Jailers Fired for Alleged Misconduct

By Linda Cicoira

Two Northampton County deputies working as correctional officers at the Eastern Shore Regional Jail were fired last week for having “inappropriate contact with one of the female inmates.”

Sheriff Jack Robbins identified the correctional officers as Wayne H. Shrieves and Leston E. Wright Jr. He said both men had worked in the jail for two to three years. When allegations were made, the sheriff said he “promptly had the matter investigated.” That inquiry “revealed evidence of improper sexual contact with a female inmate on separate occasions by both employees, which led to their termination.”

Robbins said he expects felony charges to be certified against the former jailers when the Northampton Grand Jury meets next month.

The sheriff said he learned about the incident on Friday, Feb. 12, and an investigation began the following Monday. The two officers did not work in the meantime. He fired the men on Feb. 17.

Shrieves and Wright “were trained and certified by the Department of Criminal Justice Services of Virginia,” according to Robbins.

The sheriff said the inmate was Kelly Bynum. The 23-year-old Belle Haven woman had been sentenced in Northampton Circuit Court in October to a total of three and a half years for two counts of assaulting a police officer, grand larceny, two counts of third-offense larceny and identity theft. Robbins said the charges of assault involved jail deputies.

The sheriff said he would give more information, but he “didn’t want to hamper any court proceeding.” He further stated, “I’m proud of my staff and where we are as a department. However, this type of activity is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.”

Out of the Haiti’s Rubble …

At top, Shore orthopedic surgeon Dr. Stuart Mackler (left) performs an amputation in Haiti on one of the thousands of people injured in last month’s earthquake which crushed so many people under buildings “pancaked” like the one pictured above. Dr. Mackler, who has signed up to go on another “tour of duty” in Haiti, believes it is essential to keep reminding Americans how much their donations are needed.

Options Offered To Slash Budget

By Cheryl Nowak

Acomack County supervisors sharpened their budget axes Monday as they heard options for slicing expenses to the tune of more than $1 million to balance the new budget and even provide a surplus.

Finance Director Mike Mason outlined cuts which would make up approximately $445,000 in the proposed fiscal year 2010-11 budget.

These include eliminating town tipping-fee waivers at the landfill, saving the county $135,000; cutting the county’s contribution to volunteer fire and rescue squads by half, saving $130,000; eliminating the county’s $41,000 contribution to Eastern Shore Community College; deferring construction of a limited-service convenience center, saving $69,000; and reducing grants to the airport and Health Department by $27,000.

Though no action was taken on the options presented by Mason, the supervisors then met for a two-hour closed meeting to discuss another $845,000 in cuts related to personnel.

When the supervisors reconvened in open session, County Administrator Steve Miner acknowledged that they had requested various figures before voting on the options. A meeting to do just that will be held in an unusual Saturday session tomorrow necessitated by state budget deadlines.

If all the options presented Monday are approved, Acomack County’s proposed budget will reflect a surplus of close to $600,000, but state revenues, a huge source of funding for the county, remain very uncertain.

However, whereas the county had expected to lose several positions in the Sheriff’s Department, Gov. Bob McDonnell’s budget would cut that loss to two or three, which are already vacant in Acomack.

Parksley Man Convicted of Involuntary Manslaughter

By Linda Cicoira

Charges against a Parksley man accused of killing a college student from Temperanceville last year were reduced Thursday in Acomack Circuit Court when a plea bargain was accepted.

Kendrick Di’ke Duffy, 18, was indicted in October on counts of murder and use of a firearm in a felony in connection with the Aug. 16, 2009, shooting death of Bobby Oneal Ballard, 20, of Saxis Road.

In an agreement with Commonwealth’s Attorney Gary R. Agar, the murder indictment was knocked down to involuntary manslaughter in exchange for Duffy’s guilty plea. Agar also said he would not prosecute the firearms count. The attorney

(Continued on Page 5)
Northampton Supervisors Agree to Procedural Guidelines, Discuss Budget

By Ron West

At its meeting Monday, the Northampton County Board of Supervisors finally reached agreement and approved its operating manual.

Areas of contention had included the section regarding media relations, dates for meetings, and the use of Robert’s Rules of Order.

Supervisors Willie Randall and Sam Long Jr. suggested modifying or removing the Media Relations section. Randall noted that as supervisors, they were capable of knowing how to properly deal with the media without having to have written guidelines. Long suggested changing the meeting night of the work sessions to the fourth Monday of each month since he would be unable to attend if it continued to be held on the fourth Tuesday. Supervisor Richard Tankard noted that the fourth Monday is also the meeting date for Nassawadox Town Council and asked that occasionally arrangements be made to switch the work sessions so he can attend some Nassawadox Town Council meetings. In the end, the supervisors agreed to accept the operating manual and included portions of the media relations segment, moved their work sessions to the fourth Monday of the month and modified the Robert’s Rules to include the need of a second for motions brought before the supervisors.

In other actions of the evening, the supervisors discussed budget amendments for the school system. School Finance Director Brook Thomas reported that the school staff is preparing the 2010-11 budget which is due to the supervisors in April. Thomas noted that they are still waiting to see how the governor’s proposed budget, which calls for extensive cuts to public education, will affect local school systems.

