HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS CLOSE LOCAL FAVORITE RESTAURANT

Story and Photos by Linda Cicoira

Tammy & Johnny's on Lankford Highway in Melfa, known for more than five decades as the spot to stop for fried chicken, closed its doors earlier this month because conditions inside were a threat to the safety of workers and the public.

The phone number associated with the Edwards' family health permit was temporarily disconnected “at the customer’s request,” a recording stated.

Accomack Building Official Mark Bowden does not know if the owners will make the estimated $100,000 in repairs and reopen the business. “I do know they had a contractor friend that went by there,” Bowden said, adding the contractor was the one who made the estimate. An engineer was also contacted. But Bowden said his calls to several landline and cell numbers belonging to the family have not been returned.

“Right now nobody is in the building so it’s not a public endangerment,” Bowden said. “The building is secured ... I have not cut power to the building.” He explained there is food in the freezers and he did not want to make matters worse. Bowden also notified local fire departments of conditions in case a fire occurred.

The Edwards agree not to reopen until they had approval from the health department, according to a food establishment inspection report.

Jon Richardson, of the health department, said the agency “received an anonymous complaint about the condition of the restaurant” including “holes in the ceiling over where they fry chicken, over the food prep area and water leaking where people were preparing food ... As a result of the building officials' actions, we suspended their operating food permit.”

The family blamed the recent snow for compromising their roof, Richardson said.

On Feb. 14, Ronnie and Shirley Edwards were sent a letter from Bowden. It states, “the inspection revealed water running out of the ceiling causing the ceiling to sag across the entire kitchen area, the beam supporting the ceiling and roof have been compromised and has an approximate 6 to 8 sag in the beam, temporary support has been installed under the beam and doorways but do not extend to a point of bearing to support the structure. The floor is water soaked and deteriorated. The floor has major deflections in the kitchen and counter areas with some holes and soft spots in the floor.

This structure poses a safety hazard and there is a high probability of endangerment to the health and safety of the employees and public.”

In order to be reopened, Bowden said the structure must be evaluated by a state licensed engineer. “I am hopeful that the required repairs can be completed and the structure can be occupied.”

Code Enforcement Officer Bruce Herbert also sent a letter to the Edwards. He found “multiple fire and life safety issues. The fryers are no longer under the existing Type I hood. Their electrical connections are not made properly making them both a fire and electrical shock hazard. The fryers are on a combustible grease soaked surface. The hood is dripping grease. This

Nor’easter Set to Blow In This Weekend

The National Weather Service says a nor’easter will bring high winds and flooding to the Eastern Shore this weekend.

Winds will pick up Thursday night, and are expected to blow steadily at 25-40 mph until Friday night. Along the Eastern Shore gusts are forecast to reach 50-60 mph. Damage to weak structures, trees, and power lines, are possible.

At sea, wind gusts of 50 to 55 knots with seas up to 15 feet or more will make it dangerous for even large ships.

ANEC warns everyone to stay away from downed wires or damaged electric equipment. Touching energized wires can lead to injuries and death. If you see downed wires, call 911 or the cooperative immediately at 757-787-9750.

A coastal flood watch has also been issued for Saturday morning through Sunday, with water levels 1.5 - 2.5 feet above normal. The Eastern Shore should expect areas of moderate flooding with associated inundation of roads and low lying property near the waterfront, severe beach erosion, and considerable erosion of dunes.

This information was as of deadline late Thursday.

Forecasters do change, so go to https://www.weather.gov/akq/ to stay informed.
The Eastern Shore Winter of Discontent

Story and Photos by Linda Cicoira

Citizen and environmental groups are “encouraged” by Tyson Foods’ recent promise to use the Shore’s more abundant and shallow aquifer to pump hundreds of thousands of gallons of water each month to cool its influx of mass chicken houses. All were quick to claim credit for the move, and discontent became more apparent than ever between the various groups, the company and the state Department of Environmental Quality.

Supervisor Robert Crockett, chairman of the board, said he and several other staff members met with Tyson Foods Temperenceville Plant manager Kevin Taylor in early February and he easily agreed to change aquifers.

A reporter called Taylor Wednesday to find out what he thinks of the groups taking credit for the action. A voicemail message was left for him but instead of Taylor calling back, a Tyson representative in Chicago said she would be fielding questions. She later responded with an email that said, “We announced last week that we’ll require farmers building all new chicken houses for our Temperanceville, Va., complex to use the Columbia aquifer whenever possible. Water is a precious natural resource, and we believe Tyson Foods can help protect the quality and quantity of water in the Eastern Shore area by tapping into an aquifer that replenishes more rapidly than others.”

Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper Jay Ford had its own take. “We have been working with state regulators and citizens to address groundwater impacts for over a year and we are pleased that Tyson responded positively to the concerns raised by Shorekeeper, citizens, and ... DEQ,” said Shorekeeper Ford, in a press release issued the day after the announcement. That was read by some, including Ken Dufty, who is spokesperson for Citizens for Open Government (COG), as taking credit for something they believed they brought about through an ad and letter to DEQ Director David Paylor.

“This morning [the morning after Tyson’s announcement to draw from the shallow aquifer for cooling], after all our hard work without any input from Shorekeeper, Shorekeeper has issued a press release creating the impression that it was this organization (Ford) who is responsible for Tyson’s decision,” Dufty said in an email, vowing not to work with Shorekeeper.

But Ford said Tyson’s inability to distinguish between these two groups with seemingly common goals, but distinct methods, is part of the problem Shorekeeper is having working with Tyson.

Ford’s organization “grew out of an idea from the directors of Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore (CBES),” after members attended the 2001 annual meeting of the Riverkeeper of North Carolina, according to the Shorekeeper website. CBES members have also been complaining to Accomack supervisors and the state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) about poultry operations.

“Speaking with the Tyson reps outside the board meeting, it was clear they associated Shorekeeper with the citizen group that took an ad out in [the Eastern Shore Post on Feb. 16].”

COG “was formed by a loose coalition of Northampton County citizens, including real estate developers … after the first public hearing on the proposed Northampton County 2014 Zoning Ordinance.” Dufty said the group has more than 1,400 members in the two-county region.

“We have nothing to do with that group and have spent much of the last year working with state regulators on realistic solutions, namely getting them into the Columbia aquifer,” said Ford. “The fact that Tyson chose to conflated us with COG was just one more inaccuracy they carried into that evening’s meeting.” Ford was responding to animated remarks by Taylor last week’s Board of Supervisor’s meeting that included allegations a local conservation head, who he later identified as Ford, had spread “lies and propaganda.”

“Shorekeeper remains committed to finding win-win solutions to the environmental impacts of Tyson’s growing poultry operations in Accomack County,” Ford said in a prepared statement. “However, Tyson must come to the table in good faith and unfortunately, they have not done so in the past. Tyson representatives made several false or misleading statements regarding their growth in Accomack, their pollution on the Shore and their past willingness to address environmental concerns” at the supervisors’ session.

“Shorekeeper invested time and resources in bringing an engineering firm to the Shore that could help Tyson reduce their significant air pollution impacts,” Ford’s statement continued. “We even offered to help them obtain funding for the project, but they turned down a trial of the operation.

“Instead, their trade associations went to court to try and prevent any community from tracking the pollution coming from the poultry house fans. Now they are supporting legislation in Congress to exempt them from reporting these emissions which pollute our Chesapeake Bay and may have impacts on community health. Actions speak louder than words and Tyson has often gone to great lengths to avoid being held accountable for their pollution.

“We understand that their violations on the Shore and around the country have been a source of controversy and embarrassment for Tyson,” Ford said. “However, lashing out at Shorekeeper and making deceptive statements is a completely inappropriate response.

(Continued on Page 28)
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Northampton County School Board Update

By Stefanie Jackson

Gerald Boyd, of Virginia Organizing, and Dr. Arthur Carter appealed to the Northampton school board Feb. 22 to establish “restorative justice” in the school district - an alternative to traditional, punitive discipline measures.

Boyd distributed information on suspension rates in Accomack and Northampton schools, which was shared at a Nov. 14 forum on school discipline, arranged by Virginia Organizing and held at Eastern Shore Community College. Nearly twice as many students in Accomack and more than 2½ as many students in Northampton are suspended each year compared to the state average. The rates are even higher for black and Hispanic students compared to white students.

Restorative justice is a non-punitive, rehabilitative method of student discipline, focusing on the value of both victims and offenders in the school community. Replacing punitive discipline with restorative justice would help reduce student absences and truancy, Carter said.

Carter asked the school board to form a committee that would collaborate with schools, parents, churches, and others in the community to phase in restorative justice in Northampton schools.

In light of recent events involving school violence, such as the Feb. 14 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., Northampton school district is evaluating their safety procedures. In a joint presentation, Superintendent Eddie Lawrence and Director of Operations Chris Truckner reported that Northampton County Sheriff David Doughty reviewed Northampton High School’s crisis plan and suggested improvements.

Northampton schools planned to divide students into small groups to discuss and ask for their input on school safety procedures. Three sessions were planned for different times to involve the highest possible number of students. Students are being advised to report social media posts that involve guns or other weapons, and have participated in random metal detector checks.

Northampton’s school psychologist prepared a list of warning signs of the threat of school violence, and the district provided a video for teachers and staff to watch, simulating a day in the life of an at-risk student, concluding with a review of all the warning signs viewers may have missed.

Lawrence discussed declining enrollment in Northampton schools, which he termed “an unwelcome trend.” Since October, the district has lost 20 students: three from Occhannock Elementary School, five from Northampton Middle School, and 12 from Kiptopeke Elementary School. Lawrence said the losses indicate an “economic development problem” with “no prospects for labor,” which he is looking to county supervisors to address.

General enrollment may be declining, but enrollment in special education is increasing, Director of Special Programs Keren Plowden reported. There are about 280 Northampton public school students in the special education program, Plowden said. That’s approximately 18 percent of total enrollment.

Plowden discussed the difference between two alternative instructional settings for special education students. Homebound instruction is for students who are prevented from attending school, usually because of a medical condition. Home-based instruction is for students with disabilities who are temporarily prevented from attending school, often when they are suspended.

Some Northampton special education students travel regularly across the Chesapeake Bay for day treatment services. Plowden said she is considering a joint effort with Accomack County to provide regional options for these students’ educational needs.

Northampton will participate in an Odyssey of the Mind tournament March 17 at Grafton Middle School in York County, Plowden announced. A “transition fair” will be held March 20 at Northampton High School, for students who need help deciding what they will do after graduation.

Northampton school district sent the Virginia Department of Education its corrective action plan for NMS, which seeks to regain full accreditation. The middle school most needs improvement in science and English. It met state requirements in history and math last year.
Unfounded School Shooting Threat

By Connie Morrison

Rumors of a school shooting threat were flying last week.

Credible sources told the Eastern Shore Post it all started with a fight between Nandua High students last Wednesday that spilled over onto social media.

At some point one or more people understood there to be a threat made against the school. With nerves still raw from the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., word spread. Enough students and parents believed there was a threat to school safety that 30 percent of Nandua students did not report to school last Thursday. Nine percent of Arcadia students were absent.

“The sheriff’s department investigated and it was unfounded,” said Accomack Schools Superintendent Chris Holland. He would not say whether anyone was suspended in connection with the incident. “It’s a student matter,” he said. “It’s confidentiality. I can’t discuss it.

Students and parents arriving at the school last Thursday were met with a strong police presence. Holland said the deputies were there at his request. He was alerted by the principals to the concerns expressed on social media. Wednesday night. “Safety is a major concern,” he said. “As superintendent that was my request.”

Exmore police officers were also on heightened alert. Area high school students were at Broadwater Academy for choir auditions, which brought some heightened focus there because of the tensions at Nandua. Chief Angelo DiMartino said through the police department’s Facebook page that all schools received increased attention Feb. 22. “All our schools are a priority to the Exmore Police Department,” he said.

A letter from Holland was sent home with students who attended school Feb. 22. The letter made no mention of the alleged threat, nor the police presence at school that day. It encouraged parents to forward threats to law enforcement, instead of re-sharing on social media, to be aware of students’ social media usage, to monitor their moods and behavior, and to contact law enforcement and the student’s school “if you believe your child is capable of making a threat and following through.”

The text of the letter was later found to have been identical to one sent the previous day to parents in several Hampton Roads school districts. An inquiry to Holland about usage of the other divisions’ letter went unanswered.

A phone call to Sheriff Todd Godwin about the investigation was not returned.

Wachapreague Coast Guard Rescues Six

By Linda Cicoira

Six people were brought to safety by Coast Guard Station Wachapreague last week after running aground north of Bradford Bay, according to an announcement made by Base Portsmouth.

Two others, who were with the 34-foot fishing vessel Wreckaholic, stayed with the boat and were able to get it free when high tide came in a few hours later.

A crew member called the Wachapreague station to report his boat had run aground due to shoaling and a low tide at 6:10 p.m. Feb. 22. In response, the Coast Guard’s 24-foot special purpose craft for shallow waters was launched with its crew. The distressed boat was less than a mile from the Coast Guard station.

“Be aware of the areas that you are navigating,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Cameron Elliott, who received the distress call. “Always take in account for possible shoaling, tide levels and wind speeds. Never hesitate to call the Coast Guard at the first sign of trouble.”

No injuries or pollution reported in connection with the incident.
Kerosene Smell and Water Fuels Controversy

By Linda Cicoira

Her water smelled like kerosene, that oil used in jet fuel engines, domestic heaters and lamps and as a cleaning solvent.

Because of the odor, an elderly Sanford woman, who later died of cancer, got her water supply by running a line to a close neighbor. Her house and the one where the neighbor lived are both abandoned now. Both were the closest in the community to the Shad Landing Road property that was recently cited for having an illegal dump.

“We as public officials can get to the bottom of this sad situation,” Accomack Supervisor Paul Muhly of District 4 wrote to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) this week. “Although the visible trash dump on the Lance Fisher property in Sanford … has been cleaned up due to the prompt enforcement by your department, the story is far from over.”

Muhly was referring to the 120 tons of trash, including more than 100 tires, that were dumped at the site. Fisher was caught there in May of 2017 driving in with more garbage in a dump truck labeled Fisher’s Environmental, the name of his sons’ company in Delmar, Md., that does asbestos abatement, mold remediation, lead paint abatement, demolition services, water damage restoration, fire damage restoration, duct cleaning, air quality control, wet crawl space solutions, hazardous material clean-up and emergency response.

“This is a site whose contaminated areas are just starting to come to light,” Muhly wrote to DEQ Director David Paylor, with a carbon copy going to Craig R. Nicol, the agency’s regional director. Muhly asked that DEQ reconsider enforcing the fine and address “the remaining questions of contamination at man-made ponds that parallel Shad Landing Road and the possible hydraulic fluid and other liquid wastes in the Chesapeake Bay waters at the old oyster house.”

“Speaking to locals who have lived their entire lives in the area and have witnessed two to three decades of disregard for the environmental well-being of the marshes,” he said, “It is a sad tale indeed.”

“The property at the site of the old oyster house is said to be contaminated with hydraulic fluid from the machinery that operated there,” the supervisor continued. “Even today that site is being used for overboard dumping of fluids … folks who crab there have seen iridescent film trails on and in the water.”

