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From Irma to Dorian: How Camden changed

New equipment, processes helped officials stay ahead of storm during Hurricane Dorian

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Chuck White had only been on the job as a part-time emergency management director for a few months when Hurricane Irma hit Camden County two years ago. Now working full-time, he has taken every teachable moment

from that storm and used it to improve the county's emergency planning.

After Dorian devastated the Bahamas, Camden County remained in the cone of uncertainty for several days, prompting a mandatory evacuation to be called on Monday, Sept. 2, for areas east of Interstate 95. This involved some vulnerable populations, such as the senior care

If a storm comes, it won't care about a jurisdictional line.

Chuck White, county EMA director

center in St. Marys, which also requires a high degree of coordination among various agencies.

Even though Hurricane Dorian did not have major impacts in Camden, local officials got to see

the benefits of those emergency planning efforts as the emergency operations center (EOC) was activated for days through the storm threat. Officials were briefed twice a day so that everyone was brought

up to speed with current and accurate information

White, assisted at the EOC by Troy Johnson, appear to be getting high marks from the various jurisdictions about how this latest storm threat was managed.

"As the mayors of St. Marys, Woodbine and Kingsland, we

See **DORIAN**, page 7A

This day, we remember



Submitted photo

Military personnel stationed at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base shake hands with local first-responders Wednesday. Kings Bay holds a memorial ceremony each Sept. 11 to pay tribute to those who lost their lives on 9/11 and honor all first-responders.



Island remains closed following Dorian damage

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Cumberland Island National Seashore remains closed after Hurricane Dorian damaged docks at both Dungeness and Sea Camp on the island.

The visitor center and museum in St. Marys are open but all camping reservations have been canceled

through Sept. 14. An incident management arrived Sunday to help clean up the campgrounds and areas that most visitors frequent.

"I am thankful that no visitors, residents or employees were injured and no serious damage occurred to our historic buildings," park superintendent Gary Ingram said in a release Saturday.

See **ISLAND**, page 8A

If you give a student a bag of dirt, science will happen

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Ever had a teacher give you 30 bags of dirt — that may prove an extinction-level geological theory — as a lab project? That's what Camden High science teacher Chris Cottrell recently did for his juniors and seniors.

We've got a lot of dirt to go through.

Chris Cottrell
CCHS teacher

Cottrell was one of four researchers invited to study soil samples from a dig in the Carolina Bays. These samples could prove a comet impact event from around

12,900 years ago. Like Sherlock Holmes, and with the help of his students acting as his Watson, Cottrell hopes to piece together impact evidence from the collected soil.

Cottrell deduces his You-tube channel, high school lab and working with students may be why he was

See **SCIENCE**, page 8A



Submitted photo

Camden High science teacher Chris Cottrell participated in a Carolina Bay dig recently and brought back soil samples for his students to analyze for evidence of a comet.

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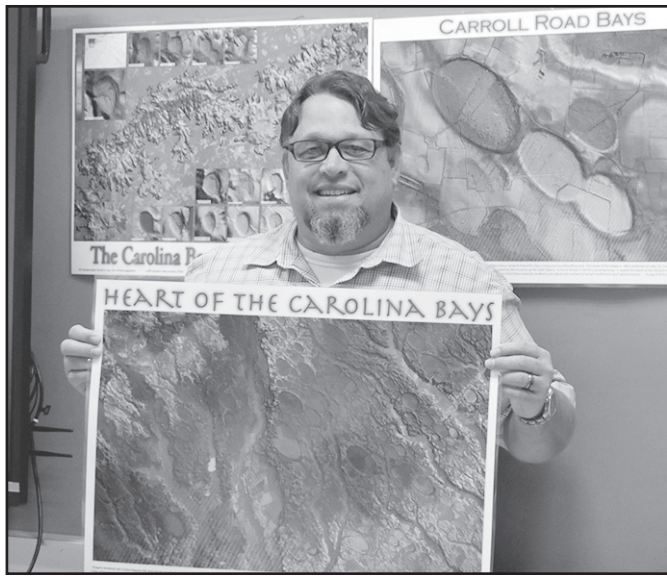
How do you honor Sept. 11?
Vote online at www.tribune-georgian.com and see last week's results on page 5A.