In other business, Randall initiated a discussion on the appointments to the Community Services Board (CSB). Former Supervisor J.T. Holland stated that an agreement with Accomack County calls for a nine-member board, with three members coming from Northampton County, selected from each of the three magisterial districts. At present, two of the members are from Eastville District, with Franktown District not being represented. Chairman Larry Trala has asked that the county attorney research the legality of having two representatives from one magisterial district on the CSB.

By Ron West

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Accomack Criminal Cases
Durrell Lilliston, 24, of Bloxom was found guilty in Accomack County Circuit Court of burglary. According to Commonwealth’s Attorney Gary Agar, sentencing was deferred until guidelines are provided.

Victor Dana Jr., 29, of Onancock was found guilty of breaking and entering and grand larceny. Sentencing was deferred until a presentence report is prepared.

A presentence report also was ordered for Justin Walker and Wendy Beauchamp, both of Horn-town and both found guilty of distributing methamphetamines and oxycodone.

Nicole Milburn, 34, of Florida was found guilty of grand larceny and sentenced to 12 months, with all but two months suspended.

Michael Spence, 22, of Chincoteague was found guilty of grand larceny and petty larceny and sentenced to two years for grand larceny and 12 months for petty larceny, to run concurrently, all suspended except 40 days served, community service and restitution.

Rhyheem Ridley, 20, of Parksley was found guilty of possessing marijuana with the intent to distribute it and sentenced to two years, all suspended except time served, community service and restitution.

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Parksley

Tony Cuffee, 19, of Accomac was sentenced for breaking and entering, grand larceny and petty larceny to 10 years, all suspended except time served, plus community service.

Northampton Criminal Cases
James Patrick Bowen, 34, of Exmore pleaded guilty in Northampton Circuit Court to four counts of forgery. According to Commonwealth’s Attorney Bruce Jones, he was sentenced to one year on each count. Bowen also pleaded guilty to petty larceny, for which he was sentenced to 12 months, all to run concurrently, for a total of four years with all but time served (approximately 90 days) suspended, plus community service.

Nicholas Joseph Abraham, 26, of Cheriton was given a two-year suspended sentence for having carnal knowledge of a 14-year-old and put on supervised probation for two years.

Sentencing was deferred until a presentence report can be prepared for Corey Baines, 40, of Exmore, who pleaded guilty to second offense of distributing a controlled substance; William Mapp Cullen, 43, of Painter who pleaded guilty to seven counts of embezzlement; Sherri Ann Kel- lam Parks, 32, of Willis Wharf, who was found guilty of breaking and entering, petty larceny and destruction of property; Patricia Chandler, 55 of Belle Haven who pleaded guilty to two counts of distributing cocaine; Omar Giddings, 39, of Machipongo, who pleaded guilty to possession of more than 1/2 ounce but less than five pounds of marijuana with the intent to distribute it; Joshua Walton, 28, of Cheriton, who pleaded guilty to malicious wounding, attempted malicious wounding and maliciously shooting at an occupied vehicle; and Holly Elizabeth Wills, 52, and Wayne Leslie Wills, 51, both of Tasley, who were found guilty of breaking and entering and petty larceny.

Gregory William Little, 49, of Chesapeake pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine and was sentenced to 12 months, with all but 30 days suspended.

James Thomas Hamlin Jr., 41, of Suffolk pleaded guilty to driving after being declared an habitual offender, for which he was sentenced to 12 months; giving false identification, for which he was given two months; and obstruction, for which he was given a concurrent two months, for a total of 14 months to serve.
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~Manslaughter~
(Continued From Front Page)

ne recommended that Duffy be sentenced to 10 years in prison, with all but five years and eight months suspended. The defendant could also be fined up to $2,500.

Judge Glen A. Tyler accepted the arrangement. He deferred sentencing pending completion of a presentence report. Sentencing is expected in April.

Tyler, Agar, Investigator Gerald Goga of the Accomack Sheriff’s Department and defense lawyer Thomas Northam watched a video of the crime taken by cameras at the Royal Farms at Fisher’s Corner. The group huddled around the judge’s bench as the tape was shown on a laptop computer.

School Repairs Pondered

By Ron West

Needed repairs to the three county schools and the prospect of a very lean budget loom over the heads of Northampton School Board members.

Superintendent Dr. Richard Bowmaster noted last week that the roofs of both elementary schools need immediate attention. Leaks at Kiptopeke Elementary have led one classroom to be closed. In addition, the ongoing issue of an aging wall at the high school forces the question of how much to spend on the 56-year-old structure. Board Chairperson Kristin Webb raised the question of how much should be spent to make a temporary repair to the sagging cafeteria wall when the county really needs to be thinking about building a new middle/high school complex. One proposal for the wall is to add a series of braces at a cost of $150,000, while a second is to replace the wall at a cost of $350,000. At present, for safety reasons, the room is not used when winds exceed 45 miles per hour.

Evidence showed that men in a car with Ballard assaulted those in another car with Duffy and attempted to take the car keys to keep them from leaving the scene. Ballard was not involved in the altercation.

“Three seconds” after the car with Duffy drove away from the fight, the defendant sat on the ledge of the passenger’s window and shot at the other group, Agar told the court. He said the victim, who was sitting in the back seat of the other car, was hit in the head with a 32-caliber bullet.

Agar justified the plea bargain by saying that because the shooting occurred so quickly after the assault, “heat of passion” was involved.