Last month, a consent order was posted on the DEQ website that told of the $13,500 fine issued against Fisher for dumping. He avoided the fine by listing his social security check as his only source of income. Muhly also speculated about that.

The county official wants the property to be further evaluated. “The southern part of the property has several lagoons or ponds that can be seen from the Google Earth website. What has been dumped here over the years is any body’s guess. How many family wells in the neighborhood have been affected?” He asked. “Should not these area wells be tested by the DEQ?”

Muhly said Fisher’s 80-acre site is assessed at more than $300,000. “He could have used this property as security for a bank loan to pay the token fine for his actions. The tipping fees he paid at the county landfill when the dump was cleaned up is only what he should have normally paid to begin with.

Muhly said Fisher “undoubtedly charged” a landfill fee for taking the garbage away. Muhly suggested Fisher could have unreported income from charging landfill fees to customers for trash that ended up on Fisher’s property.

“Far from the scene, you have to rely on information passed on from possibly not the best of informed state employees,” Muhly wrote. “Even as the district supervisor, I did not realize or know the full extent of this situation. It was only after the story was reported in the local paper did folks start calling me with additional information. Many will not go on the record as they do not trust the Fishers and what they might do.

“But we as public officials can get to the bottom of this sad situation,” he continued. “This property, along with the marshes it encompasses, is located next to Virginia Fish and Game Commission land that overlooks Robin Hood Bay and … Maryland on the distant shore. This is the natural beauty of the Shore that we all treasure. It is our duty to safeguard it.”

Waste Watchers, a non-profit, anti-litter, volunteer, community group that promotes responsible disposal of waste on the Eastern Shore, adopted a resolution earlier this month opposing the penalty waiver for Fisher as a matter of principle.

“Willful offenders must not be let off just by paying the out-of-pocket disposal costs that could have been paid in the first place, without damaging the environment, flouting the law and incurring considerable taxpayer expense in investigating and prosecuting the violations,” Member Alan Silverman wrote in an email.

CTG’s First Responder Salute

CTG is saluting Delmarva’s heroes in the ranks of first responders with a gift courtesy of Bob Faith with Dockside Properties.

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From Janet Morton
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For $49,400

From Margaret Elliott
To Foundation of Faith Ministries and David Sabatino, trustee
Lot 11, Lankford Highway, near Belle Haven
For $35,000

From Cecelia Chance
To Chad and Karen Hockman
Lot 107, Unit 3, Trails End
For $37,000

From Peter and Lora Seeley
To Miquel and Kelly Busquets
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From Andrew Cozens
To Glenn and Brenda Smith
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From Rickie Watson
To Jacqueline Thomas
13037 Bethel Church Rd., Hallwood
For $211,110

From Juan Chavez and Pamela Quintero
To Maricela Bober and Gilberto Saezudo
15274 Hinman St., Bloxom
For $10,000

From Traci Young
To Tile Unlimited Inc.
7287 Sunset Dr., Chincoteague
For $250,000

From Randy Hickman
To Thomas and Diane Powers
36032 Radcliffe Rd., Quinby
For $12,000

From Glenn and Jerry Sterling
To The Waters at Chesapeake Bay LLC
34121 Craddockville Rd.,
Craddockville
For $600,000

From Cleo and Barbara Hargis
To Keyaira and Courtney Oakley
34000 Seaside Rd., Painter
For $155,179

From Dean and Kimberly Hively
To Theodore and Susan Fringer
Lot 180, Unit 3, Trails End
For $5,200

From John Farina Jr., trustee
To David and Denise Apple
Parcel A, near Jamesville, Occonehanz Neck
For $530,000

From CC203 Mason LLC
To Wagner Elton LLC
Unit 1, Condominium Plan, Cape Charles
For $259,000

From RKL Mortgage Corporation-VA
To Thomas Ward Jr.
Lot near Wardtown
For $13,000

From Mary Collins
To Juan Reyes and Herlina Arredondo
Lots 19 and 20, Middleton, near Nassawadox
For $40,000

From South Port Investors LLC
To Upfront Storage LLC
Lot 1, Cape Charles
For $250,000
Accomack Man Charged with Fraud and Theft

An Accomack county man was charged earlier this month with fraud and theft, according to records filed in Northampton General District Court.

Norman Hugh Thomas, 49, of Accomac, is accused of credit card larceny, felony theft and two counts of credit card theft in connection with incidents that occurred Feb. 16. The charge of theft by force or intimidation, a felony, was dropped.

Thomas is free on his own recognizance. Sgt. Adam Zieger of the Exmore Police Department investigated. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for April 4.

Maryland Man Pleads Guilty to Rape and Sexual Battery Charges

A Maryland man accused of rape and sexual battery pleaded guilty Monday in Accomack General District Court to the latter charge in an agreement with Commonwealth’s Attorney Spencer Morgan.

Moroti Wale Gbadamosi, 40, with addresses on Madison Way in Hyattsville, Md., and 10th Street in Bowie, Md., was sentenced to 12 months in jail for sexual battery in December 2017.

In another case, Shane Austin Taylor, 24, of Winterville Road in Bloxom, will not be prosecuted on a count of abducting his long-time girlfriend, Ashlin Bloxom, of Fox Drive in Hallwood, on Dec. 26, 2017. Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Randy Fultz made the request, which was granted by the court.

Antwine Jermaine Johnson of Eastville was convicted of petty larceny, a misdemeanor, in connection with a Nov. 1, 2017 incident. The initial charge was grand larceny, which is a felony.

Johnson was given a six-month suspended sentence and fined $150.

Malicious Wounding Found Incompetent To Stand

A Parksley man accused of maliciously wounding a fellow poultry plant worker was found to be incompetent to stand trial in Accomack Circuit Court last week.

Jacques Carly Pierre, 29, was ordered to go to outpatient counseling through the Eastern Shore Community Services Board in an effort to restore him to competency as suggested by Dr. Elizabeth Wheeler. She reported Pierre was incompetent due to his inability to grasp a rational understanding of court procedures and his inability to assist counsel.

The order was signed by Judge W. Revell Lewis III on Feb. 22. The victim, Dieufaite Tanis, of Salisbury, Md., was stabbed on Feb. 14, 2017, according to court records.

In another case, Alexis Christine Mullen, 25, of Chincoteague Road on Wallops Island, was acquitted of embezzling money from Simple Storage Delmarva, on Coardtown Road in New Church, between December 2015 and August 2016.

A charge of possession of heroin against Dejour Tyshaun Payton, 21, of Nelsonia Road in Bloxom, was continued until February 2019 under the first offender statute. He was initially charged with distribution of heroin in connection with an incident that occurred Feb. 16, 2017. Payton will be on probation for a year. He was ordered to do 100 hours of community service.

Jasmine Sade Dickerson, also known as Adonis Taylor, 24, of Berlin, Conn., was sentenced to three years with all but time served suspended for forging public records on Dec. 24, 2017.

Records showed Courtney Bowden Zaragoza, 24, of Hallwood Road in Hallwood, will not be prosecuted for forgery and uttering charges stemming from an Oct. 7, 2016 incident.

Hit-and-Run Will Not Be Prosecuted

New York bus driver, who thought he hit a deer on Lankford Highway in front of Perdue Foods in Accomac in 2015, will not be prosecuted for leaving the scene of a traffic crash that killed a pedestrian.

A motion to that effect was made in Accomack Circuit Court Thursday by Commonwealth’s Attorney Spencer Morgan. Jihua Chen, 38, of Flushing, who was driving south on the highway in a 2001 Vanhool Charter Bus, at about 3 a.m., stopped briefly after the incident occurred on March 31, 2015.

The prosecutor said witnesses for the defense would have testified Chen told his boss, a passenger in his bus, and another driver who stopped at the scene, that he must have hit a deer.

The victim, Brice Sauver, 66, who lived less than a mile away at Dream-land #1, was believed to be attempting to cross the road on his way home from work at Perdue. He was dressed in black and was wearing a blue hat that night.

Chen was arrested in Northampton County returning from Hampton Roads, where he left his passengers.

Retired Judge Burke F. McCahill of Loudoun County presiding over the matter and said, “Mr. Chen, you are free to go.” Chen was represented by attorney Shari Mapp.

In another case, there was discussion of an attempted murder charge of a deputy. Deandre Breshon Ayers, also known as De’Andre Breshon Ayres and Deondre Brashaun Ayers, 28, of Hanson Avenue in Norfolk, previously from Painter.

Defense lawyer, Allen Zaleski of Norfolk, told McCahill he was satisfied with the response that was made regarding three discovery motions and withdrew a motion to suppress in the case.

Ayers was indicted on a count of attempted capital murder of Cpl. Eric Nottingham, use of a firearm in the crime, discharging a firearm from a vehicle and shooting at an occupied police car on Sept. 26, 2016.

Maryland officers were investigating a robbery at the PNC Bank in Pocomoke at about 2 p.m. that day. Authorities said three people threatened to blow up the bank, but, did not display weapons or explosive devices to tellers. Afterwards, they were seen running towards the 6th Street Car Wash and getting into a silver Chevy Malibu with a Virginia tag.

Accomack authorities were notified to be on the lookout for the car. Just after hearing the alert, Nottingham saw the vehicle near Temperanceville. He followed and when it ran a stop sign, he attempted to pull the car over. At some point, an occupant shot at him.

NOTICE TO NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PROPERTY OWNERS

The 2018 Reassessment Notices have been mailed out to all Northampton County property owners. If you do not receive a notice, please contact the Commissioner of Revenue office at 757-678-0446 with a valid address so that a notice can be mailed to you.

Appointments to discuss your assessment can be made by calling the Commissioner of Revenue – Real Estate Division at the above number.
Obituaries
Herbert Barnes Jr.

Mr. Herbert Barnes Jr., 84, husband of the late Norma Adams Barnes for 56 years, lost his battle with cancer on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018. Mr. Barnes was born on July 8, 1933, in Accomac, to the late Herbert Barnes Sr. and Katherine Martin Barnes.

Following his service in the U.S. Navy and graduation from Ohio University, Mr. Barnes began his career in photography. He first worked as a studio photographer, then as a photo interpreter, and finally as a photography specialist with the Central Intelligence Agency. His work with the CIA took him to more than 50 countries, including six months in Kinshasa, Zaire, three years in Athens, Greece, with the family, and two years in Istanbul, Turkey.

He spent his life pursuing his hobbies and tinkering on his many projects. He was a private pilot and flight instructor. He restored five antique airplanes from bare metal to show-worthy prize winners. He enjoyed boating, fishing, carpentry, wildlife photography, and he especially enjoyed spending time with his friends and family. He and his wife, Norma, retired to his home in Onley, Md., surrounded by his family.

Survivors include his three children, Amanda Davis and Victoria Spence, of Exmore, Amy Ratzlaff, of Guilford, and Sara Young, of Salisbury, Md.; two great-grandchildren, Aiden Fitchett, of Exmore, and Cecilia Spence, of Fort Drum, N.Y.; and several nieces and nephews. Mr. Baylis was predeceased by his first wife, Nancy Mears Baylis, and three brothers, Arthur Baylis, Donald Baylis and Wayne Baylis.

All family and friends are invited to attend a Celebration of Life service at Exmore Baptist Church, in Exmore, on Saturday, March 3, 2018, at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Attn.: Membership Department, 6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403, (www.cbf.org/donate), or to National Audubon Society, 225 Varick St, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10014 (www.audubon.org/donate).

Memorial tributes may be shared with the family at www.williamsfuneralhomes.com

Arrangements were made by the Williams-Onancock Funeral Home.

Clarence Milton Baylis Jr.

Mr. Clarence Milton Baylis Jr.: 87, husband of Donna Baylis and a resident of Quinby, went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Feb. 26, 2018. Born on Feb. 28, 1930, Mr. Baylis was a native of Long Island, N.Y., and the son of Clarence Milton Baylis Sr. and Majorie Frisch Baylis. Mr. Baylis was a nurseryman and the owner of Earth’s Bounty Nursery in Keller, and never fully retired. He always had intentions of getting back on the tractor again as soon as he was able. He was a member of Hollies Baptist Church in Keller. He also enjoyed listening to Pastor Jonathan Carpenter of Exmore Baptist Church, on the radio on Sunday mornings.

In addition to his wife, Donna, Mr. Baylis is survived by four daughters, Kathy Dean and her husband, Kevin, of Pungoteague, Penny Windsor Young and her husband, Gary, of Parksley, Linda Baylis Spence and her husband, Terry, of Exmore, and Kimberly Baylis Laxton and her husband, Kit, of Onancock; two sons, Mark Baylis, of Guilford, and John Windsor, of Exmore; a special nephew, Brian Baylis Sr. and his wife, Dawn, of Painter; grandparents, Ryan Davis, of Painter; grandchildren, Amanda Davis and Victoria Spence, of Exmore, Amy Ratzlaff, of Guilford, and Sara Young, of Salisbury, Md.; two great-grandchildren, Aiden Fitchett, of Exmore, and Cecilia Spence, of Fort Drum, N.Y.; and several nieces and nephews. Mr. Baylis was predeceased by his first wife, Nancy Mears Baylis, and three brothers, Arthur Baylis, Donald Baylis and Wayne Baylis.

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Memorial tributes may be shared with the family at www.williamsfuneralhomes.com

Arrangements were made by the Williams-Onancock Funeral Home.

Robert Anderson Richardson

Mr. Robert Anderson Richardson, 79, husband of Carolyn Weiss Richardson, and a resident of Onancock, passed away Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018, at Riverside Shore Hospice, P.O. Box 616, Onley, Virginia 23418, SPCA, P.O. Box 164, Onley, Virginia 23418, or the Accoamack-Northampton Pregnancy Center, P.O. Box 123, Onley, Virginia 23418.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the family at www.doughtyfuneralhome.com

Arrangements were made by Dougherty Funeral Home in Exmore.

John William Savage

Mr. John William Savage, of Alexandria, Va., passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Feb. 19, 2018. He was born on Sept. 8, 1940, in Seaford, Va. He was the son of the late Mary Virginia (Taylor) Savage and Mason Paul Savage.

Mr. Savage grew up on the Eastern Shore of Virginia in Parksley. A beloved husband, father and granddaddy, Mr. Savage made his home in Alexandria for the last 54 years.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Carole Joyce (Wadlow) Savage, of Alexandria; son, John Brian Savage (wife, Kitty), of Augusta, W.V.; daughters, Mary Catherine Keefe (husband, Dan), of Lorton, Va., and Jennifer Lynn Conway (husband, Terry), of Warrenton, Va.; and one sister, Mary Jo (Savage) Martin (husband, Kenneth), of Melfa. He is also survived by seven grandchildren, Hannah Rose Conway, Chloie Virginia Keefe, Quinn William Conway, Kelsey Taylor Savage, Owen Daniel Keefe, Jackson Thomas Savage, and Marley Clare Savage.

A memorial service was held in Alexandria on Feb. 24, 2018.