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Submitted photos

Science teacher Chris Cottrell is sharing his love of the Carolina Bays with his students and brought back samples from a recent dig for them to comb through.

Science

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selected for the invitational dig.

"I'm almost positive the reason why I got the invite is because I have access to a lab," Cottrell said. "I told my kids this was a good opportunity for us to be a part of this. They thought it was really cool."

Prepped with his slideshow and laminated graphics, Cottrell explained the opportunity to his students and sharing his nearly 20-year interest with the Carolina Bays, a series of circular depressions thought to be caused by the impact of a comet.

"The very first thing I do in my class is present my info on the Carolina Bays," Cottrell said. "Carolina Bays go from New York all the way down to Florida, and they are just fascinating."

The invitational dig

Cottrell's YouTube channel — the Dabbler's Den focused on geology and the outdoors — caught the interest of members from the Comet Research Group, comprised of 65 scientists from around the world. Although Cottrell considers himself an independent researcher, research group director George Howard invited him to a Carolina Bay dig in August in North Carolina.

Howard coordinated the heavy-duty dig equipment and invited Cottrell and three other researchers for a weekend.

"It's the first time this has

ever been done," Cottrell said. "We dug (three) gigantic holes, and anywhere there was a break in the soil, we collected sediments."

The soil Cottrell collected for examination is similar to the evidence collected from the comet impact coinciding with the dinosaur extinction impact event 65 million years ago. The sediment breaks indicated there may be platinum, a rare element found in big impact events like the iridium found in the stone black mat layer after the dinosaur extinction.

"We are seeing the same thing with this event 12,900 years ago but this time we have a black mat layer in rock," he said. "... They found a lot of iridium with the dinosaur extinction event. We did not find a lot of iridium but we did find a lot of platinum which is another rare metal on earth common in impacts."

Cottrell loaded 30 samples into his truck for his students to test.

Historical perspective

There has been a lot of talk in the scientific community to raise Carolina Bays back into the limelight suggesting comet impact, Cottrell said.

"About 20,000 years ago, as we came out of our last Ice Age, it should have been a nice, smooth process to the interglacial period," he explained.

Instead, there was a 1,200-year Younger Dryas period cooling. That period may be caused by the comet, which is theorized to have formed the Carolina Bays. First discovered in the 1920s and 1930s, the Carolina Bays are named for an actual plant



that grows in the depressions, Cottrell said.

"We think there was an impact event that happened on to the ice sheet that was here during the Ice Age," Cottrell said. "No crater has ever been found. But if it went into ice, then the crater would have been in the ice. We think we had an impact into the ice, the blow out from the impact itself created the Carolina Bays. ...

"Carolina Bays are these perfect elliptical shapes, and so a group of us think these are related to the impact event. They are all the same shape and are pointed in the same direction."

After the Wright brothers' plane allowed people to see a new perspective, Google Earth and satellite images also propelled the research. LIDAR uses lasers to detect elevations where several thousand of these spherical shapes can be seen.

Lab experience

The evidence is in the soil, and Cottrell hopes his students will be able to find it during the brand-new lab opportunity, funded by Howard.

Cottrell emailed Allen West, also a part of the comet research group, to help with the protocol of the classroom lab tests. The steps are detailed and must be done perfectly every time — exactly the way other labs

test material from other sites across the country.

The process is simple but time consuming. Each of the 30 bags collected needs to be labeled and separated into 250-gram samples. The first couple of grams will be sent into a lab to check for things like platinum and then the class will process the soil to extract metal and review it microscopically, Cottrell said.