Agar said despite the lowered charge, the loss to Ballard’s parents “is just as great … something has to be said about young people carrying guns.” Instead, he said they should be going out and “enjoying life. Bobby Oneal Ballard was truly an innocent victim here.”

Ballard, who was in his third year of college, would have turned 21 this week.

“It is clear that the legal analysis is correct,” said Tyler. “Self-defense would have been difficult to prove since they were moving away … malicious murder (was not applicable) because it was seconds later,” Tyler said, agreeing with Agar’s description of a crime of passion.
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Greetings from Richmond! This week, crossover took place in the General Assembly, with all passed Senate bills going to the House of Delegates for consideration, and vice versa. There was little action on any of the bills I am sponsoring, but the pace will be picking up in the next few days. I am still working hard on legislation to bring about ethics reform in the General Assembly, protect youth athletes from serious brain injuries, and spare saltwater anglers from having to pay fees to the federal government.

Also this week, Gov. McDonnell announced his proposals for balancing the state budget. Though he remains true to his pledge of not raising taxes, his suggestions include massive cuts to public education, services for the poor and elderly, and the state healthcare safety net.

While it is necessary to reduce some spending in order to close the commonwealth’s budget gap, these proposed actions would disproportionately harm those most in need of our help in these difficult economic times.

Further, it is estimated that instituting these cuts would result in the layoff of an estimated 23,000 school employees and thousands more healthcare workers. In this period of record high unemployment, I strongly believe that putting even more people out of work is bad public policy. Job retention is essential to helping our economy rebound, and leading to job growth in the future. I urge you to read over the governor’s proposals for yourself, and to contact all of your elected officials to voice your opinion. I have heard from many of you about this already, and everyone who has contacted me is opposed to these cuts. I would welcome input from anyone who has other views, as hearing from both sides helps me better represent all of you.

I thank you all for your support, and I welcome your input during session. My office phone number in the General Assembly building is (804) 698-7506, and my e-mail is Senator-RalphNortham@gmail.com If I am not available, my legislative assistant, Matt Strickler, will be happy to help. Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail, and if you are in Richmond, please feel free to stop by and say hello.

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According to the Virginia Department of Transportation, Chincoteague motorists should expect the causeway at the west end of the Black Narrows Bridge to be open to alternating one-way traffic controlled by a traffic light through the end of April. Motorists should also expect periodic lane closures throughout the duration of the project, Monday through Saturday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As a result of the continued shoaling of Nassawadox Creek, the Coast Guard will discontinue the aids marking the waterway on March 16. Since 1999, the Coast Guard has attempted to mark this continually shoaling federal navigation project. The water depth in the waterway has been less than two feet since 2003 and the Coast Guard can no longer access and safely mark the waterway.

Comments regarding this advanced notice can be sent to Albert Grimes at Albert.L.Grimes@uscg.mil or Commander (dpw), 5th Coast Guard District, 431 Crawford St., Rm. 100, Portsmouth, VA. 23704-5004, Attn.: Albert Grimes.
Ballard Earns Emerson Award

Petty Officer James J. Ballard of U.S. Coast Guard Station Cape Charles was presented with the first William G. Emerson Award at a recent meeting of Auxiliary Flotilla 12-02, Painter.

Ballard was selected because of the hard work and dedication to duty which he has exemplified. He also has dedicated several hours to volunteer work in the community.

The William G. Emerson Award was created by Auxiliary Flotilla 12-02 and Susan Emerson, widow of William G. Emerson. In the future, this annual award will be given to an outstanding active-duty Coast Guard member from either Station Cape Charles or Station Wachapreague. Mr. Emerson, who passed away last year, had been an active member of the auxiliary since 1991.

Ballard was presented an engraved plaque and U.S. Savings Bond.

Charles Hall Top Orator

Speaking on the topic “United We Stand” as it relates to the U.S. Constitution, Charles Hall of Northampton High School won the first round of competition at the oratorical contest sponsored by American Legion Post 56.

The runner-up was Northampton High’s Robert Williams, whose speech was titled “The First.”

Winning Scouts

Cheriton Cub Scout Pack 306 held its annual Pinewood Derby Feb. 4. Pictured are the Cubs from the Tiger, Wolf, Bear and WEBELOS dens. Overall first-place went to Scott Parker, second to Andrew Lassiter, and third to Kalab Robinson.

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Ex-Sheriff’s Daughter Dies


She was the daughter of the late Sheriff Everett Parks and Mahalinda Kellam Parks from Onancock.

Mrs. White was predeceased by her husband, Richard D. White; and son, Everett Parks White. She is survived by her daughters, Alice Thomas of Richmond and Mahalinda (Linda) Martin-Crocker of Nashville; sons, Dr. Richard D. White of Baton Rouge, La., and John White of Troutville, Va.; 14 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

At her request, a celebration of her life will be held this summer at the home of her daughter, Linda.

Jamesville Resident Dies

Mr. Roland M. “Ricky” Thompson Jr., 49, of Jamesville passed away Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010, at Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital in Nassawadox.

Born in Norfolk he was the son of John Edward and Mary Thompson (and husband, Carl Cartwright). He was a waterman.