Janice Walker Scott

Mrs. Janice B. "Jonnie" Walker Scott, 83, wife of the late Julien A. Scott and the late George Walker Jr. and a resident of Bayford, passed away...
peacefully at home and surrounded by her loved ones on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018. A native of Nassawadox, she was the daughter of the late Joseph Ennis Bonniwell and the late Beatrice Tilghman Bonniwell. She was a retired secretary and office nurse for General Surgical Group and member of Franktown United Methodist Church. She had a lifelong love for animals and was an avid reader. She was loved by all who knew her and enjoyed spending time with her family and friends.

She is survived by six children, Debra Walker (Stuart Kaplan), Chris Walker (Debi), Jay Scott (Mitzi), Pam Raith (Ted), Brad Scott (Teri), and David Scott (Terri); ten grandchildren, Lynn Brankley (Luke), Allison Seal (Brian), Ashleigh DeHaven (Kevin), Morgan Raith, Julien Scott IV, Joseph Scott, Carley Scott, Derek Scott, Kelsie Scott, and Jordan Scott; four great-grandchildren, Landon and Kirby Brankley, and Emma and Colby Seal; and a sister-in-law, Anna Dean Bonniwell. She was predeceased by a brother, Jay Bonniwell, Anna Dean Bonniwell. She was a devout Catholic and a member of the Garden Club of Virginia, previously opening her home for Historic Garden Week. Mrs. Walker was an avid reader, a skilled bridge player, and was skilled at solving crossword puzzles.

A Celebration of Life service will be conducted Saturday, March 24, 2018, at 1 p.m. at Doughty Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to SPCA Eastern Shore, Inc., P.O. Box 164, Onley, VA 23418, Friends of Northampton Free Library, P.O. Box 639, Nassawadox, VA 23413, or to a charity of one's choice.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.doughtyfuneralhome.com

Arrangements were made by Doughty Funeral Home in Exmore.

Martha Shinn Walker

**Mrs. Martha Shinn Walker**, 88, wife of the late William Everett Walker II, and a resident of Accomac, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018, at the Hermitage on the Eastern Shore, in Onancock.

Born Dec. 8, 1929, and reared in Fredericksburg, she was the only child of John Shinn and Holly Burns Shinn. Receiving her undergraduate degree from Mary Washington College, she continued her quest for education and knowledge, earning a master's degree in history from the University of Virginia.

Throughout the years, Mrs. Walker managed her homes and gardens, taking great care and accomplishing both well. She was a faithful and active member of St. James’ Episcopal Church in Accomac, and a devoted longtime member of the Garden Club of Virginia, inspired many of her travels to Africa and Costa Rica, as well as having pet dogs throughout her life. She was an avid bridge player, and was skilled at solving crossword puzzles.

Survivors include her two sons, William Wade Walker, and his wife, Jayanne, of Miles Wharf, and Thomas Drummond Cropper Walker, and his wife Karen, of Morley’s Wharf; three grandchildren, Ellen Savage Walker, Revel Wade Walker and wife, Molly, and Kenneth William Walker; and two great-grandchildren, Kobe Earl Walker and Sayer Wade Walker.

Her funeral service will be held at St. James’ Episcopal Church, on Saturday, March 3, 2018, at 11 a.m., with Rev. Cameron Randle officiating. There will be a private interment at St. George’s Episcopal Church Cemetery, Pungoteague.

Memorial donations may be made to St. James’ Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 540, Accomac, VA 23301.

Memorial tributes may be shared with the family at www.williamsfuneralhomes.com.

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Northampton Hears Lecture on “Groundwater 101” By A-NPDC

By Stefanie Jackson

Groundwater use has remained steady for more than a decade, and the decline of the Eastern Shore’s “sole-source” deep aquifer, the Yorktown-Eastover, has leveled off, according to research presented Feb. 26 to Northampton supervisors by Shannon Alexander, coastal resources program manager for the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission.

The study was conducted by Britt McMillan, principal geologist at the Arcadis consulting firm.

The Environmental Protection Agency dubs the aquifer the Shore’s “sole source” of fresh water, as there are no rivers or streams of significance in the area.

Eastern Shore groundwater reserves are made even more valuable by the fact that the lens-shaped aquifer is less than 350 feet thick and is surrounded by saltwater on both sides.

The multi-aquifer consists of four levels: the higher Columbia aquifer, followed by the Upper Yorktown, Middle Yorktown, and Lower Yorktown.

Almost 90 percent of all reported groundwater use is from the lower, “confined” Yorktown-Eastover aquifer. Only about 7 percent is from the “unconfined” Columbia aquifer near ground surface, though it “recharges,” or replenishes, 100 times faster than the Yorktown-Eastover.

More than 3 percent of the Shore’s water comes from paleochannels located in Eastville, Exmore, and near Mappsville. These underground channels where ancient rivers or streams once flowed appear to increase aquifer recharge, though the phenomenon is not understood, Alexander said.

Average rainfall for the Eastern Shore is 44 inches annually. Nearly 85 percent of rainfall evaporates. Approximately 12 percent, or 200 billion gallons per year, reaches the water table and becomes groundwater. About 1 percent, or 3 billion gallons per year, recharges the confined aquifer.

McMillan’s research stated that reported groundwater use tripled in the 1970s, but has remained relatively steady since then.

Supervisors were skeptical about this data, with Supervisor Robert Duer pointing out that reporting groundwater use was not required before the 1970s.

Alexander said the Yorktown aquifer is no longer shrinking based on “current permitted” use. But actual groundwater use is not known, as not all uses are reported. Accomack and Northampton counties each have recently applied for more than 30 new groundwater withdrawal permits.

Alexander informed Northampton supervisors that groundwater withdrawals have a “localized” impact, meaning withdrawals in northern Accomack near the Maryland border, for example, would not affect Northampton County.

The biggest threat of over-pumping is saltwater intrusion, caused by “upconing.” Salt levels have increased in the Lower Yorktown aquifer near Cape Charles, but the Middle and Upper Yorktown have remained fresh.

Environmentalists recommend using the higher Columbia aquifer whenever possible. Tyson Foods recently pledged to require its farmers to use the Columbia for the water used to cool poultry houses. Alexander acknowledged that not all farmers can use the Columbia, as U.S. Department of Agriculture standards require drinking-water quality water for some crops.

Overall water usage can be reduced by installing low-flow plumbing fixtures. Xeriscape landscaping, which incorporates drought-resistant plants that don’t require irrigation, is also aquifer-friendly. Low-impact development (LID) manages stormwater runoff and increase recharge. Duer said both Accomack and Northampton could implement some of these recommendations through their zoning ordinances.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality monitors groundwater, and the Geological Survey monitors saltwater intrusion.

More information on groundwater management can be accessed by visiting www.a-npdc.org and clicking on “Eastern Shore of Virginia Groundwater Committee.”

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Cape Charles
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Diamond Society
Keith Koerner
Onancock
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International
Sterling Society
Andrea Zember
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Multi-Million

Top Team
Anne Kyle Doughty
& Stella Rhode
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Chincoteague
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Dave Griffith
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Bill Chandler
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is a very dangerous condition to both the staff and the public. The ceiling is collapsing and leaking water in many locations. There appears to be significant structural water damage but I am unable to determine the extent.

“The most immediate concerns are the unsafe electrical conditions associated with the fryers and the hood, as well as the enormous amounts of accumulated grease in the hood and cooking area and lack of a fire suppression system.”

“The restaurant should not operate until these hazards have been remedied,” Fire Inspector Peter Surran agreed. He noted the lack of filters in the hood “to prevent grease from building up. There was a moderate amount of grease on the hood and floor around the fryers and the tag showed that it had been more than six months since it had been cleaned.

The electric wires running to the hood system were jumbled and loosely secured behind the fryers. The ends of some of the wires were exposed with some covered with electrical tape. Because the roof is currently leaking, this kind of setup presents a serious electric hazard” that “must be abated.”

A sticker is present on the front door of Tammy & Johnny’s.
Shore Life

Photos by Linda Cicoira
Interns Shine in ‘The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee’

Story and photos by Connie Morrison

The North Street Playhouse production of “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” written by Rachel Sheinkin with musical score by William Finn, brilliantly channels all the awkwardness of puberty compounded by spelling bee angst, but it is definitely mid- to older-teem and adult fare. Nandua High School students fill three major onstage roles, highlighting the theater’s intern program and lending authenticity to the youthful characters.

North Street Playhouse Artistic Director Terry Bliss chose the musical. “The board wanted to branch out and see if we could do two musicals a year,” said Mary Stiegelbauer, who is co-directing with Sara Stuart. Stiegelbauer is also choreographer and associate producer.

“The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” is a much smaller production than the ones we do in the summer. We also wanted to have an opportunity for our summer interns to take on bigger roles and use what they have learned during our summer internship program,” Stiegelbauer said.

That program was launched in 2016 when the theater brought “Rent” to Onancock. “No one locally was trained to sing a rock opera,” she said. There was no theater program at Nandua High School, yet the summer camp program was wildly successful. “Why don’t we use this as an opportunity?” she thought, and concocted the intern program. The number of interns can fluctuate from as few as five, as on “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” to as many as 10 for a full summer production.

North Street Playhouse mounted a fundraising campaign to pay professional actors and pair them with high school students. She wanted to overcome stereotypes about acting careers. “I wanted to educate the kids that this is a business and they can make a steady living. I was hoping to instill respect and show how much work goes into a show.”

She asked the professionals, “What did you want to know?” Then she channeled all of that into a curriculum that includes budgeting, fundraising, marketing, and other theater business topics. Interns are also offered classes by visiting professionals on auditioning, theater make-up, and building an audition repertoire.

The five interns for “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” all plan to pursue careers in theater. How has the internship experience shaped their decisions?

“I learned so much about professional theater. It doesn’t have to be the starving artist,” said sophomore Isabeau Drewer, who portrays the reserved Olive Ostrovsky. She began her internship with “Rent.”

Her sister, freshman Nikki Drewer, has also been interning since “Rent.” She enjoys the variety theater offers. “Dancing, acting, singing – everyone has their own voice,” she said. “You don’t have to fit some mold.” Nikki is on stage as overachiever Marcy Park.

Katie Higgins, a freshman, plays Mitch Mahoney, the spelling bee’s official “comfort counselor.” “Before Young Frankenstein, theater was a hobby. Then I was an intern,” she said, “and everybody was so welcoming and I fell in love with the community and being on stage.”

Junior Meg Morrison said she learned, “It’s OK to mess up an audition in front of people and start over and produce a better product.” She, too, started her internship with “Rent.” Meg is working backstage for this production and is the understudy for North Street veteran Kat Yudain, who plays Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre. “It’s a good thing for an actor … to work behind the scenes to become well rounded,” she said.

Senior Jonathan Gouldin is in his first production as an intern. He is learning lighting and is also the understudy for Will Stanley, another actor familiar to Playhouse audiences, who plays Vice Principal Douglas Panch. “I would like to become an actor when I get older, so I thought acting would help,” Gouldin deadpanned. He is also taking classes in makeup and auditioning from visiting professionals.

Jimmy Wencel’s character, Chip Tolentino, is the returning champion who has an unfortunate early eviction from the contest. Wencel is a professional who has appeared in many North Street Playhouse productions, including “Rent.” He said this time, professionals are also learning from the interns. “Their memory of that age is much more recent. You watch what they do and you remember what it was to be a kid,” he said.

He has marveled to “watch them grow, change, improve in the craft and understand themselves as people,” he said. “The program is, of course, about the professional side, but it is also a mentoring program about what it is to be an adult; to have a job, to show up on time, to let them know … this can be your career.”

An added element for interns is improv. Without giving too much away, “The show has a fun element of improv each night,” said Steigelbauer. “Our professionals have been running improv sessions with each other, which has also been helping our interns learn new skills.”

Other professional actors include Kurt Perry, from P almouth, Maine, as William Barfée; Brian Keith Graziani, of New York City, as Leaf Coneybear; and Lindsey Newton, of Syracuse, N.Y., as announcer Rona Lisa Peretti.

She said the North Street Playhouse had improv nights years ago hosted by Scott Whitaker, who is making a return to host the improv fundraiser today, March 2, starting at 7 p.m. for cocktails, with the performance beginning at 8 p.m.

The “25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” opens Thursday, March 8. It runs March 8-10 at 8 p.m., March 11 at 2:30 p.m., March 15-17 at 8 p.m., and March 18 at 2:30 p.m. General seating is $20 for adults, $18 for seniors, and $15 for students. Add $5 per ticket for reserved seating. Call 757-787-2050 or go to northstreetplayhouse.org for tickets.
Causes of Fires Claiming Two Accomack Men Still Undetermined

**Story and Photos by Linda Cicoira**

Seventy-two-year-old Lester Broughton, of Onley, was identified Tuesday by the state police as the man who died in a house fire north of Locustville early in the morning on Feb. 7.

The cause of that fire and one that killed a Bloxom man on Jan. 29, have still not been determined, according to Sgt. Michelle Anaya.

Broughton was found inside the remains of his ranch-style manufactured home on Stone House Road. Deputy Chief Shaun Fate, of Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Company, said a passerby called the blaze in at about 3:30 a.m. Around 30 volunteer firefighters from five companies arrived to find the structure burned to the ground. It took about 10 minutes to control the blaze. State police were called to the scene to investigate.

Broughton’s cause of death is pending, Donna Price of the Medical Examiner’s Office said Wednesday.

The January fire took the life of Donald Wayne “Bo” Taylor, 61, of Wayne Drive in Bloxom. Taylor died from “thermal and inhalation injuries.” Price said the manner of death is pending. The fire quickly engulfed Taylor’s residence, a mobile home at T&E Trailer Park.

The January fire destroyed Taylor’s mobile home in Bloxom.

Authorization Approved by VMRC

**By Linda Cicoira**

An after-the-fact authorization was unanimously approved by the Virginia Marine Resource Commission Tuesday to retain two screened-in porches and all restaurant, bar and preparation equipment on Oyster Farm Marina’s C-pier.

The project was protested by two nearby property owners and is along King’s Creek in Cape Charles.

The request was made by Peacock Holdings Va LLC and was approved in a 6-1 vote with Associate Commissioner Christy Everett of Norfolk opposed and Commissioner John M.R. Bull abstaining.

The vote was “contingent on a civil charge of $3,000 based on a finding of minimal impact and major degree of non-compliance, a triple permit fee of $300 and assessment of triple royalties … of $3,600 for the encroachment of the two covered screened porches over 1,200 square feet of state-owned subaqueous land at a rate of $3 per square foot.”

The Commission also unanimously voted to authorize placement of armor rock adjacent to existing trestle bents, tunnel islands and bridge piers as needed over the next five years to ensure the continued safe operation of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel.

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To Benefit Nandua High After Prom
By Krystle Bono

Nandua High School graduates Hunter Taylor and Kimberly Wert started off the spring ball season with a bang.

Taylor, now in his senior season with the University of South Carolina, hit his first homer of the year in the bottom of the fourth, to help aid the Gamecocks to a 7-2 win over VMI, Feb. 17. USC concluded their opening weekend 2-3, to take the series (7-6 L, 7-2 W, 9-0 W).

The catcher ripped his first career grand slam Feb. 21, helping lift the Gamecocks to a 15-2 win over Winthrop. Taylor also broke his career-high in RBIs, hitting five against the Eagles, over his previously recorded three.

Last season, Taylor played 37 games with 26 starts, hitting a .212 average and going 21-for-99, scoring nine runs, and smacking six doubles and five RBIs.

