these specifics on the new monuments:

- Berryessa Snow Mountain in California — a landscape containing rare biodiversity and an abundance of recreational opportunities.
- Waco Mammoth in Texas — a significant paleontological site featuring well-preserved remains of 24 Columbian mammoths.
- Basin and Range in Nevada — an iconic American landscape that includes rock art dating back 4,000 years and serves as an irreplaceable resource for archaeologists, historians and ecologists.

But what is interesting about these designations is that they were done via the little understood, but vitally important, Antiquities Act.

Initially signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, the Antiquities Act has since been used by 16 presidents (eight Republicans and eight Democrats) to create more than 130 national monuments.

Nearly half of our national parks, including the magnificent Grand Canyon and Death Valley, were initially protected as national monuments. Recent monuments — including Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers in Ohio, Fort Monroe in Virginia, Harriet Tubman in Maryland, Fort Ord in California and Chimney Rock in Colorado — have been established following thorough public involvement and with bipartisan support locally and in Congress.

Interestingly, the Antiquities Act can be used only on federally owned lands. Monument designations can allow for broad access to a variety of uses and honor existing rights, including oil and gas leases, public access, grazing and rights of way. And following a monument designation, site-specific management plans are put into place with input from local jurisdictions and agencies, community groups and the public.

Studies have repeatedly shown that national monuments support local economic growth because of the competitive advantage they offer in attracting new businesses and in boosting fast-growing economic sectors like tourism and recreation. For example, following the 2012 designation of the Rio Grande del

Norte National Monument in New Mexico, visitation increased by 40 percent and local tax revenue in the town of Taos increased 21 percent.

So if you are traveling this summer across our great nation, seeing the grand natural sites that we have been blessed with, remember the venerable Antiquities Act and take a moment to remember that what we have in our great nation is not by accident. Remember our forebears who had the vision to conserve these lands that are now the focus of our vacations. And let us stand together in support of the Antiquities Act that has been used to protect some of our most treasured historic, cultural and natural wonders and make our voices heard if Congress should ever move to weaken this vital tool.

Mike Butler is CEO of the Tennessee Wildlife Federation.

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<http://hamptonroads.com/2015/07/students-paddling-james-river-end-journey-fort-monroe>

Students paddling James River to end journey at Fort Monroe

By Cindy Clayton

The Virginian-Pilot

© July 30, 2015

HAMPTON

Students from around the state, including Hampton Roads, have been paddling the James River in a three-part expedition that ends Saturday at Fort Monroe.

The 340-mile educational James River Expedition has been undertaken by 30 students from 23 high schools, according to a news release. Several of the participants are from Virginia Beach, Newport News and Isle of Wight County.

The final leg of the journey began Saturday with students who are paddling from Richmond to Hampton.

The journey includes lessons on history and environmental stewardship. During the evenings, students camp along the banks.

The trip is being made possible by a \$50,000 grant from the Dominion Foundation, Dominion Resources' philanthropy arm, to the James River Association.

The students, who participated for free, were selected this year through an application process.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/letters/dp-nws-edt-letssun-0802-20150801-story.html>

Aug. 2 Letters: Voter registration forms, museums and tourism

2:59 pm, August 1, 2015

Re "A needed lightning bolt," July 30.

I suggest you add Fort Monroe National Monument to your list of important Peninsula tourism assets.

Unlike Jamestown and The Mariners' Museum, which are primarily, although not exclusively, of interest to history lovers, Fort Monroe National Monument, when properly expanded and unified, will become a remarkable assemblage of scenery, nature, recreational opportunities and history on the Chesapeake Bay, joined with the present and future amenities and cultural attractions on the adjacent state-managed lands.

Such a national monument has the potential to be the greatest draw of the three, and with its highly accessible location at the base of the Peninsula, to add the most value to the urban core of the Peninsula.

Mark Perreault

President

Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park Norfolk

<http://www.coastalvirginiamag.com/July-2015/Its-Fun-To-Reopen-The-YMCA/>

It's Fun To Reopen The YMCA

After being closed for nearly four years after Fort Monroe was deactivated as a U.S. Army installation in Sept. 2011, the Fort Monroe Authority has reached an agreement with the YMCA to reopen its fun-filled fitness center location on the former military base.

Apparently the residents and businesses of Fort Monroe and the surrounding areas agree with the Village People; a 2013 survey of folks in Fort Monroe, Phoebus and Buckroe indicated that there was significant interest in it.

The revival of the 34,020-square-foot facility, located at 8 Ruckman Rd., continues a history of 126 years of serving the community and is considered a significant indicator of the progress in Fort Monroe's redevelopment efforts.