Mr. Thompson is survived by his parents, Richard and Jane U. Thomp-son; sisters, Deborah and Karen Thompson; and brother, Steven Thompson (and wife, Gladys) of Jamesville; nieces and nephews, Joy Bowyer of Virginia Beach, Melanie Cindric of Winnabow, N.C., Phillip and Jason Kirby, Christopher Truck-ner and Ann Tankard of Exmore, Johnathan Thompson of Jamesville; and nieces and great-nephews, Sydney, Taylor and Brandon Kirby, Caleb Cindric, Madison Bowyer, Makayla Pinder, Peyton Truckner, and Jordan Tankard.

Graveside services were conducted Saturday, Feb. 20, at Frank-town Cemetery by Irving Wilson.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of the Eastern Shore, 165 Market St., Suite 3, Onancock, VA 23417. Memorial tributes may be offered at www.hollandfuneralhome.net.

Arrangements were made by B.D. Holland Funeral Home in Nassawadox.

Retired Engineer Dies

Mr. James B. Meyers, 60, of Machipongo died Friday, Feb. 19, 2010.

Mr. Meyers had degrees from several universities, including a bachelor of science degree in geology, and master’s degrees in geochemistry and computer engineering. He started his career in 1976 at Raytheon in Bedford, Mass., leading the team that developed simulation software for the Patriot missile. Following a short stint at RCA, he began what became a 30-year relationship with Lockheed Martin.

Mr. Meyers managed major programs in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Louisiana and Virginia. He won and ran the FBI’s $30 million Sentinel program, providing critical information to 30,000 law-enforcement personnel.

Mr. Meyers’ wife of over 30 years, Robbin, was his true soulmate, whom he lost to leukemia two years ago. When his sister, Maureen, and her husband, Terry, moved to the Shore, Jim and Robbin purchased the waterfront lot next door. In addition to boating, Mr. Meyers was treasurer of the local SPCA and loved his four dogs and three cats.

In addition to his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. Meyers is sur-vived by many cousins, nieces and nephews.

His wishes were to be cremated. A memorial service will be held at his sister’s home at 4375 White Tail Ln. in Machipongo at 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, and his ashes will be distrib-uted. Please notify by e-mail (maureen@tidewaterfarm.com) or phone (757-678-7520) if you are coming.

Memorial donations may be made to the Eastern Shore SPCA, PO. Box 164, Onley, VA 23418. Memory tributes may be entered at www.williamsfuneralhomes.com.

Arrangements were made by Williams-Onancock Funeral Home.

Cape Charles Man Dies

Mr. Michael Howard Brady, 56, of Cape Charles passed away Fri-day, Feb. 19, 2010, at his residence.

A native of Oyster, he was the son of John Edward and Mary Elizabeth Parker Brady. Mr. Brady was a waterman.

In addition to his parents, surviv-or’s include his son, Michael H. Brady (and wife, Robin) of Onley; sis-ters, Diana Lynn Townsend (and husband, Jonathan) of Birdsnest, Wanda L. Brady, and Mary Louise Bowman, both of Cape Charles; brothers, Richard Wayne Brady (and companion, Ann) of Cape Charles and John Edward Brady (and wife, Shirley) of Oyster; and four grandchildren.

A service of remembrance was con-ducted Tuesday, Feb. 23, at Wilkins-Doughty Funeral Home in Cape Charles by Rev. Russell Goodrich.

Memorial donations may be made to Riverside Cancer Center, P.O. Box 17, Nassawadox, VA 23413. Online condolences may be entered at www.doughtyfuneralhome.com.
Listed below are the names of members who failed to claim capital credit refund checks that were issued in the year 2007. If your name is listed below, please contact the A&N Electric Cooperative Billing Department (option 2) at 757-787-9750 or 1-800-431-2632, Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
March 1

A meeting for the newly developing Emergency Homeless Shelter will be held at Pungoteague Community Church at 7 p.m. This meeting is to see who is willing to help with the various branches of support, including drivers, cooks, and other support personnel. Anyone interested in helping is invited. People from various backgrounds also are being sought to sit on an Executive Board to oversee this community ministry. For more information, please call the church at 442-9596, or Pastor Bobby Carroll Huether at 757-710-1095.

Friday, March 5

United Methodist Men of Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Onancock will sell dinners from 11 a.m. until. The menu includes pigs' feet, baked chicken, pork chops, assorted vegetables, and desserts.

Saturday, March 6

St. James U.M. Church in Pocomoke, Md., will serve a breakfast of pancakes, eggs, home fries and sausage from 2 to 11. The cost is $5. The event is sponsored by United Methodist Women.

Sunday, March 7

New Vision of Metropolitan U.M. Church in Onancock will present a 7-Up Program at 3 p.m. dinner at 12:30 to 2:30. There will be sessions for pastors, church council/boards, lay leaders, youth (grades 6-12), leaders working with youth, mission and outreach workers, treasurers, and finance committees.

The Cokesbury Bookstore will be available during the day for resource needs.

UM Church Training Offered

“Spring Training,” sponsored by the United Methodist Church on Virginia’s Eastern Shore, is scheduled for Saturday, March 20, at Nandua Middle School in Onley.

It’s training to equip local churches with information and resources to develop their skills as they seek to grow in all areas of discipleship.

The day will begin with signing-in at 8:30 a.m., followed by worship and announcements at 9 a.m.