During his time at Nandua, the Gamecock was named to the 2014 Baseball America High School All-America Second Team, and hit .544 with 12 homeruns and 39 RBIs in his senior season with the Warriors. He was also rated No. 169 best high school prospect in the nation and No. 8 best high school prospect in the state by Perfect Game USA, and No. 6 best high school prospect in the state of Virginia by Baseball America.

The Gamecocks will open a three-game series against Clemson tonight (Friday) at Founder’s Park at 7 p.m.

Wert, who suffered a season-ending injury during her senior year at Nandua last year, opened her freshman season with Hofstra in February, and cranked out a homerun and three RBIs in her fourth game of the season, scoring one run, to help the club edge North Florida, 4-1, Feb. 20.

As a Warrior, Wert earned the title of Eastern Shore District Player of the Year three consecutive times, aiding the Nandua club to three straight district and one conference championship. She was also a two-time all-conference selection.

Wert posted a .585 average with 17 home runs and 49 RBIs during her junior season, with a .957 fielding percentage.

Hofstra will face Florida Gulf Coast today (Friday) at 10 a.m., at Florida State University for the Unconquered Invitational.

By Krystle Bono

Worcester Prep students from around Delmarva were named to the 2018 ESIAC All-Conference Teams. Girls team from L-R: Gracie Gardner, Hailey Merritt, Carly Hoffman, Hannah Merritt (Honorable Mention). Boys team from L-R: Tucker Brown, Brenner Maull, Colin Miller (Honorable Mention).
Nandua Forensics Compete in 2A Regionals

On Feb. 10, the Nandua High School Forensics team competed in the 2A East Regional competition at Goochland High. All members of the team advance to compete in the Super Regional competition Feb. 24, at Robert E. Lee High in Staunton. The 2018 VHSL State Forensics Championships will be held at Clover Hill High in Midlothian on March 24. Qualifying for “states” are: Sheridan Wells in Prose Interpretation, Jonathan Gouldin in Humorous Interpretation, and Meg Morrison in Children’s Storytelling. The team is coached by Carla Savage Wells.

Nandua After Prom Fundraiser

You are invited to a Princess Tea Party and Photo Shoot sponsored by Nandua After Prom committee. Wear your favorite princess costume and bring your favorite doll or teddy bear. Each Princess will receive her photo, tiara, some punch and pastry.

Saturday, March 17, 2018
Time: 10am - 12pm
Price: $25 per parent and child
$10 per each additional parent or child

Place: Onancock Elks Lodge
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A Princess Tea Party

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2 Shore United Bank is a member of the Allpoint Network, a surcharge-free network of ATMs in 55,000 retail locations around the world. For a complete list of Allpoint Network ATMs visit AllpointNetwork.com.
Anglers Club to Host 2nd Annual Bolding/ Mariner Surf Fishing Event

The J.T. Bolding/Bill Mariner Youth Surf Fishing Event will take place on Sunday, May 6, from 1 to 5 p.m., on Assateague Beach. Ages 10 to 15 may participate. Members of the E.S. Anglers Club Surf Fishing Teams will demonstrate surf casting, rigging, and reading the surf. Only 20 students can participate, so there will be plenty of hands-on instruction and lots of time for fishing. Everyone will receive souvenirs and a picnic will follow. Equipment will be provided, but participants may bring their own. Lots of awesome fish were caught last year.

Last year, most of the cost of the event was covered by a donation from a club member, who wished to honor J.T. Bolding. To help sponsor this event honor the memories of J.T. and Bill, you may do so by contacting Page.

North Accomack Little League Registration

North Accomack Little League is holding registration. Register online by creating a new account at http://bluesombrero.com/northaccomackll or in person at Chincoteague High School's gym during youth rec basketball games on Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to noon.

There will be divisions for boys and girls from ages 4-16. NALL boundary is from Groton Town Rd. north to the state line, and from Saxis to Chincoteague. Players must live or attend school within the boundary to be eligible to play.

For more information, contact President Jonathan Hamilton at 757-894-2102 or Tony Montross at 757-990-0502.

Shore Little League Registration

Online registrations are being accepted now at www.shorelittleleague.org and in-person registration will be held March 4, from 1 to 3 p.m., and March 7, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Registration is required for everyone. A copy of your child’s original birth certificate and proof of residency must be presented in order to register.

The player’s age is determined as of Aug. 31 of the current year, with players born between May 1 and Aug. 31, 2005, grandfathered as 12-year-olds.

Registration fees are $60 per player, for children ages 4-16 years. A reduced rate of $100 will apply when two or more children living in the same household registers.

A late fee of $10 per child will be charged for late registrations after March 7 (no registrations will be accepted after March 31).

All boys and girls that did not play in the machine pitch or player pitch divisions last season must attend tryouts on Saturday, March 3, at 10 a.m., at the Shore Little League fields. The rain date for tryouts is Sunday, March 4, at 2 p.m.

Opening Day is scheduled for April 14. The fundraiser this year will again be a $1,000 prize raffle. Prizes will be awarded for the top three sellers.

Second Annual Shore Little League Oyster Roast

Shore Little League will host its second Oyster Roast March 3, from 4 to 8 p.m., at the Exmore Town Park.

All proceeds will benefit the league. There will be music, cash bar, silent auction and a raffle, as well as clams, oysters, BBQ and chowder.

Kids 12 and under are free. Tickets are $35 and can be purchased at the Exmore Diner, Western Auto, Little Italy and Rayfield’s Pharmacy.

Accomack County Parks and Recreation youth basketball games will be held at Arcadia High School, Saturday, March 3, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. – Knights vs Celtics (ages 5-8)
11:30 a.m. – Hornets vs Wizards (ages 5-8)
12:30 a.m. – Knights vs Cavaliers (ages 9-12)
1:30 a.m. – ACPR Braves vs Horntown Heat (ages 13-15)

For additional information, contact the Parks and Recreation office at 757-787-3900, Wayne at 757-710-1947 or Barbara at 757-678-2137.
Varsity Basketball Playoff Action

By Krystle Bono

The Broadwater Vikings boys varsity team faced Williamsburg Christian Academy Feb. 9 and 12, picking up one road and one home loss against the Eagles.

Broadwater’s first game against the Eagles resulted in a 85-45 deficit. Nathan Crumb and Clay Wardius each posted 10 points to help lead the Vikings. Mathew Behrens tossed eight points.

The Vikings dropped a 89-48 away contest to the Eagles in the second game with 14. Jackson Rose threw 11 and Brant Bloxom, Ahmad Scarborough and Crumb hooped six apiece.

Crumb helped lead the Vikings to a 67-46 victory at Isle of Wight with 21 points Feb. 15. Jashawn Wharton netted 12 points and Rose scored 10.

Feb. 22 marked the beginning of the Vikings’ All-Metro Conference tournament, battling Isle of Wight to a 42-34 home win.

Broadwater dropped their second metro game to the Hampton Christian Academy boys, 62-45, Feb. 23, during the semifinals, to conclude their season at North Cross High School Tuesday night with a 67-33 loss.

The Lady Vikings faced Isle of Wight Feb. 15 on the road, and suffered a 32-20 loss to the Chargers.

Anna Sexauer led the girls with 10 points. Greta Bunce posted four. Sexauer also grabbed the team high in rebounds with 11.

Broadwater went up against the Roanoke Catholic Celtics and fell 56-34 in the All-Metro Tournament Tuesday night.

The Eastern Shore district teams competed in their respective regional tournaments beginning Feb. 16.

Nandua, seeded seventh in the 2A bracket, hit the court against the No. 2 seeded team, Poquoson. The Warriors fell 91-20.

The Arcadia girls, ranked fourth entering the 2A Regional Tournament, hosted the No. 5 seeded Bruton and suffered a 69-14 loss Feb. 16, in Oak Hall.

Chincoteague entered the 1A region bracket ranked fourth, fresh from their Eastern Shore District Tournament win over the Yellow Jackets. The girls received a bye in the first round, and hosted West Point Feb. 20. The Ponies fought hard, but gave up a 54-38 contest to their regional opponent, to conclude their season.

The newly crowned Eastern Shore District Tournament Champions Nandua boys club dropped a heart-breaking loss to Maggie L. Walker, 43-42, Feb. 16, in Richmond, in the 2A boys regional bracket.

Arcadia also participated in the 2A contest, battling the No. 2 ranked Bruton and falling 64-47, in the road tilt.

The Chincoteague boys competed in the 1A regional contest, falling to Sussex Central, 73-63, Feb. 16, at Sussex Central High.
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Disclaimer: Tides are provided for information only and are not guaranteed for accuracy.
Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

- Moderate    - Challenging    - HOO BOY!

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302-0313 302-0313
Local Author and Illustrator Makes Big Impression on ‘Little Leaders’

By Krystle Bono

Metompkin Elementary School’s cafeteria buzzed awe-inspiring tales of astronauts, runners, dancers and of course, the story of Nandua High School graduate, and now author and illustrator, Vashti Harrison’s personal journey of determination, practice and pursuing your passions.

Harrison addressed the young, bright-eyed crowd Tuesday morning in Parksley, with themes from her book, “Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History.” The students were already well-acquainted with the book, as many participated in art projects and other activities in their classrooms, in honor of Black History month.

As Harrison’s artwork animated across the screen, the kids verbalized their like of the local artist’s work. Harrison gave examples of how with practice, you can sharpen your talent into something you are proud of; a resonating thought that is read throughout her book, and vocalized across her presentation.

“The thing that I remember the most about being a kid was being really scared of what it meant to become an artist; I didn’t know what a career for an artist would be. I was very self-conscious of what I was going to be when I grew up, because that is a question that everyone asks [kids] when they are so little, and they have no idea. It’s hard to know what your talents will coalesce into, and so, for me, I wanted them to know that there are a lot of opportunities out there, and they can use the things that they love, the things that they are passionate about and the things they are good at to help them find the role that’s right for them, and the thing that will mean the most for them later on in life,” she explained.

Harrison expressed this fear to her audience, admitting she was nervous about finding a career, but assured the kids that it was okay to take their-time in order to find their niche. Toward the end of the session, a student asked what Harrison does to stay positive; a very good question, in Harrison’s opinion, as she mentioned this numerous times during the her presentation.

“Drawing is hard. It’s not always easy and your drawings sometimes look pretty ugly. Knowing that if I keep working at it, and if I keep practicing, it will get to a place where I am comfortable and happy with it.”
ESRHS To Withdraw Grant To Avoid Delays

By Stefanie Jackson

Eastern Shore Rural Health System plans to withdraw its application for a $700,000 grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to avoid a three-to-six-month delay in the construction of the Eastville Community Health Center.

ESRHS Chief Financial Officer Kandy Bruno, standing in for Chief Executive Officer Nancy Stern, delivered the news Feb. 26 to Northampton supervisors. Their approval is required to withdraw the grant application, as they submitted the application on behalf of ESRHS.

Bruno explained, “Our timelines aren’t going to match up,” referring to the VHDCD grant application process and ESRHS’s anticipated schedule to construct the Eastville health center. The rural health system expects to break ground in June and open the new facility in September 2019. Continuing to pursue the VHDCD grant would likely delay the start of construction until fall or winter of this year, Bruno said.

ESRHS wants the Eastville health center built as soon as possible to alleviate the burden on the manager of the Eastville health center, who is struggling to handle a high volume of patients. There are also safety concerns with the Franktown health center parking lot.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Spencer Murray said he spoke with Tamara Holmes, associate director of policy and strategic development at VHDCD, and concluded supervisors should wait to take action until closer to the May 2 deadline to take action. Abandoning the pursuit of the $700,000 grant, which required “a lot of time and effort,” Murray said, ESRHS would lose a net sum of $630,000, and they submitted the application on behalf of ESRHS.

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“Hope springs eternal … as I look at the capital campaign … you still have a (long way) to go,” Murray reminded Bruno.

ESRHS is just over halfway to their $2 million goal on their capital fund campaign. The total cost to build the new, 24,000-square-foot facility is about $9.5 million, of which $7.1 million has been raised, Bruno said.

The rural health system will partly make up for the absence of the $700,000 VHDCD grant by acquiring an additional $500,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture, increasing total USDA funding for the project from $2 million to $2.5 million. Murray also signed off for ESRHS to apply for supplemental funding from the Virginia Healthcare Foundation, which Bruno said is a “proven partner” who has helped the rural health system in the past, when the new Atlantic and Onley health facilities were built. Construction of the Eastville health center will move forward while maintaining the project’s debt ratio of 26 percent, Bruno said.

Murray estimated ESRHS could use $300,000 for equipment for the new health facility. Bruno said the rural health system would like to apply for grant funds for equipment, but it would require a new application and funds could only be used for “specialty equipment,” not the type of equipment normally used in primary care. Murray told Bruno supervisors “certainly will support you in any other way that we can.”

Accomack County Natural Gas Pipeline Anticipated by 2022

By Linda Cicoira

Progress is continuing in the quest to get a natural gas pipeline to Accomack County, Jerry Saunders of Delmarva Pipeline Co. LLC reported Tuesday.

“We’re anticipating gas flowing in late 2021, early 2022,” he continued. “We still have to go through the process of getting all the licensing done.”

The first step, going to market to identify any potential customers, has been completed. The next hurdle is pre-filing with FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). That agency will oversee requirements and a timeline of when things have to be submitted.

Public hearings and a series of town meetings is part of the regulatory process, Saunders said and was considered in the projected use dates.

Right now, the pipeline is set to go as far south as Perdue Farms in Accomac. However, Saunders said, there has been talk of extending it to the hospital in the Onley-Onancock area.

“A pipeline is basically a highway,” Saunders added. “There will have to be a local distribution company. I’m sure there will be several suppliers. I just can’t tell you who they are yet.”

Planned natural gas route.
Shorekeeper has presented facts to the public to demonstrate Tyson's impact on our waters. Tyson is currently being fined by Virginia for illegal pollution at its plant, Tyson grow houses are currently being cited for violations before they even open, and air emissions from poultry grow houses are a major contributor to pollution in our Chesapeake Bay according to the EPA. Furthermore, here in Accomack County, the number of poultry houses, the number of birds, and the amount of potential pollution has absolutely increased contrary to their statements to ... supervisors. These are all facts backed by science, and the findings of government regulators. That is why it is stunning that Tyson representatives went into a public meeting making claims that conflict with reality and are easily shown to be false.

“If Tyson is committed to ‘being a good neighbor,’ they need to earn our community’s trust by being honest brokers, not by making demonstrably false statements. The easiest way for Tyson to improve their relationship with Eastern Shore residents is to acknowledge and then address their environmental impacts. Shorekeeper recently met with Tyson executives in Arkansas and corporate leadership had no problem admitting they have pollution problems throughout their supply chain. We hope their local representatives can find their way to honestly discussing these issues, so our community can collaborate on solutions that allow the company to succeed while protecting our environment.”

Ford also thanked Tyson for its voluntary commitment to reduce its impact community drinking water. “We do hope that this is an indication of positive news to come regarding undressed pollution at their grow houses and processing plant,” Ford said.