Students will be a part of the whole process as part of a lab in school. Two or three kids can come in after school and help with the microscopes looking for magnetic sphericals — that only form under extreme pressures and heats and can be further evidence of impact events — and use wooden probes to pick out the sphericals by hand.

This isn't a one-time only opportunity. As the students establish themselves as part of this study and learn how to do the painstaking process, other researchers from all over the world may send them soil samples to analyze, Cottrell said.

Beyond classroom credit, Camden students might also get scholarly research credit for their work as scientists in the Comet Research Group publish their findings.

But first, there's work to do.

"We've got a lot of dirt to go through," Cottrell said.

Part of the park service dock in St. Marys was just rebuilt earlier this year.

Throwback Thursday #tbt

WORTH REMEMBERING

HAVE YOU NOTICED -

- The less tenderness a man has, the more he requires it of others?
- So many think of security, and so few of opportunity?
- The fruit derived from labor is the sweetest of all pleasure?
- The more things a man is ashamed of, the more respectable he is?
- Those who hope for no other life are dead even in this?
- That success consists of getting up once oftener than you fall down?
- Cheerful people resist disease better than glum ones? In other words: the surly bird catches the germ.

- Ray Wilder -

Reprinted from the January 22, 1970, edition of the Southeast Georgian.

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*** NOTIFICATION OF ROAD CLOSURE ***
Wheeler Street (Sept 3rd - Sept 20th)

Wheeler Street between the intersection of West St. Mary's Street and Stable Alley will be closed beginning September 3, 2019 for construction of the SHRIMP project and will reopen on September 20, 2019. Detour signage will be posted routing traffic around the construction area.

Please contact Charlie Hester Construction, Inc. at (912) 673-6396 for additional information.

Island

from page 1A

"We will make every effort to get the park open as soon as possible. We are thankful to our partners and the community for their support and understanding as we work diligently to re-open."

Fixing the Sea Camp dock

so the ferry can begin running again is a high priority, according to statements from the National Park Service.

Private boaters also won't be able to use park service docks at this time. The museum will be open for extended hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Saturday, Sept. 14, with special programs at 2 p.m.

Camden's run-ins with hurricanes in the last few

years have taken a toll on the island. Hurricane Matthew in 2016 wiped out the Dungeness ferry dock, moving the ferry north to the Sea Camp dock.

Less than a year later, Hurricane Irma destroyed the park service docks in St. Marys, closing the island to visitors for several weeks. The ferry resumed operations from the city-owned dock at the gateway property where it remains.

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SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