Eight workshops will be held in the morning from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and eight will be held in the afternoon from 12:30 to 2:30. They will include sessions for pastors, church council/board chairs, lay leaders, youth (grades 6-12), leaders working with youth, mission and outreach workers, treasurers and finance committees.

The Cokesbury Bookstore will be available during the day for resource needs.
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• From Arthur L. Coleman and Christopher Lyons
  To Nancy and Robert Gamble III
  Property in Cape Charles
  For $360,000
• From Kenneth Mason and George Pilkington
  To Kathy Bradley and Joseph Pae
  Property near Machipongo
  For $17,000
• From Maryann Lutz
  To Joyce and Ray Newman
  Property near Eastville
  For $75,000
• From Cherrystone Inlet LLC
  To Malanie and Samuel White
  Property near Cheriton
  For $355,000
• From Wilson Cropp III
  To Elvira Cruz and Silverio Pineda
  21047 Wilkins Dr., near Cheriton
  For $140,000
• From Croxton & Elizabeth Gordon
  To Thomas and Wanda Carricato
  Lot 175 at Vaucluse Shores
  For $595,000

Life is better with power

Generac automatic standby generators provide peace of mind for you and your family. Every Generac Guardian Series Generator offers 24/7 power protection, hands-free operation and the easiest installation available. Sales, parts and service.

Would you rather live in the 19th Century in the dark or the 21st Century with Electricity?

Be unique
Be beautiful
Just be you
**Friday, Feb. 26**

- **10:30 a.m. - Duplicate Bridge** - Sage Restaurant, Onley - 442-2474
- **12:30 p.m. - Science & Philosophy Seminar** - ESCC, Melfa
- **6 p.m. - Celebrate Recovery Group mtg.** - Family Life Center of Onancock Baptist Church, Market St. - includes a simple meal - $6/person or $10/family
- **6:30-8:30 p.m. - MOPS mtg.** - Christ UMC, Chincoteague - 336-0664
- **7 p.m. - Life Teach Series** - Rachel/Leah Covenant Ministries Center - 787-2486
- **7 p.m. - NA meeting** - Adventist Community Center, Exmore

**Saturday, Feb. 27**

- **8 a.m.-noon - Farmer's Market** - Main St., Chincoteague
- **9 a.m.-3 p.m. - "How to Have a New Kid by Friday" Seminar** - Exmore Baptist Church fellowship hall - $15/person or $25/couple - 442-9791
- **9 a.m. - Zumba Class** - Sponsored by YMCA - Senior Center, Chincoteague - $5
- **5 p.m. - North Accomack Little League Dinner/Auction** - Chincoteague Vol. Fire Co. banquet hall - $20 per ticket (advanced) - 336-5510 or 336-2901
- **6 p.m. - Scottish & Irish Heritage mtg.** - The Blarney Stone, Onancock
- **7:30 p.m. - Bingo** - Atlantic Vol. Fire & Rescue Co.

**Monday, March 1**

- **9 a.m. - Chincot Al-Anon mtg.** - UMC Fellowship House
- **9 a.m. - TOPS mtg.** - Market Street UMC, Onancock - 787-4718
- **9:30-11:30 a.m. - GED class** - Head Start, Accomac - 787-1760
- **10:30-11:30 a.m. - Moms In Touch Int'l Prayer Group mtg.** - Cape Charles Baptist Church
- **11 a.m. - Northampton Chapter AARP mtg.** - Northampton County Social Services Bldg., Eastville
- **11 a.m. - Children's Story Hour** - Northampton Free Library, Nassawadox
- **1:30 p.m. - Hospice Grief Support Prgm.** - Cape Charles Baptist Church, 501 Randolph Ave. - 787-3310
- **3-4 p.m. - Caregiver Connection** - Hospice Resource Center, 3306 Lankford Hwy., Exmore - 787-3310
- **6 p.m. - Bingo** - Elks Lodge, Tasley
- **6:30 p.m. - Cub Scout Pack 300 mtg.** - Grace UMC, Parksley
- **7 p.m. - AA mtg.** - Christ Episcopal Church, Eastville
- **7 p.m. - Narcotics Anonymous mtg.** - Franktown UMC Church

**Wednesday, March 3**

- **7:45 a.m. - Kiwanis Club of Accomack mtg.** - Sunrise Restaurant
- **8 a.m.-noon - Farmers' Market** - Downtown Park, Main St., Chincoteague
- **9:30-11:30 a.m. - GED Class** - Head Start Center, Accomac - 787-1760
- **10 a.m. - Overeaters Anonymous mtg.** - 710-3120
- **10:30 a.m. - Duplicate Bridge** - Sage Restaurant, Onley - 442-2474
- **11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - Debdeavon Toastmasters mtg.** - NASA Wallops Base - Call Terry Ewell at 824-1133 for base access
- **1:20 p.m. - Caregiver Connection** - Hospice Bldg., 165 Market St., Onancock - 787-3310
- **2 p.m. - Children's Story Hour** - E.S. Public Library, Accomac
- **2 p.m. - E.S. Brain Injury Survivors Exercise & Support Group mtg.** - Belle Haven - 442-9334
- **3:40 p.m. - Hospice Grief Support Prgm.** - Hospice Bldg., 165 Market St., Onancock - 787-3310
- **7 p.m. - AA & Al-Anon mtgs.** - RSMH