“My personal comment is I’m very pleased with Tyson’s decision,” said Supervisor Paul Muhly, who is also chairman of the Eastern Shore Ground Water Committee. “This is a big step in the right direction.” However, Muhly would not comment as chairman because he has not yet met with the rest of the other members since the announcement was made. However, the committee has been trying to get more water users to take from the upper aquifer for years.

“My comment is that it is encouraging,” said Dufty. “But until the DEQ and the State Water Control Board steps up to the plate and does what the LAW required the agencies to do in regard to assessing potential impacts to our mutual drinking water supply before any water was withdrawn from our shared aquifer, it is difficult to say whether that is an appreciable remedy to the situation at hand. … Tyson’s willingness to step up to the plate and reduce the use of the Yorktown (aquifer) in favor of the more plentiful Columbia could be an indicator that they know more about the health of our drinking water supplies than we are being led to believe. But the bottom line is that this news is welcome and helps elevate the discussion of the health of our aquifer to another level, a necessary step in ensuring we can all mutually co-exist on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.”

Paylor responded to a letter from Dufty and four others asking for an injunction a couple of weeks later. Most poultry growing facilities will require a water withdrawal permit because they use more than 300,000 gallons of water per month,” Paylor wrote, assuring them that DEQ is working on enforcing the regulation.

“DEQ shares your concern about the growth of long-term water withdrawals and their potential impact on the Eastern Shore aquifer system and is dedicated to exercising due diligence in implementing the Groundwater Management Act of 1992,” Paylor continued. “Our mission includes protecting and managing water resources to meet long-term needs. … There are a number of existing facilities that are under investigation and likely require permits.

These groundwater withdrawals and their associated volume have been previously unreported to DEQ. Paylor said the agency recently completed a multi-year effort to reduce groundwater withdrawals in the Eastern Virginia Management Area with includes mainland Virginia areas east of Interstate 95. The Eastern Shore has its own management area.

DEQ’s only practical alternative is to rely on individuals withdrawing groundwater to identify themselves and to report their withdrawals annually. Historically, groundwater withdrawals by agriculture users have not been well documented, whether the groundwater has been used for irrigation of crops or for watering animals.

After learning about the unreported usage during management area committee meetings, DEQ gave users who were not reporting until Dec. 15, 2017 to comply. The initiative applied to all un-permitted groundwater used in both management areas. Since 2017, the agency held six informational sessions to discuss the deadline and permitting process. Thirty-seven groundwater withdrawal applications for previously un-permitted activities were received. Thirty were associated with poultry facilities located on the Eastern Shore.

DEQ is currently reviewing these applications for completeness and continuation to work through the permitting process with these applicants, Paylor wrote. “Documentation of more activities that may be subject to DEQ enforcement action is ongoing and warning letters are being sent to those who may require permits have not yet applied or otherwise demonstrated that a permit is not required. DEQ will consider all available remedies and make final decisions on enforcement actions after investigations are complete.”

Paylor said agency workers have talked with the poultry industry, other states and experts in the last year “and now has a much clearer understanding of the water usage in the process of raising poultry and the conditions that will trigger the need for a permit.

The final number of facilities and their groundwater withdrawal amount is still under investigation and it is imperative that we assure the groundwater supplies are protected on the Eastern Shore.”

Dufty has not yet responded to Paylor.

Dufty responded to comments made by hydrologist Britt McMillan to the local water committee recently. “To me, the entire McMillan presentation appears to be whistling past the graveyard, and again, we must apply the precautionary principal when dealing with our finite drinking water supplies.

If there is a question as to whether an act will have a deleterious effect on public health or natural resources, you always should err on the side of public safety and retention of irreplaceable natural resources.”

Kevin Taylor, plant manager for Tyson’s Temperanceville facility, told supervisors Tyson would “go back to retrofit the houses” with new wells. “We’re talking to drillers, it may not be available in every situation.” He said while new housing was being installed to replace the old, “Tyson Foods is not expanding.” Taylor explained there is new equipment going into his plant and new jobs are being created. But, he said, the number of birds that will be processed will remain the same.

Tysons was under no obligation to change the way it pumps water as all the other water withdrawal permits state discharge was to come from the deeper aquifer. Taylor said they made the change in an attempt to be good neighbors.
High-Speed Chases Result in Multiple Offenses

By Stefanie Jackson

Two high-speed police chases that began in Northampton County late last week, little more than one day apart, resulted in more than a dozen criminal and traffic offenses filed against three people, damage to multiple vehicles including a Northampton sheriff’s deputy patrol vehicle, and transport of the deputy who was driving the patrol vehicle to Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital. No serious injuries were reported.

Friday, Feb. 23, around 2:40 p.m., Cheriton Police Chief Marc Marshall attempted to stop Patrick Nilo Gil, 45, of New York, N.Y., for reckless driving, at the north entrance of town near the 81-mile marker, Marshall said. Gil was driving 87 mph in a 55-mph zone.

Gil fled in the silver Mercedes SUV he was driving, and Marshall called the Northampton County Sheriff’s Office for assistance. Cape Charles and Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel police also assisted. Just before reaching the bridge-tunnel, Gil managed to avoid law enforcement by passing on the shoulder.

The high-speed chase continued onto the CBBT, but at 2:46 p.m., when police exited the first tunnel, at the Chesapeake Channel, Northampton County Sheriff David Doughty called off the pursuit for the safety of the public and law enforcement. Marshall said he was worried that someone would be injured or worse, “end up in the water.”

Virginia Beach Police Department took over, following Gil through Virginia Beach and onto Interstate 64. They laid down spike strips at the entrance to the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel.

Gil’s vehicle ran over the spikes, which “took out his tires,” Marshall said, and Gil crashed inside the HRBT, damaging several other vehicles.

Gil was charged with the following offenses: five counts of reckless driving, general, one count of reckless driving by speed, aggressive driving, failing to signal, passing a vehicle on the right side of the highway, and driving without a license, Doughty reported.

The following day, Saturday, Feb. 24, at approximately 11:35 p.m., two Exmore Police Department units attempted to stop driver Brenda Flores, 21, of Passaic, N.J., for reckless driving. She failed to stop and continued south on Lankford Highway. Flores eventually stopped on the southbound, right lane of Lankford Highway, just south of Franktown Road.

Northampton County Sheriff’s Deputy Roger Pike arrived to assist at 11:40 p.m., as Exmore officers approached Flores’ vehicle. Another driver, Robert L. Giddens, 41, of Exmore, hit the rear driver’s side of Pike’s patrol vehicle as the deputy was getting out. Pike’s and Giddens’ vehicles sustained moderate to heavy damage, and Pike was transported to RSMH, where he was evaluated, treated, and released, Doughty said.

Giddens was charged with two counts of failing to yield right of way of a stationary emergency vehicle.

Flores was charged with reckless driving and felony eluding. She is being held at the Eastern Shore Regional Jail with bond denied.

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Heritage Festival

A big part of the annual Heritage Festival at the Eastern Shore Community College is the art. Above at left is Susan McGuire, president of the Eastern Shore Art League, with one of her paintings. At left, Elizabeth Hunt poses her wheel-thrown ceramic bowl with hand-carved dragonflies. Above, Carl Allums, a local decoy carver, looks to the left in unison with his heron.

Photos by Linda Cicoira
Artists Galore at the Heritage Festival

Guy Shover, (at far left) of Bloxom, talked about his metal sculptures with all who passed his booth at the Heritage Festival last weekend.

At left, Kit Fechtig showed her miniature oil painting and told of her recycling art with light bulbs turned into hot air balloons.

Tomeka Watkinson’s latest interest is using looms. She also makes pottery and jewelry and crochets a variety of items.

Photos by Linda Cicoira
The Virginia Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention (VPHBP) Program is a collaborative effort with local health departments and private providers to identify hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive pregnant women, their household contacts, and sexual partners. Once identified, free testing and vaccine, if needed, is provided to the contacts and partners of these women. Free Hepatitis B Immune Globulin (HBIG) and hepatitis B vaccine for newborns of infected mothers are provided to the delivery hospital and the infant’s physician to prevent the spread of hepatitis B from mother to newborn.

* Effective Dec. 18, 2001, all HBsAg positive pregnant women are reportable by law to the local health department.

**Facts**

Approximately 1.25 million persons in the U.S. are infected with chronic hepatitis B. Of these, approximately 4,000-5,000 die each year from chronic liver disease.

Children less than 5 years of age infected with HBV have a 30-50 percent chance of chronic infection and chronic liver disease.

Up to 90 percent of infants perinatally infected will develop chronic infection. Of these infants, 15 to 25 percent will die of chronic liver disease as adults.

Perinatal transmission accounts for 24 percent of chronic infections.

**Pregnancy Facts**

All pregnant women are required by law to be tested for HBsAg during an early prenatal visit.

The local health department reports the results to the Virginia Department of Health and notifies the VPHBP Program. The VPHBP Program initiates disease intervention activities to identify and vaccinate household contacts and sexual partners.

**Program Services**

- Tracking contacts and infants of HBsAg positive pregnant women to ensure that appropriate treatment is received, thereby eliminating the transmission of perinatal hepatitis B.
- Free prevaccination testing for sexual partners and household contacts of the HBsAg positive pregnant woman and free hepatitis B vaccine for all susceptible partners and contacts.
- Free post vaccine testing of sexual partners. The local health departments, upon referral from the VPHBP Program, provide these services.
- The infant’s physician and delivery hospital are alerted about the HBsAg positive status of the mother.
- Hepatitis B Immune Globulin and hepatitis B vaccine are provided at no charge to delivery hospitals.
- Free hepatitis B vaccine for completion of the series is provided to the infant’s physician.
- Free post-vaccination testing for infants 3-9 months after completion of the HB vaccine series to ensure protection against HBV.

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**Central Accomack Little League**

**REGISTRATION EXTENSION!**

**March 3**
9 a.m. - Noon

**March 6**
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Tryouts: March 10
9 a.m.

Contact Billy Justice at centralaccomacklittleleague@gmail.com
Johnson, O’Shea BETA President & Secretary

On Feb. 13 and 14, Nandua Middle School student Madison Johnson presided over the 22nd Annual Virginia Junior BETA Convention. At last year’s convention, Madison was elected Jr. BETA President, becoming the first president from the Eastern Shore.

Madison also gave the keynote address at the convention where she described her community service work at No Limits. She encouraged her fellow Jr. BETAs to give back to the community and strive to do their best at all times.

Lindsay O’Shea, of Arcadia Middle School, was elected the Virginia State Jr. BETA Club Secretary at this year’s conference.

More BETA winners will be published in an upcoming issue of the Eastern Shore Post.

Marriage Licenses Issued

- Gregory Dennis Savage, 45, and Bobbie Jean Jones, 49, both of Chincoteague
- Christopher James Geiser, 27, and Tabitha Lynn Mears, 24, both of Onancock
- Rutha Oriol, 48, and Ducange Delouis, 49, both of Onancock
- Christopher Eric Ortiz, 19, and Jordyn Leigh Trenholm, 18, both of Chincoteague
- Jason Eugene Brookhart, 37, and Stephanie Christine McCartney, 36, both of Bethlehem, Pa.
- Torey Jamell Duffy, 34, of Newport News, and Sasha Veronica Byrd, 29, of Bloxom

Downing Named To Arc Board of Directors

Peggy Downing was elected in January as one of three board directors, along with The Arc-Eastern Shore of Virginia’s officers. She will serve a two-year term and continue to help The Arc provide services and support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, here on the Shore. She has been advocating for over 50 years for their rights and to improve their lives in health care, education, employment, housing and more to make “A Life Like Yours!”

Longwood University Grad and Academics

Zachary Clayton Bowen, of Nassawadox, graduated from Longwood University last fall, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology.

The following local students were recognized by Longwood for superior academic achievement during the fall 2017 semester.
- Lauren Marie Ashworth, of Accomac, was named to the Dean’s List.
- Savannah Jane Blake, of Bloxom, was named to the Dean’s List.
- Kelli Coleburn Burford, of Bloxom, was named to the Dean’s List.
- Curtis William Ormsby, of Onancock, was named to the Dean’s List.
- Michaela Lillian Wescott, of Onancock, was named to the Dean’s List.
- Taylor Douglass Lewis, of Parksley, was named to the Dean’s List.

Only 1,034 students of more than 5,000 students were recognized on either the President’s List (4.0 grade point average) or Dean’s List (3.5+ grade point average).

Salisbury University Academics

Seven Accomack County area students were named to the Dean’s List at Salisbury University for the fall 2017 semester.

Chincoteague Island area residents include Skylar Reed, Victoria Stubbs and Bailey Steube.

Other area residents include Ryan Wright, of Craddockville; Austin Heenan, of Melfa; Carri Parks, of New Church; and Cassie Bernard, of Parksley.
**Belle Haven**

Nandua’s After Prom Committee will hold a 31 & Coach Bag Bingo fundraiser at the Moose Lodge, on Sunday, April 8, at 2 p.m. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are $25 in advance and $30 at the door. To donate an item or reserve tickets, call Elizabeth Teasley at 757-709-9103.

**Chincoteague**

The Chincoteague Police Department will host a Free Senior Lunch for Chincoteague residents at Don’s Seafood, on Wednesday, March 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact the police department at 336-3155.

**Onancock**

The Alzheimer’s Association will hold a Community Education Program at Onley Community Health Center, on Thursday, March 8, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The program will teach caregivers to decode verbal and behavioral communication by someone with Alzheimer’s and other dementias. Participants leave with strategies for meaningful connection with people in early, middle and late stage dementia. The program is free. However, registration is required: 1-800-272-3900.

**Pungoteague**

Pungoteague Community Church will hold their Annual Homemade Chicken Salad Sale fundraiser, on Saturday, March 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pints are $5 and quarts are $8. There will also be Famous Sally & Bob’s Chicken Dinners for sale. To place an order, call 757-442-9596.

**Wachapreague**

The Eastern Shore Public Library Foundation will hold a fundraiser, “Raising the Green,” for the new regional library at The Island House Restaurant, on Saturday, March 17, at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are $75 each and are available at H&H Pharmacy, The Book Bin, and Rayfield’s Pharmacy. There will be a delicious dinner, silent and live auctions, door prizes, and a 50/50 drawing. For more information, call 787-2500 or go to www.shorelibrary.com

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The Kiwanis Club of Accomack is seeking nominations for the 2018 Kiwanis President’s Scholarship. Two $1,000 scholarships will be awarded to deserving individuals pursuing an undergraduate or vocational degree program of study focusing on children. The recipient may use the award to offset any costs of higher education, such as tuition, books, childcare and transportation.

The Kiwanis Club seeks to reward individuals who have shown a “passion” for community service and children. The club recognizes that this community service may have occurred under difficult situations related to family, employment, school and other circumstances. The scholarship committee will consider service, leadership and need.

Nominations are welcomed from anyone in the community. Nomination forms can be obtained at the Accomack County Public Library, the Book Bin, all Eastern Shore of Virginia branches of BB&T Bank or by emailing tango65a@gmail.com. Nomination deadline is April 1.

The club proceeds from the annual craft show contributes to more than two dozen local organizations focusing on children and families. The club meets every Wednesday at 7:45 a.m. at the Sage Restaurant in Onley. For more information, contact club president, Connie Campbell, at 442-4427.