<p>Camden High School Monday, September 16 Hot Lunch: Soup, salad, baked potato bar, seasoned broccoli, fruit choices, salad station and chocolate pudding. Pizza Line: Pizza, powerpack bundl, salad station, french fries and fruit choices. Nugget Line: Chicken nuggets or buffalo nuggets, mashed potatoes, seasoned broccoli, fruit choices, salad station, roll and chocolate pudding. Tuesday, September 17 Hot Lunch: Beef or chicken taco w/hard or soft shell, salsa, rice, refried beans, whole kernel corn, fruit choices, salad station and cinnamon roll. Pizza Line: Pizza, powerpack bundle, salad station, french fries and fruit choices. Nugget Line: Chicken nuggets or Asian bites, rice with gravy, salad station, whole kernel corn and fruit choices. Wednesday, September 18 Hot Lunch: Pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, coleslaw, fruit choices and salad station. Pizza Line: Deep dish pizza, powerpack bundle, salad station, french fries and fruit choices. Nugget Line: Chicken nuggets or buffalo nuggets, baked beans, coleslaw, fruit choices, salad station and roll. Thursday, September 19 Hot Lunch: Mac and Cheese with chicken bowl, green peas, salad station, fruit choices and brownie. Pizza Line: Pizza, powerpack bundle, salad station, tator tots, fruit choices and cookie. Nugget Line: Chicken nuggets or Asian bites, rice with gravy, green beans, salad station, fruit choices and brownie. Friday, September 20 Hot Lunch: Hamburger or chicken sandwich with toppings, potato wedges, salad station, fruit choices and slush cup. Pizza Line: Deep dish pizza, bacon cheeseburger or powerpack bundle, baked beans, french fries, salad station, fruit choices and slush cup. Nugget Line: Chicken nuggets or buffalo nuggets, mashed potatoes, lima beans, fruit choices, salad station, roll and slush cup.</p>	<p>Middle Schools Monday, September 16 Hot Lunch: Cheesy bread with marinara, green beans, fruit choices, salad station and pudding. Sandwich Line: Cheeseburger, powerpack bundle or pizza, french fries, fruit choices, salad station and pudding. Nugget Line: Chicken nuggets, roll, green beans, mashed potatoes, fruit choices, salad station and pudding. Tuesday, September 17 Hot Lunch: Taco Tuesday - refried beans, salsa, rice, whole kernel corn, fruit choices, salad station and cinnamon roll. Sandwich Line: Chicken sandwich, powerpack bundle or pizza, whole kernel corn, salad station and fruit choices. Nugget Line: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, whole kernel corn, fruit choices, salad station and roll. Wednesday, September 18 Hot Lunch: Buffalo bites, rice, blackeyed peas, fruit choices and salad station. Sandwich Line: Corn dog, powerpack bundle or pizza, blackeyed peas, fruit choices and salad station. Nugget Line: Chicken nuggets, rice, blackeyed peas, fruit choices and salad station. Thursday, September 19 Hot Lunch: Chili, cornbread, baked potato, fruit choices, salad station and gelatin. Sandwich Line: Hamburger, powerpack bundle or pizza, tator tots, fruit choices, salad station and gelatin. Nugget Line: Chicken nuggets, cornbread, lima beans, fruit choices, salad station and gelatin. Friday, September 20 Hot Lunch: Hot dog bar, chips, baked beans, coleslaw, salad station, fruit choices and fruit slush. Sandwich Line: Spicy chicken sandwich, powerpack bundle or pizza, baked beans, fruit choices, salad station and fruit slush. Nugget Line: Chicken nuggets, rice, baked beans, coleslaw, salad station, fruit choices and fruit slush.</p>	<p>Elementary Schools Monday, September 16 Hot Lunch: Fish sticks, coleslaw, grits, fruit choices, salad station and cookie. Breakfast: Pancake pup Tuesday, September 17 Hot Lunch: Chips and Queson, rice, seasoned corn, fruit choices, salad station and gelatin. Breakfast: Chicken or sausage biscuit Wednesday, September 18 Hot Lunch: Chicken nuggets or Buffalo Bites, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, fruit choices, salad station and roll. Breakfast: Yogurt parfait Thursday, September 19 Hot Lunch: Barbeque chicken, baked beans, cornbread, fruit choices, salad station, slush cup or Chef Salad. Breakfast: Breakfast Burrito Friday, September 20 Hot Lunch: Bag It Up! Ham and cheese wrap, saide salad, fruit choices, veggie dippers and chips Breakfast: Pop tarts</p>
<p>Middle & High School Breakfast Daily: Chicken or sausage biscuit, cereal, yogurt, cheese stick, fruit, juice and milk Monday: Pancake pup Tuesday: honey bun Wednesday: Yogurt parfait Thursday: Breakfast Burrito Friday: Pop tarts</p>		
<p>LUNCH PRICES Elementary Students - \$1.95 Middle School Students - \$2.10 High School Students - \$2.35 Reduced Price - 40¢ Teachers - \$3.50 Visitors - \$4.00</p>		
<p>BREAKFAST PRICES Students - FREE Teachers - \$2.00 Visitors - \$2.25</p>		
<p>Menu subject to change due to cost and availability.</p>		

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- T. Cuyler

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