**Thursday, March 4**

- **9:30 a.m. - AA mtg.** - Assawoman UMC
- **11 a.m. - Children's Story Hour** - E.S. Public Library, Accomac
- **2 p.m. - Children's Story Hour** - Northampton Free Library, Nassawadox
- **2-3:30 p.m. - Caregiver Connection** - Cape Charles Baptist Church, 501 Randolph Ave. - 787-3310
- **5 p.m. - TOPS mtg.** - Baptist Bible Church, Accomac
- **6 p.m. - TOPS mtg.** - Cape Charles Rescue Squad bldg., Cheriton
- **6:30 p.m. - LiveIt E.S. (weight loss support group)** - Accomack-Northampton Pregnancy Ctr., Belle Haven - 442-4438
- **6:30-7:30 p.m. - Kiwanis of Chincoteague mtg.** - St. Andrew's Catholic
- **6:30-7:30 p.m. - Al-Anon mtg.** - Trinity UMC, CC
- **8 p.m. - Narcotics Anonymous mtg.** - Painter Garrisons UMC

**Shore Heritage Celebration**

Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa will host the Ninth Annual Eastern Shore Heritage Celebration on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The day's activities will include lectures about local culture, art demonstrations, food, children's activities, live music and exhibits. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Laurie Swain at 789-1797.

**AARP Safe Driver Class Mon. & Tues.**

An AARP Driver Safety Class will be held Monday and Tuesday, March 1 and 2, at the Hermitage in Onancock from 1 to 5 p.m.

The cost is $12 for AARP members and $14 for non-members. If you plan to attend, please call 442-7211 to sign up and make arrangements for payment.

Those 55 or older who complete the class are eligible for a three-year discount on their auto insurance.
Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, column, and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:  

* Moderate  ** Challenging  *** HOO BOY!

© 2010 King Features Synd., Inc.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jarrod, 10 years old Feb. 27

Jasmine, 7 years old March 2

Jaleel, 12 years old March 9

We all Love You!

Announcements

OUR THANKS The family of Herman L. Bundick of Coal Kiln joins in saying Thank You and God Bless You for all the kindnesses shown our family, the prayers, the kind words and deeds, gifts of food, friendship and fellowship, the professional treatment & nursing care, gifts to Occohannock on the Bay, all received during the illness and death of our beloved family member. Herman Bundick's family has been greatly blessed with this tremendous outpouring of love & strength. Emily, Len & Terry, Thalia & Drummy, Carl & Sherri & grandchildren Josh & Holly, Kyle, Kristi Morgan, Caleb, Olivia & Adam

Are you 55 or older? Are you looking for a job?

ESAAA/CAA'S OLDER WORKERS PROGRAM MAY BE FOR YOU.

Income eligibility required.

CONTACT Linda Arvidson 844-296-22 ex. 211 for an application or more information

PART-TIME JANITORIAL POSITION - 20 hrs./wk., 9am-1pm, Monday thru Friday. To obtain an application, call 757-699-3437 or visit the Administrative Office.

Boots, Etc.

'04 TOHATSU 90 MOTOR - Contact Shore Marine Clarke at 757-442-6300.

29' PHOENIX, flybridge, enclosed, twin Cummins diesel engines, 250 hrs., others, shore ready, $42,500. Call 757-999-3437.


REDUCED! Must Move! 10' x 30' Wood hall PILE DRIVER 25' Leads w/ drop hammer, 3 drum air cooled winch, 6 cy. 4' pump w/suction sleeve, $3,500 OBO. 410-251-2446

91 SEARAY SUNDANCER - 28', 106' Beam, Twin Mercruiser I/O 5.0LX Engines; A/C w/crewle heat, nice galley; head w/shower; sleeps 6, 2 custom canvases, much more. 787-3454

'98 WELLCRAFT 21SL, Excel. 4.3 190hp Volvo 1/0 engine. Low hours, good condition. VHF, D/S, Stereo, Trailer: $8,550 - 302-110-683 ask for John. Boat can be seen at East Point.

ICE EATER - Rebuilt in 2003, not used since. $250. Call 757-710-9824

TROPHY PRO BOAT & Load-Rite trailer, 2005 Mercury Berado power stroke 276HP, trim tabs, cutty cowl & GPS marine radio & fish finder. $22,500 OBO. 336-374-5191

'SEA FOX 23' cabin cruiser w/trailer. 200HP Merc. outboard, 8'6" beam, excellent cond., $16,500. 787-2084 after 6.


'96 PARKER BOAT DEEP V HULL with center console. 150HP motor, 9.9 kicker motor, both low hours, GPS, depth finder, fish finder, new Easy Load trailer. Call 717-244-7505.

GTT '95 KENCRAFT CHALLENGER 19', Cen ter Console, 115HP Mariner O/B w/elec. tilt, fish finder, compass, CB radio, live-bait well, swim platform, new seat cushions, bimini top, twin batteries, 2005 Load-Rite trailer w/space, elec. winch. $6,500. Call 757-787-3144

Daycare


Farm Products

WHEAT STRAW $3/bale. GRASS HAY $4-5, depending on quality. 757-824-3930 or 757-894-1339

Firewood

SEASONED FIREWOOD Call 442-7540

Manufactured & Mobile Homes

16'x70' OAK CREST MOBILE HOME - 3 lgp. BRs, cathedral ceiling, double windows, shed. Excellent condition. Paid $50,000; will sell for $28,500. Call before 6 p.m. 665-4420

RENT - lots and mobile homes at Modestown Pioneer Court. Newly renovated, 2BR, 1BA, $500. 757-573-7960, Clean, quiet area. Call at 410-262-3070.