**VA Sheriff’s Institute Scholarship**

Accomack County Sheriff Todd E. Godwin announced today that the Virginia Sheriffs’ Institute Scholarship Applications for the 2018-2019 school year will ONLY be accepted online and all applications must be completed & electronically signed by May 1 via VSI website vsheeriffsinstitute.org for scholarship consideration. The Virginia Sheriffs’ Institute Program was established to provide an opportunity for young people across Virginia to pursue an educational curriculum in law enforcement or criminal justice. Full-time and Part-time students are eligible for this program and all applicants must meet the requirements set forth by VSI in order to qualify as a recipient. A complete listing of the policy is located on the website listed above.

Applicants must live in the locality where the sheriff is a member of the Virginia Sheriffs’ Institute and a letter of recommendation from the Sheriff is required to be considered a recipient of the scholarship program. All requests for recommendation letters must be submitted to the Accomack County Sheriff’s Office no later than April 13. Proof of identification, residency, and of acceptance or attendance is required upon recommendation request.

All interested students should contact Karen Barrett of the Accomack County Sheriff’s Office at 787-1131. Students may also contact their school guidance office.

**39th Annual Chincoteague Easter Decoy & Art Festival**

The 39th Annual Chincoteague Easter Decoy & Art Festival will take place Friday, March 30, from noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday, March 31, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Chincoteague Combined School, 4586 Main St., Chincoteague Island.

Admission is $4/day for adults; children under 12 are free. Local and national carvers and artists of all kinds exhibit and sell their work at this Chincoteague Island tradition. Awards are given in various carving categories, art and photography. Special awards are given for best carving display and best art display. There is also a Children’s Choice Award given for a favorite artist. The Curtis Merritt Award of Excellence is awarded to the exhibitor who displays excellence as an individual, as well as an artist and/or carver. This award is voted on by the exhibitors.

The Pre-loved Treasures Silent Auction has been a favorite in recent years. In 2018, this auction will benefit the Chincoteague Combined School Band to help them purchase new equipment.

For more information, call 336-6161.
**FRIDAY MARCH 2**

**10 a.m.-noon - CIAO**
Intermediate Bridge Lessons - Island Theatre Annex, Chincoteague

**10:30 a.m. - Story Time**
Northampton Free Library, Nassawadox

**12:30 p.m. - SciPhi Seminar: Combat Engineer's Experience During WWII - ESCC, Melfa**

**3:30 p.m. - Dr. Seuss STEM Challenge - Pocomoke Library**

**5-8 p.m. - Station 1 Pizza Night - 4264 Firehouse St., New Church - $12/cheese, $1/additional toppings**

**6 p.m. - Celebrate Recovery Group mtg. - Onancock Baptist Church**

**7 p.m. - Life Teach Series - Rachel/Leah Covenant Ministries Center - 787-2486**

**7:30 p.m. - Bingo - Exmore Moose Lodge, Belle Haven**

**SATURDAY MARCH 3**

**9:30 a.m. - Mary N. Smith Alumni Association mtg. - Mary N. Smith Cultural Enrichment Center - 757-990-2764**

**9:30 a.m. - E.S. Cancer Support Group mtg. - Sage Diner, Onley - $5/Breakfast**

**10 a.m.- Noon - Family Library Day - Pocomoke Library**

**5 p.m. - Praise Dance Service - St. John's United Methodist Church, Atlantic**

**7:30 p.m. - Free Movie: “Laughter” - Roseland Theatre, Onancock**

**7:30 p.m. - Bingo - Eastville Vol. Fire Co.**

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**MONDAY MARCH 5**

**11 a.m. - Northampton Chap. AARP mtg. - Cheriton Rescue Squad**

**5-6 p.m. - Al-Anon mtg. - Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Onancock**

**6 p.m. - Bingo - Elk's Lodge, Tasley**

**6:15 p.m. - Central Shore Lions Club mtg. - Sage Diner, Onley**

**6:30 p.m. - Cub Scout Pack 300 mtg. - Grace UMC, Parksley**

**6:30-8:30 p.m. - Free English for Speakers of Other Languages - Metomkin Elementary School, Parksley - 789-1761**

**7 p.m. - AA mtg. - Christ Episcopal Church, Eastville**

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 7**

**7:45 a.m. - Kiwanis Club of Accomack mtg. - Sage Diner, Onley**

**10 a.m. - TOPS mtg. - Market St, UMC, Onancock - 787-4718**

**10:30-11:30 a.m. - Overeaters Anonymous mtg. - Rock Church, Onley - 655-4834**

**11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m. - Debedeavon Toastmasters' mtg. - NASA/ Wallops Base - Call Owen Hooks at 824-1941 for access**

**11 a.m.-1 p.m. - Soup Kitchen - Corner Stone Seventh Day Adventist Church, 3431 Main St., Exmore**

**12-1 p.m. - Lenten Lunch - Trinity UMC, Cape Charles - bring a sandwich; drinks and dessert will be provided**

**5-7 p.m. - Soup Kitchen & Clothes Closet - Grace and Truth Ministries, 19 Boundary Ave., Onancock - Donations: 789-5369**

**5:30 p.m. - Rocket Launch Presentation - NASA/Wallops Flight Facility**

**5:30-6:30 p.m. - Free Meals for the Hungry - Epworth UMC, 4158 Seaside Rd., Exmore - 442-6391**

**6-7 p.m. - Prayer Line Open (St. Matthew's Church, Onley) - Call 665-7403, 387-7021 or 894-1521 w/prayer requests**

**6:30-8:30 p.m. - Free English for Speakers of Other Languages - Metomkin Elementary School, Parksley - 789-1761**

**7 p.m. - March Gladness - Shiloh Baptist Church - 31559 Boston Rd., Pungoteague**

**7 p.m. - AA & Al-Anon mtgs. - Franktown UMC**

**7:30 p.m. - Bingo - Painter VFC**

**8 p.m. - Movie: “The Country Doctor” - Roseland Theatre, Onancock - $8/ticket**

**POST TIMES**

**March 2-8**

**SUNDAY MARCH 4**

**8 a.m. - UMM's Breakfast - Craddockville UMC**

**9:30 a.m. - Sermon: “A Series In The Right Direction” - Craddockville UMC**

**12:15 p.m. - Pot Luck Luncheon - Holli's Baptist Church - 17691 Hollies Church Rd., Keller**

**2 p.m. - Bingo - VFW Post 2296, Tasley**

**2:30 p.m. - Free Movie: “Laughter” - Roseland Theatre, Onancock**

**3 p.m. - The New Hallelujah Gospel Singers In Concert - New Allen Memorial A.M.E. Church - 7026 Bayside Rd., Franktown**

**3 p.m. - Annual Choir Festival - Mt. Zion Independent Methodist Church, Withams**

**3:30 p.m. - Pastor’s Aide Day - Tabernacle Baptist Church, Horntown**

**TUESDAY MARCH 6**

**9 a.m. - Al-Anon mtg. - Refuge Inn, Chincoteague**

**9:30 a.m. - MOMS mtg. - Onancock Baptist Church, upstairs - 709-9351 - bring a snack & your kids**

**10 a.m. - Zumba - Franktown UMC**

**11 a.m. - Bingo - Acacommack Senior Village, Onancock - 787-3900**

**10:30 a.m. - Story Time - E.S. Public Library, Accomac**

**10 a.m.- Noon - Family Library Day - Pocomoke Library**

**10:30 a.m. - Dr. Seuss Nonsense - Pocomoke Library**

**10:30 a.m. - noon - Grief Support Group - Onley UMC - 25642 E. Main St., Onley**

**5:30 p.m. - Onancock Business & Civic Assn. mtg. - Naomi Makemey Presbyterian Church, Onancock**

**6:30 p.m. - Vietnam Veterans’ E.S. Chapter 614 mtg. - Chapter Bldg., 25534 Main St., Onley**

**6 p.m. - Rachel Leah Ministries - 787-2486 (call for location)**

**6 p.m. - Bingo - Pocomoke Elks, next to YMCA**

**6-8:30 p.m. - GED Class - ESSE, Class A-51, Melfa**

**7 p.m. - Northampton Cty, Democratic Committee mtg. - Northampton Cty. Social Services Bldg., Eastville**

**7:15 p.m. - Disabled American Veterans’ mtg. - Chapter Bldg., 25534 Main St., Onley**

**7:30 p.m. - AA mtg. - Atlantic UMC**

**7:30 p.m. - Bingo - Cheriton VFC - smoke free**

**7:30 p.m. - Central Masonic Lodge mtg.**

**THURSDAY MARCH 8**

**10 a.m. - Tales for Tots - Chincoteague Island Library**

**10:30 a.m. - Story Time - Cape Charles Memorial Library**

**5:30 p.m. - Shore Losers mtg. - Drummondstown Baptist Church, Accomac - $1/wk.**

**5:30 p.m. - TOPS VA-550 mtg. - Zion Baptist Church, Parksley - 787-7099**

**6:30 p.m. - GED Class - ESSE, Class A-51, Melfa**

**6:30 p.m. - Kiwanis Club mtg. - St. Andrew’s Catholic Church, Horntown**

**7 p.m. - Celebrate Recovery Group mtg. - Chincoteague Church of God, 5252 Woodland Dr., Chincoteague**

**7 p.m. - NA mtg. - Painter Garrison UMC**

**7 p.m. - E.S. Tea Party mtg. - Market St. Grill, Onancock**
Announcements

The family of Linda Trader Johnson would like to express their appreciation for the love and support shown during Linda’s lengthy illness and passing. Thank you to everyone for your acts of caring, kindness and sympathy.

I would like to thank everyone who called, came to visit, sent flowers, lit a candle, brought food, said a prayer or just thought of us during our time of sorrow. The nurses in Riverside ICU were the best. I could not have asked for anyone better to take care of my husband, father, grandfather and father-in-law, John A. “Nick” Nekunas, and the wonderful doctors. Thank you so much.

A big thank you to Ricky and Dorine Ross and Melissa and Terry Payne for all that you did for us. Ricky and Dorine: thank you so much for opening up your home. I cannot thank you enough. I love you all for thinking of us and for being there for us.

Love,

His family: Lenora Nekunas, Kelly Nekunas Saunders, Worth Saunders, Taylor and Saylor Saunders

P.S.: If I did not have your address to send you a thank you note, I am truly sorry. I thank you with all my heart.

Help Wanted

Accounting Clerk

New Ravenna

Hours: Full-Time – 7:00 am to 3:30 pm

No bean counting jokes! Our finance team is quite serious. Quick! Add these numbers up $113,679, 234.89 & $689, 986, 889.35. What took you so long?? You think being an account clerk is easy? You have to tally up everything; pennies, labor costs, inventory, and expenses; don’t make me tell you what happens if you lose a receipt! They actually enjoy performing that kind of torture. If you go over budget....not pretty. But hey, they crunch those numbers with a smile on their face! They are the brave souls who balance our books when we try to trip them up. They skip down the hallway singing “She works hard for the money!”

What do you need to do this job?
You must be able to carry a tune. Excel spreadsheets and charts are your friends.
You actually understand spreadsheets and charts. You can explain them to others.
You are accountable (this is not a bean joke). You are reliable, you follow up and you track down every last receipt!
In your most pleasant voice you perform collection phone calls that get the beans, errrrr, pennies rolling in.
Check writing – you are the master!
Balancing the bank account – you are the master!
Counting marble at year-end inventory; you actually like it, but you never tell anyone.
You have a Bachelor’s Degree or relevant work-related experience.
When you see a penny on the floor, you pick it up. You could be tested on this.
Appropriate communication skills both internally and outside the company are amazing.
The only beans you count are chocolate covered espresso beans right before you skip down the hallway.

Interested candidates should contact Alexandra Raker or Mary Harris. Outside candidates should send a cover letter and resume to mharris@newravenna.com. The deadline to apply for this position is March 6, 2018. This position may be filled prior to that date.

Eastern Shore Yacht & Country Club-Onancock, Virginia is seeking Experienced Waitstaff:
Responsible for lunch and/or dinner service, must be a team-player, high energy and motivated. Provide excellent customer service to our members, flexible hours. Please reply by sending resume to: esycc@verizon.net or fax to 757-787-8546

MECHANIC NEEDED – Minimum 5 yrs. experience. Must have tools. Must be dependable. Top pay. For more info., call 757-787-4633.
LUBE & TIRE PERSON – Must have experience in changing oil & tires, some tools. Top pay. For more info., call 757-787-4633.

Virginia Department of Social Services
Benefit Programs Specialist II
(Northampton County – Eastern Shore)

Position Number: L0016
Hiring Range: $27,366.00
Location: Eastville, VA 23347
Application Deadline: March 16, 2018 at 4:30PM

For more information on these positions, please visit https://jobs.agencies.virginia.gov. Applications for these positions must be submitted electronically through this website (https://jobs.agencies.virginia.gov). Mailed, emailed, faxed or hand-delivered applications and resumes will not be accepted.

Equal Opportunity Employer

ESAAA/CAA has an immediate opening for a Senior Center Manager

32 to 40 hrs., per week at the Hare Valley Senior Center. Need excellent communication, organizational and computer skills. Ability to multi-task and work independently with diverse population. Previous experience working with the elderly. Salary based on experience. Applications may be obtained at 5432 Bayside Road in Exmore, VA or by calling (757) 442-9652.
Closing date is March 14, 2018. EOE

TROLLEY DRIVER

The Town of Chincoteague, Inc. is accepting applications until Friday, March 30, 2018, for part-time seasonal Trolley drivers. Candidates for the position should have a valid CDL license and passenger endorsement. Applications can be picked up at the Town Office or obtained from the Town of Chincoteague website: www.chincoteague-va.gov. Completed applications should be directed to the attention of: The Director of Transportation, Town of Chincoteague, Inc., 16150 Community Drive, Chincoteague Island, VA 23336. EEO.

Great Opportunities at The Great Machipongo Clam Shack
We are looking for someone with a friendly enthusiastic attitude. Someone that loves to help and serve others, both customers and team members. We welcome experienced Restaurant Professionals and novices alike. All positions available and must be able to work nights and weekends! Apply in person: 6468 Lankford Hwy., Nassawadox, Va. 23413.

Locally Owned, Locally Operated
The Eastern Shore Community Services Board is seeking candidates for the following positions:
- Electronic Health Records Systems Administrator
- Residential Counselor
- Developmental Services Community Coordinator
- Senior Clinician/Clinician
- Developmental Disabilities Aide (PCAs & CNAs welcome)
- Substance Abuse Outpatient Clinician (CSAC required)
- Part-time Driver
- Mental Health Skill-Building Specialist
- Mental Health Facility Technician
- Mental Health/Substance Abuse Case Manager

For more information or to apply, please visit the ESCSB’s website at [www.escsb.org](http://www.escsb.org)

ESCSB is an EOE
HELP Wanted (Cont’d)


HELP WANTED individuals who have roofing experience and general laborers needed on renovation site. Please call for interview. 877-503-2728.

EXPERIENCED HVAC SERVICE TECH - Ice Machines & Refrigeration a Plus! Clean driving record; Drug Free; Willing to work; Pay based on exp.; Apply in person; Shelter Refrigeration, New Church, VA.