RENT TO OWN - Mobile homes starting at $450/mo. (includes lot rent). New Church Mobile Home Park - VA 757-924-0315

MOBILE HOME PARTS FOR sale. We also move mobile homes. Dreamac Homes, Rt. 13, Ac- comac, VA. 787-2823

ABANDONED HOME - 3BR, 2BA. PRIVATE OWNER can finance. Call 302-846-9100.

Misc. - For Sale


NEW VOGUE PRIM'A Above-ground pool. 24' round with auto cleaner. Must be moved. $4,000. OBO. 757-709-0409

WHIRLPOOL GAS DRYER - working cond. $125. Call Charles, 936-3558

CHINA CLOSET w/ doors, $200 - 1900a BLANKET CHEST - Floral carved top made from old comac, VA. 787-2823

LAWN AERATOR & SEEDER, Mfg. Ferguson Yardmark, 3-point hitch, 7-ft. wide, excellent condition. $1,300. 710-8670.

PONY CART - From Onancock Firemen’s Carnival. $675, 665-1011.

3 SILVER 6V92 Detroit engines. Very low hrs. Hear them run. $1,000-2,500 ea. OBO. Call & leave msg at 665-4420.

WHEELCHAIR - 2004 Breezy 510, padded, swing out attachments include leg extension & walker. $300 OBO. 442-3541

SLIGHTLY USED FURNITURE - Hunter green sectional couch/ recliner/queen-sized bed w. matching cherry coffee table & 2 end tables, rustic bedroom furniture, 32" RCA TV w. picture in picture, window unit AC, home stereo system, 2 replacement windows, etc. 709-2123.

DIETING ROOM TABLE w/ upholstered chairs. Dark wood. Plus 2 leaves at least paid $400 for table. $500. 757-695-4238

COMMERCIAL PIZZA DOUBBLE OVEN with Digital Controls, Like new. Electric, with Gas Vent System. Asking Price: $5500.00, can be made by Mar- etti Forni. Location: Acco- mack County. For more info, call 732-513-4149

VA PEELER POT LI- CENSE - 220 limit - To lease or buy. 757-824-3442

FOR SALE - 5' GRAND PIANO. CALL 710-1113

OYSTERS, CLAMS - Fresh from grower that day. Call 754-472-7510

COMMERCIAL DEEP FRYER, runs on propane. Pressure can be made by Henny Penny. (Similar to the one used in Royal Farms) $1800. 732-513-4149

Real Estate

$28,000 - 1.5-acre lot with well & septic. Shell Bridge Rd., Painter. Owner financing. Call 302-674-5540

NEW 1600 SQ. MODULAR CAPE WITH BUILDABLE LOT FOR JUST $147,900 ATLANTIS HOMES POCOMOKE, MD 410-957-3828 www.atlantishomesinc.com

Help Wanted


EXCITING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY - Must be at least 18 years old. Call 757-709-9249.

AVON - Start your own Avon Business. $10 start-up fee. 757-710-2075, 410-726-2343, or 757-709-1244

Part-Time

Cook/Aide

At Arcadia Nursing and Rehabilitation Center 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Apply in Person

No phone calls, please

February 26, 2010 • EASTERN SHORE POST • 17

Classified Ads, Real Estate Ads, Auctions & Legal Notices

Call 757-789-POST (7678) or Fax 757-789-7681 = $1.60 per line, $8 minimum; Announcements $25, $40 with picture.
ACCOMAC - corner lot on Front St. & Lillian Ave. ¼ block from courthouse. Septic installed & water. $95,000 OBO. Leave msg. at 757-665-4420.

**HOUSE FOR SALE**
Daugherty 2250 sq. ft. brick, 2 stories, 3BR, 2½ BA, completely remodeled started July '99, will be completed Feb. '10 - sunroom, master BR on 1st floor w/ 400 sq. ft. oak flooring, 500 sq. ft. of porcelain tile, central h/a & alternative heat, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, 2 sheds, survey of property professionally landscaped, includes sidewalks & partly fenced yard, too many extras to mention. $169,999. 757-709-2123.

3 PARKESLY BLDG.
LOTS - across from tennis courts on Jones Ave. Have septic permits & town water. $35,000 ea. OBO. Leave msg. at 757-665-4420.

**Services**

- **POCOMOKE VILLAS APARTMENTS**
  - **IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY FOR 2BR APTS!**
  - Central Heat/ Air
  - Laundry Facilities
  - Playground
  - 410-957-4125
  - This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

- **WE BUY HOUSES**
  - Cash for junkers. M&M 757-387-0725

- **LAND/HOME, FOR- CLOSURE, TAKE OVER PAYMENTS!**
  - EXMORE, VA. Call 302-846-9100

- **ATTENTION!!! Serious Home Buyers. Do not procrastinate and lose up to $8,000. Government rebates. You must be in your home by April 30, 2010. YOU MUST ACT NOW!!!** Call 302-846-9100

- **SERVICES**
  - **MAKEOVERS FOR YOUR SPECIAL OCCASIONS**
  - Skin care, classes & more. Call 757-709-9245.