NEEDED: VIRGINIA INSPECTOR/MECHANIC Top dollar for individual with state inspectors license. Contact Ross Kool at Kool Ford 757-787-1209.

'87 17-FT. MAY-CRAFT Center Console, 40 h.p. Honda 4-stroke, recently conditioned, '06 long galvanized trailer, new seats, Garmin g.p.s., VHF, tinted windshield, wire, & switches. $6,500 OBO. 757-894-2288.

25-FT. C-HAWK W/NEW FLOOR & STEER – New Alum. trailer. $14,000 OBO. Call 757-709-8854.

BOAT WHEELS - 4-blade, 1 pair; 18" & 25-1/4" shaft. REDUCED $400. Call 757-999-3437 & leave msg.

'89 SUNDIRK Cuddy Cabin - 130 h.p. Evinrude, 220 hrs, w/trailer. $3,500. 757-709-2371, leave msg.

'97 CARVER 30-ft. fly bridge sedan w/twin (2) 265 HP Volvo Penta engines. REDUCED $90,000. Call 757-549-9024.

'97 22-ft. SEAPER Cuddy Cabin - Rebuilt OMC 225, 160-gal. fuel tank, 22-ft. aluminum trailer w/brakes (Grady White clone). $10,000 REDUCED $8,000. Call 757-589-1470.

'97 22-ft. BOSTON WHALER - Origi owner; w/150 h.p. 4-stroke Honda still under warranty (less than 50 hrs.) Alum. trailer, T-top, 2-GPS/sounder units, $22,000 firm. Will take older 15 to 17 ft. BW on trade. 434-821-9027 or 434-665-9260.

CLASS A FISHING LICENSE – $3,000 CALL 302-846-9100.

'11 20-FOOT CAROLINA SKIFF - 115 4-stroke Yamaha (100 + hrs.), T-top, fully loaded, $41,000. Call 757-589-8801.

MERCURY OUTBOARD PROPeller SS 22-PITCH - Like new. $450. 757-710-0070.

16-FT. REBEL SAILBOAT - boat and trailer: $2,400. 757-787-3130.

DUBBLE - FL STAPE LICENSE – $1,500 OBO 757-709-8854.


1993 Pro-Cut 20-ft. HP Yamaha V-WAX, 2009 float-on trailer, and many extras, exc. cond. $15,000 OBO 518-369-9458.

'92 16-FT. BOSTON WHALER - 60 h.p. Mercury motor, just overhauled, teak console & bench, always kept inside, $16,000 firm. 410-957-3259.

'87 26-FT. SHAMROCK - With anchor puller, never been used, lots of extra equipment. Call 757-709-2256.

CHARTER BOAT $15,000 OBO – 34′ Delta-ville Dead-Rise $15,000 - Charter Fishing Boat. 2012 Re-Power Cat 3208T (757) 678-3718.

'00 MAXUM 2800 SCR twin 4.3L V6 engines. Exc cond. w/recent (2014) maintenance record. Many extras. $16K OBO. Call 540-287-5047.

1999 23-FT. SEA ERA $12,500 – Upgrades; great condition; Johnson motor; live well; new wiring; Garmin; new canvas top; Price negotiable. (757) 665-1904.


FRENCH 22′ SAILBOAT in cradle w/sails, rigging, cushions. Needs to be moved & repaired. 757-331-0315.

'01 TROPHY - Very good cond. + extras. Can be seen at K & E Marine, across from Perdue plant. $11K. 757-678-3622.

DELTA 3 HP 220V heavy duty spindle shaped Cast iron top. Good cond. $900. 757-710-0438.

FOR SALE: ANTIQUE CHINA CABINET. $200 OBO. Call 757-787-7307.

2012 TRANE AIR CONDITIONING XR13 - 3-ton, in service for 2 years. Call 910-616-2033.


GUN CABINET - Solid oak, custom made, holds 11 guns. REDUCED: $350 OBO. 757-789-3964.

30KW KOHLER GENERATOR – 4-cyl. diesel, 3-phase or 1-phase. $3,500. Exc. shape. 787-1469.

EV RIDER TRANSPORT SCOOTER - 14-mo. old, only need twice. Pd $1,500. Asking ONLY $950! Call 757-787-7245.

HISENSE PORTABLE AIR CONDITIONER - With remote. Only 1 week old! $2,000 OBO. 757-710-0608.

FISHER WOODSTOVE FOR SALE - $400. Call 757-803-8844.

LARGE ENCLOSED TRAILER 5x8' - Like new, build-in shelf, used 1 time. 665-4424, $1,700.


Mobile Homes

3BR MOBILE HOME - Elec. stove & refrigerator. $875/mo. 1 pet allowed, Call John LeCato at 757-442-7340.


2BR MOBILE HOMES IN NORTHERN ACC. FOR USED HOMES AND TRADES-INS! - Call today to schedule your free home evaluation: 302-846-9100.

WE PAY TOP DOLLAR FOR USED HOMES AND TRADES-INS! - Call today to schedule your free home evaluation: 302-846-9100.

Real Estate

2-STORY APT. BLDG. FOR SALE: EXMORE 2BR up & 1BR down. $85,000. 442-7507 or 350-9513.

SALE!! New 3BR, 2BA home, $50 deposit, Call for details: 302-846-0496.
It’s a Bungle in the Jungle when John C. Miller Has The Eye of the Tiger...

Driveway Repairs, Tree & Stump Removal, Crush & Run, Top Soil, Fill Dirt, Stone, Shells, Excavation & Backhoe Work.

All Materials Delivered & Spread

Just Call Site Work Specialist
John C. Miller at 757-665-4026

HARBORTON - Luxury 1BR apt. overlooking water, fully furnished (all appliances), beautiful view from deck, beach & dock rights. $800/mo. 757-955-5160.

EXMORE - 1BR, Avail. March 1, $550/mo. + sec. dep. No pets. 442-7507 (leave msg. if no answer)

BELLE HAVEN — 1BR duplex for rent. $550/mo., 1 mo. sec., No Pets, No Sec. 8. 787-7640.

ONANCOCK - 2BR, Liv/Din. area, 1BA, CAC, all appliances incl. W/D, $750/mo. No smoking. No pets. 1 yr. lease, 1 mo. sec. dep., credit check. 787-7640.

NASSAWOODE - 2BR, Liv/Din. area, 1BA, CAC, all appliances incl. W/D, $750/mo. No smoking. No pets. 1 yr. lease, 1 mo. sec. dep., credit check. 787-7640.

BELLE HAVEN - 3BR, 2BA house for rent. Quiet, peaceful neighborhood. Sec. 8 welcome to apply. Call 789-7654 & leave message.

BELLE HAVEN - 3BR, 1BA, all new appliances (including W/D). No pets, no smokers, no Sec. 8. $800/mo. + sec. dep. & credit check. 757-442-3303.

NEW 3BR, 2BA HOME ONLY $500 DEPOSIT CALL FOR DETAILS: 302-846-0496.

NEW 3BR, 3BA, 1600 sf, 2+ Acres, CAC, in Historic Onancock. Call today.

NO SMOKING in home. Pets welcome. $550/mo. 757-442-3303.

HOLLAND RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY
2927 Tyler Drive
New Church, VA 23415

2- & 3-BDRM mobile homes rent starts at $550 per month. Refrigerator/range/washer/dryer hook-up. Weekly trash pick-up/water/sewer are included in rent. Transit Bus Service. No pets.

(757)824-0315

ONANCOCK SQUARE APARTMENTS

Now accepting applications for 1 & 2 BR apt. rent starts $504 for 1BR & $542 for 2BR.

-Central air/heat • wall-to-wall carpet • ref. & stove • private entrance • community room & laundry room. Located off Pennewell Ave., in historic Onancock, VA.

Contact site manager at (757) 787-7213
Mon-Fri
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

TDD 1-800-828-1140
onancock@tmagroup.com
Onancock Square Apts.
160 Jacob Street
Onancock, VA 23417

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer.

MARCHALL’S TREE SERVICE

Capable, Affordable & Dependable
Licensed & Insured
Free estimates. 442-7540

Pine, Oak, Walnut, Cherry and more for sale. Rough cut or planed available or we saw your logs. Portable Sawmill.

757-331-4848
**Legal Ads & Auctions**

**NEWSPAPER AD OF MARCH 2, 2018**

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE**

11074 Neal Parker Road, Hallwood VA 23359

(Park County of Accomack)

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of $65,000.00, with interest, from Earl L. Holden, June W. Townsend, Dana B. Townsend, dated August 25, 2008 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Accomack, Virginia in Instrument No. 200804471 (modified by Modification Agreement dated August 7, 2015, recorded in Instrument No. 160001641; default having occurred in the payment of the Note thereby secured and at the request of the holder (RKL Mortgage Corporation – VA fka/SLM Mortgage Corporation – VA), of said Note, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Accomack, Courthouse, 23316 Courthouse Avenue, Accomack, Virginia 23301-0126, on March 5, 2018, at 10:30 o’clock a.m., the property briefly described in said deed, located at the above address and briefly described as:

All that certain lot or parcel of land, together with the buildings and improvements thereon, situated on Virginia State Route 693, near Hallwood, Atlantic District, Accomack County, Virginia, containing One and One-half Acres, more or less (1½ A.), and bounded on the North by land now or formerly of Winford Holden, and separated from said land by an iron stob at either end; on the East by Virginia State Route 693; on the South by a ditch separating this land from land now or formerly of Albert Chesser; and on the West by a ditch separating this land from land now or formerly of Winford Holden.

This conveyance is made expressly SUBJECT TO the easements, restrictions and reservations contained in duly recorded deeds, plates and other instruments constituting constructive notice in the chain of title to the property hereby conveyed, which have not expired by limitation of time or otherwise become ineffective.

**Tax Map No.:** 04000A00007000

**TERMS OF SALE:** CASH. A deposit of 10% of the sales price, cash or certified check, will be required at the time of sale with settlement within fifteen (15) days from the date of sale. (TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.) Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale.

**PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, I ADVISE YOU THAT THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT THE INDEBTEDNESS REFERRED TO HEREBY AND ANY INFORMATION WE WILL OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.**

L. Richard Padgett, Jr., P.C., SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

L. Richard Padgett, Jr., P.C.

521 Boulevard

P.O. Box 1098

Salem, Virginia 24153

(540) 389-0102

Call between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Case No. JJ012137-02-00-03-00 Accomack & DR Juvenile Division 23371 Front Street, Accomac, VA 23301

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

IN RE CHYANNE ALYENA MORALES

The object of this suit is to:

DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF THE MINOR CHILD.

It is ORDERED that JOSÉ JESÚS MORALES II appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before APRIL 19, 2018 at 9:00 AM.

February 14, 2018

Brenda Dize, Dep. Clerk

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Case No. CL18000163-00 Accomack County Circuit Court 23316 Courthouse Avenue, Accomac, VA 23301

Hilda Escalante Velasquez v. Fermin Braulio Martinez Pablo

The object of this suit is to:

OBTAIN A DIVORCE.

It is ORDERED that FERMIN BRAULIO MARTINEZ PABLO appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before APRIL 13, 2018.

February 14, 2018

Caretta S. Duncan, Clerk

**NOTICE OF OYSTER GROUND APPLICATION**

Kelley Lewis Parks, (2018012) has applied for approximately 14 acres of oyster planting ground in The Gulf situated in Northampton City/County and described as follows: North By: Vacant, James APP #2017067, East By: Kellam PF #20799, Kellam/New Inlet, Inc. PF #16803, South By: MLW, West By: MLW, La/Long: N37-21.9671 W75-59.0511. Notes: SAV issues and application is in channel.

Send written comments or concerns to: Marine Resources Commission, Engineering/Surveying Department, 2600 Washington Ave., 3rd Floor, Newport News, VA 23607

For more specific application location information call (757)247-2230.

**ESYCC, INC., Trading as Eastern Shore Yacht & Country Club, Inc., 145 Market Street, Onancock, Accomack County, Virginia 23417**

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On-Off Premises & Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Stephen McClaskey, President

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

**TRUSTEE’S SALE OF**

34395 Big Pine Road

Belle Haven, VA 23306

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of $68,325.00, dated July 22, 2009, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Accomack County on July 30, 2009, as Instrument Number 200903311, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction, at the main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court for Accomack County, 23316 Courthouse Ave., Accomac, VA on March 28, 2018 at 11:30 AM, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and briefly described as:

ALL THAT certain lot or parcel of land with the buildings and improvements thereon, situated in Northampton City/County and described as:

A tract and piece of land, situated in Northampton County, Virginia, containing approximately 14 acres of oyster planting ground in The Gulf, bounded on the North by lands now or formerly of Albert Chesser; on the South by lands now or formerly of Albert Chesser; on the West by a ditch separating this land from land now or formerly of Albert Chesser; and on the East by lands now or formerly of Albert Chesser.

This conveyance is made expressly SUBJECT TO the easements, restrictions and reservations contained in duly recorded deeds, plates and other instruments constituting constructive notice in the chain of title to the property hereby conveyed, which have not expired by limitation of time or otherwise become ineffective.

**Tax Map No.:** 11074 Neal Parker Road, Hallwood VA 23359

**TERMS OF SALE:** CASH. A deposit of 10% of the sales price, cash or certified check, will be required at the time of sale with settlement within fifteen (15) days from the date of sale. (TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.) Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale.

**PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, I ADVISE YOU THAT THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT THE INDEBTEDNESS REFERRED TO HEREBY AND ANY INFORMATION WE WILL OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.**

L. Richard Padgett, Jr., P.C., SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

L. Richard Padgett, Jr., P.C.

521 Boulevard

P.O. Box 1098

Salem, Virginia 24153

(540) 389-0102

Call between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
TRUSTEE SALE
25280 Guilford Road, Bloxom, VA

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of $25,000.00, dated May 4, 2012, recorded in the Clerk’s Office of the Circuit Court of the Accomack County, Virginia, in Document No. 201201823, default having occurred in the payment of the Note thereby evidenced, and the holder of said Note, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the entrance to the Circuit Court of Accomack County, 23316 Courthouse Avenue, Accomack, on March 29, 2018, at 11:00 AM the property described in said deed, located at the above address and briefly described as:

Subject to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, affecting the aforesaid property.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH: A deposit of $20,000.00 or 10% of the sales price, whichever is lower, cash or certified check will be required at the time of sale, but no more than $10,000.00 of cash will be accepted, with settlement within fifteen (15) days from the date of sale. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale which affects the validity of the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser’s sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, we advise you that this firm is a debt collector attempting to collect the indebtedness referred to herein, and any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C., Substitute Trustee

This is a communication from a debt collector.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C. (48041)
5040 Corporate Woods Drive, Suite 120
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462
757-457-1460 - Call between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or visit our website at www.siwpc.net

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE
33061 Taylors Cove, New Church, VA

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated August 16, 2012, and recorded at Instrument Number 201203209 and re-recorded at Instrument Number 20140134, and a Loan Modification recorded on March 8, 2017 at Instrument Number 17004884, in the Clerk’s Office for the Circuit Court for Accomack County, VA, securing a loan which was originally $164,957.00. The appointed SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE will offer for sale at public auction at main entrance of the Accomack County Circuit Court, located at 23316 Courthouse Avenue on:
March 29, 2018 at 1:30 PM

improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of that certain lot of parcel of land lying in Atlantic District, Accomack County, Virginia, shown and designated as Lot No 4 on a certain plat of survey entitled “Stoney Creek Subdivision”, made by Sutton and Mames, P.C., dated June 9, 1988, revised July 6, 1988, which plat is record in the Clerk’s Office of the Circuit Court of Accomack County, November 15, 1988, in Plat Book 88, at Page 187, et seq., and to which plat reference is made for a more complete and accurate description of the land herein conveyed, and as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold “AS IS,” WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of $20,000.00, or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, in cash or cashier’s check payable to the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE will be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to date said funds are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee’s fee. All other charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Purchaser agrees to pay the seller’s attorneys at settlement, a fee of $445.00 for review of the settlement documents. Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale and the successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
(Attorney for the Secured Party)
4940 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-907-8000
www.rosenberg-assoc.com
PUBLIC NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Northampton County Local Advisory Agriculture/Forestal District (AFD) Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. The purpose is to review existing AFD districts and any new AFD applications and forward recommendations to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. The meeting will be held in the Board Chambers, located on the second floor, at 16404 Courthouse Rd. in Eastville, Virginia.

The following applications will be considered:

A. Renewal for Aspenwood AFD a ten-year review to determine whether this district should remain in full force and effect. This district currently contains the following parcel(s) of land: Tax Map 99, double circle A, parcel 14.

B. Renewal for Bayford AFD a ten-year review to determine whether this district should remain in full force and effect. This district currently contains the following parcel(s) of land: Tax Map 19, double circle A, parcel 37A; Tax Map 19, double circle A, parcel 16; Tax Map 19, double circle A, parcel 37; Tax Map 19, double circle A, parcel 15.

C. Renewal for Bayview AFD a ten-year review to determine whether this district should remain in full force and effect. This district currently contains the following parcel(s) of land: Tax Map 99, double circle A, parcel 6; Tax Map 99, double circle A, parcel 5A; Tax Map 98, double circle A, parcel 19A; Tax Map 98, double circle A, parcel 19.

D. Renewal for Brickhouse Farm AFD a ten-year review to determine whether this district should remain in full force and effect. This district currently contains the following parcel(s) of land: Tax Map 20, double circle A, parcel 61; Tax Map 105, double circle A, parcel 6.

E. Renewal for Brookwood AFD a ten-year review to determine whether this district should remain in full force and effect. This district currently contains the following parcel(s) of land: Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 28; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 27; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 26; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 25; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 24; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 23; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 22; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 21; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 20; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 19; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 18; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 17; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 16.

F. Renewal for Caserta AFD a ten-year review to determine whether this district should remain in full force and effect. This district currently contains the following parcel(s) of land: Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 40.

G. Renewal for Custis Farms AFD a ten-year review to determine whether this district should remain in full force and effect. This district currently contains the following parcel(s) of land: Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 3; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 2; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 1; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 1.

H. Renewal for Dalbys AFD a ten-year review to determine whether this district should remain in full force and effect. This district currently contains the following parcel(s) of land: Tax Map 98, double circle A, parcel 17; Tax Map 98, double circle A, parcel 16; Tax Map 98, double circle A, parcel 15; Tax Map 98, double circle A, parcel 14.

I. Renewal for Deer Path AFD a ten-year review to determine whether this district should remain in full force and effect. This district currently contains the following parcel(s) of land: Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 53; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 52; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 50; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 49; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 48; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 47; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 46; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 45.

J. Renewal for Edgehill AFD a ten-year review to determine whether this district should remain in full force and effect. This district currently contains the following parcel(s) of land: Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 24; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 23; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 22; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 21; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 20; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 19; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 18; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 17; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 16; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 15; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 14; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 13; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 12; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 11; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 10; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 9; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 8; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 7; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 6; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 5; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 4; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 3; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 2; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 1; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 20; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 19; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 18; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 17; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 16; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 15; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 14; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 13; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 12; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 11.

K. Renewal for Farmer’s Delight AFD a ten-year review to determine whether this district should remain in full force and effect. This district currently contains the following parcel(s) of land: Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 72; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 71; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 70; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 69; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 68; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 67; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 66; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 65; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 64; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 63; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 62; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 61; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 60; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 59; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 58; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 57; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 56; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 55; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 54; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 53; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 52; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 51; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 50; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 49; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 48; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 47; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 46; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 45; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 44; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 43; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 42; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 41; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 40; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 39; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 38; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 37; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 36; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 35; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 34; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 33; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 32; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 31; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 30; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 29; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 28; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 27; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 26; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 25; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 24; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 23; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 22; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 21; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 20; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 19; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 18; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 17; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 16; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 15; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 14; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 13; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 12; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 11; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 10; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 9; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 8; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 7; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 6; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 5; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 4; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 3; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 2; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 1; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 20; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 19; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 18; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 17; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 16; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 15; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 14; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 13; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 12; Tax Map 48, double circle A, parcel 11.

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By Sen. Lynwood Lewis

With the adjournment of General Assembly Session only two weeks out, business here in Richmond is moving at a brisk pace. Many of my bills went through their first round of subcommittee hearings this past week and all but one – my bill to establish a regional authority devoted to coastal resiliency – advanced to full committee.

The focal point of this week, however, was the budget. Last Sunday, both the House and the Senate released their respective budget bills. Both differ from the outgoing governor’s budget that was proposed in December, but they also have substantial differences from one another.

In fact, there is more than a 600 million dollar discrepancy between the House and the Senate budgets. This is mostly due to the lack of Medicaid expansion in the Senate budget proposal. Major components of both the House and governor’s budgets are not included in the Senate budget, including a heavily-supported two percent pay raise for teachers.

Without the revenues contingent upon Medicaid expansion, our purse strings are forced to tighten dramatically. The House proposal is not straightforward Medicaid expansion; it includes certain provisions, namely work requirements and a kill-switch to ensure Virginia isn’t left to foot the bill if federal funding were to lapse. Due to the nature of this compromise, I am hopeful that some form of expansion will emerge out of the budget conference between the House and the Senate. This is where the two bodies will have to reconcile their respective proposals. In order to advance many of our spending priorities, including many that benefit the Eastern Shore like my proposed shallow-channel dredge fund, the inclusion of expansion in the final budget is critical.

The Senate budget did include dollars for oyster restoration, the Army Corps of Engineer study of the inlet at Chincoteague Island and agricultural best-management practices, all of which I advocated for. Both the House and Senate budgets appropriated funds for the Eastern Shore Public Library, though expansion revenues enabled the House to provide $1 million dollars to the project compared to the Senate’s $250,000. In conference, I would like to see the Senate adopt funding for both the shallow-channel dredge fund and my proposed special advisor to the governor for coastal resiliency. Both of these priorities were funded in the House budget.

The next two weeks will likely bring heavy coverage of the progress being made on the reconciliation of the budgets. I will continue to advocate for the spending priorities that are vital for us on the Shore and invite any questions or concerns anyone may have regarding what is or is not included in the current budgets. There is not much time left to make your way to the state capital while session is still ongoing, and I encourage everyone to try to do so over the next two weeks if you are able. The activities of the legislature can still be monitored at the General Assembly website VirginiaGeneralAssembly.gov. I can be reached at our legislative email District06@senate.virginia.gov.

By Del. Robert Bloxom

This week’s report is about my vote on the House budget which included Medicaid expansion. My opinion of this expansion has not changed. This huge government program is problematic at best and a budget buster at worst. The dilemma I found myself in was the fact that the Medicaid expansion on Gov. McAuliffe’s terms was included in his outgoing budget. We, in the House of Delegates, did not have 51 votes to remove it from the budget. Several of my fellow Republican colleagues expressed their displeasure with Washington’s inability to repeal or replace this program. If we had done nothing, it would have been quite possible for the end result to be straight expansion without any reforms. This would be what we are seeing in Washington as far as the budget is concerned, and Virginia cannot afford such a program. This led to our reluctant acceptance of the expansion but on certain Republican terms, which include major conservative reforms such as a work requirement and a “taxpayer safety switch.” This would ensure that if the federal government backs out of its commitments to pay for the cost, the plan will end. The plan would also require hospitals to pay for 100 percent of the state’s share of the cost, which is currently 7.5 percent and will increase to 10 percent by the year 2020. In theory, Virginia’s taxpayers should pay nothing for this form of expansion. We are confident that the Trump administration will ensure that we get all the reforms we need before providing the funding needed to expand coverage.

The House budget that I voted on includes no general tax increases. The House defeated $770 million in tax increases proposed by Democrats.

The budget is structurally balanced, ensuring that Virginia maintains its Triple-A bond rating and long-term fiscal health. Our strong financial posture makes it easier for businesses to grow and thrive in our commonwealth. We have fully funded our required contributions to the Virginia Retirement System. Our pension plan is nearly 80 percent funded, significantly higher than it was less than a decade ago.

In the area of healthcare, related to the Eastern Shore, we are providing more funding to the Community Services Board to ensure same day access for those facing mental health crises. We are also providing money to help Community Service Boards do primary care screening.

There are many proposed increases and added flexibility in the support given to K-12 education. Pay raises for classroom teachers, targeted funding for early childhood education, and school security infrastructure upgrades are but a few components making up the House’s budget related to education. Other highlights of our budget include money to dig the channel of the Port of Virginia deeper and wider, pay raises for local law enforcement, and money for agricultural best management practices.

The Senate has passed its budget also. Now will be the time that both budgets will be put into “conference” in which six delegates and six senators attempt to arrive at a compromise. To say that the two budgets are worlds apart is an understatement. I anxiously await their final decisions. Once the conference report has emerged, then it is sent to the governor for his input. This will then be the start of much more work that will need to be accomplished before our session adjourns.

As always, I welcome you to visit me in Richmond, or call me at 804-698-7506. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions about legislation or other issues of concern.
Customer Service: The Frustration Highway

By Richard Saunders

This is not a column directly dealing with fraudulent matters. It instead deals with what has become a really large source of consumer frustration, customer service, or more accurately, lack of customer service. There was a time, that many of us can still remember, when there was such a thing called customer service. You could call a company with whom you had an issue, or from which you just needed some information, and actually get to speak to someone right away who respected your time. You would even get to hear the magic response “OK, I’ll take care of that.”

Sadly, those days are mostly gone. What you get today is what I like to think of as “call center hell,” a boiler room of people with no judgment, little actual concern for your issue and little actual willingness to own the reason for your call. Worse yet, before you actually get to speak to someone in the call center, you must wade through a maddening series of electronic prompts or a robotic questioner that is highly unlikely to recognize that you have a particular concern that doesn’t fit neatly into a playbook.

The next step along this frustration highway is often “your call is important to us, please hold for the next available agent” after which you get inerrable recorded music in the hope that you just go away. Sometimes you get a message “due to heavy call volume, etc.” when you know that, by virtue of the calendar, there is likely no heavy call volume, that they just want you to go away. And often the next stop on this frustration highway is to be connected to someone in the Philippines, India, Central America or somewhere else offshore. This person does not know American English real well; it is not his/her first language nor, at a distance of many thousands of miles, are they likely to care a whole lot about why you are calling.

Now that I have laid out some of the obstacles of getting direct, prompt customer service from somebody who speaks the same language you do, the obvious question is, what can you the consumer do about it? Firstly, when you get a person on the line, ask where they are located. If they are offshore, demand to speak to a U.S. citizen. If enough people do this, companies might start bringing back customer service to the same country where most of their customers are, the U.S.

There is a website, GETHUMAN.COM, that can sometimes be helpful though it has been around for a while and the information on it can be a bit dated.

The best option is to Google “SEC filings for (fill in company).” This will get a list of filings that the company has made to the Securities and Exchange Commission. This obviously only works for publicly traded companies. Click on any of the filings, the whole filing will display, including, at the beginning, the corporate address and phone number (generally not an 800 call center). Using that phone number, get as high up the corporate food chain that you can to get your question(s) answered. Be persistent, take names. Write the office of the company’s CEO if you must. This process is not a guarantee, but it shifts the odds a bit in favor of the consumer as opposed to the obstacles described above.

Richard L. Saunders is a resident of Chincoteague. While living in Pennsylvania, he served on the AARP Statewide Consumer Taskforce. He can be reached at 484-689-9502 or rlsaunders115@aol.com.

Groundwater Coverage Praised

Dear Editor:

Growing up I bounced around to many different schools in the manner similar to what some called “military brats,” children who went where their parents were assigned by the government. Though my father was a World War II veteran, after six years in that stint he enlisted himself in another profession — the newspaper world. At age 27, my dad, John Schoolfield, purchased the Eastern Shore Herald, later to become the Eastern Shore News. After four years, it was on to the Newport News Daily Press as the acting wire director. I was born in the Nassawadox hospital while Dad worked the Daily Press and as a youngster I was up-rooted to New Haven, Conn. where he was the weekend news editor for two family-owned dailies. Then he built his journalism career in Albany, where he proudly served as the city editor of the Knickerbocker News. Mom landed a stint as a columnist in the Knick while continuing to write stories for national magazines and “Best of Short Story Writer” annuals. Dad was born a newspaper man, one of the pioneers of that profession, especially here on the Shore.

I pay tribute to my parents as I read various articles through discerning eyes and tastes they cultivated and instilled in me. It is a rare day indeed when I hear them praising, from beyond, a piece of writing they would have acclaimed with great enthusiasm.

That is why Linda Cicoira’s front page article in last week’s Post, “Tyson to Use Shallow Aquifer for Some Water Withdrawals,” literally brought tears to my eyes because of its content, delivery and for the incredible amount of research that went into the crafting of this stellar piece of journalism. I could literally hear my Dad and Mom cheering and raising a glass in a toast of “well done” to your reporter, and believe me, this type of writing and reporting was what my father encouraged in all of his writers and his many columns. A hearty thank you to Ms. Cicoira for making us all very proud of this important and vital work.

Mary Dufty, Exmore

DEQ Hears Local Concerns

Dear Editor:

Those of us who love the Shore know that the poultry industry is an important source of jobs for Eastern Shore families. However, we are concerned about pollution in our tidal waters and groundwater withdrawal permitting. It basically comes down to state and local officials doing their jobs to protect these critical resources. Contact the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to state your concerns about these issues: Craig.Nicol@deq.virginia.gov

Jane Smith, Linville, Va., and Silver Beach

Snow Day Thanks

Dear Editor:

The Accomack County Farm Bureau would like to thank all the farmers for using their equipment to tow stranded vehicles and plow roads during the Jan. 4 blizzard. Many hours were spent serving the community throughout this time of adversity.

Please remember them this spring when farm equipment is moving along the roads. Pull over and give them a wave of thanks.

Accomack County Farm Bureau, Accomac

Letters to the Editor may be sent by fax, email (editor@easternshorepost.com) or U.S. mail using the address in the Publisher’s Circle. While the Post will withhold a writer’s name with just cause, all letters must be signed and include a phone number and town of residence for verification. They may not have been submitted to, posted to or published by any other media. So that more readers have an opportunity to have their letters printed, keep letters to less than 350 words. The Eastern Shore Post retains the right to edit all letters. We reserve the right to reject letters that exceed 350 words, are vulgar or otherwise unfit for print.
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