- **HOME & FURNITURE REPAIR HANDYMAN**
  - small jobs welcome, doors, windows, floors, fixtures, decks & walks. Larry Baines - 605-3221.

- **ONLEY**
  - 2BR, central AC/heat, 1-year lease, security deposit. $620/mo. 757-757-1760

- **NASSAWADOX**
  - 2BR, central AC/heat, 1-year lease, security deposit. $650/mo. 757-757-7640

- **Rental-Commercial**
  - **NEW CHURCH**
    - Retail office on Rt. 13 for lease. 1200 sq. ft. Good access. For details, call 757-584-0096.

- **EXMORE**
  - 1,000 sq. ft. for office/retail. Prime location. Avail. immediately. Call 442-2749 for details.

- **Rents - Apartments**
  - **CAPE CHARLES**
    - $225/wk. or $800/mo.; fully furnished studio apt., weekly housekeeping. Call Sharon 381-4090

- **NEWTOWNE POCOMOKE**
  - Warm, friendly community for mature adults 62+
  - Central Heat & Air
  - Gathering room & Laundry inside under one roof.

- **Very affordable rents**
  - Please call: (410) 957-1562

- **Available Immediately!**
  - Hartley Hall Senior Housing

- **Rentals - Houses**
  - **CAPE CHARLES**
    - Charming old Victorian. 6 blocks from the beach and 1 block from downtown shops and restaurants. Updated. Available March 1. $700 per month. 267-261-4852.

- **WE BUY HOUSES**
  - Quick settlement. M&M Property Management. 757-787-7052

- **ENERGY-EFFICIENT**
  - 2BR, 1BA, kitchen, dinette, liv. rm., office, screened porch, storage shed. $650/mo. + deposit. No programs. 757-894-1095

- **HANDY MAN SERVICE**
  - Construction, Remodeling & Repair. Over 20 years of experience. 757-678-7832

- **The Deck Specialist**
  - New Decks
  - All sizes
  - Insured Class A License
  - 442-3970

- **KC INTERIORS**
  - All phases of home improvement and repair; 30 years' experience. References. Joe Beacom 757-990-1890.

- **Vehicles - ATVs, Motorcycles**
  - **THE DECK SPECIALIST**
    - 18x - EASTERN SHORE POST • FEBRUARY 26, 2010
  - **KELLAM'S TREE SERVICE**
    - Complete tree and stump removal, 57 ft. bucket truck service with operator. Over 30 yrs. experience. We are insured. Free estimates anywhere on the Shore. Phone 757-757-4390 or Cell 757-999-4380.

- **SPORTING GOODS**
  - **WALKING ELECTRIC GOLF BAG CARRIER**
    - $175. Call 710-4135.

- **Storage**
  - **NANDUA MINI STORAGE**
    - Rt. 650, Taylor Rd., Tasley. 757-787-3059. 50% off 1st month's rent

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  - **HANDY MAN SERVICE**
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Legal Ads

Virginia: In the Circuit Court for the County of Accomack
The County of Accomack, Virginia, Plaintiff

vs.

George Taylor
Sam Wolf, Inc.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Plaintiff for delinquent taxes against certain real estate described as follows:

All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, situate off State Highway No. 709, being 75 ft. by 125 ft., and designated as Tax Map No. 014A0100B00021.

standing in the name of George Taylor, pursuant to Section 58.1-3965 et seq. of the Code of Virginia.

And an affidavit having been filed that due diligence has been used to ascertain the location of George Taylor, whose last known post office address is P.O. Box 125, Atlanta, VA 23303.

It is ORDERED that this Order be published once a week for two successive weeks in the Eastern Shore Post and that the parties named herein appear on or before March 26, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Accomack, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this suit.

ENTER: This 22nd day of February, 2010

Nancy Jo Revell, Deputy Clerk

I ask for this:

James W. Elliott, P.Q.
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 1410
Yorktown, VA 23692
(757) 785-7070
www.VATAXSALE.com

WANTED

Buying Silver & Gold
Sterling, class rings, coins, broken jewelry, pocket watches, dental gold, diamonds, antiques, estates & more

Call Jerry @ 442-CASH (2274)
Wed.-Fri. noon-5pm

Paying Cash for Junk Cars

Quick Removal 665-5000

Yard Sales

ST. FRANCIS THRIFT SHOP - Saturday downtown Parksley. All clothes 25c. Furniture glassware, artwork

Caretta's Closet - Community yard sale at A House of Prayer U.M. Church n Shoreline Drive in Bloxom. Sat., March 6, 8-1. To reserve a table for $10, call Caretta Duncan at 894-1582.

invITATION TO BID

The Eastern Shore Farming Museum, Inc. is seeking bids for replacement/repair of Phase I of the roof structure at the museum facility located at 3378 Main St., Exmore VA. For bid information and site visit, contact Dave Scanlan at 442-4952 or stop by Dave's Quality Service Center Inc., 3213 Main St. Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of Zoning Appeals of the Town of Chincoteague will hold a public hearing on March 2, 2010, at 7:30pm at the Town Office at the museum facility located at 3378 Main St., Exmore VA. The purpose of the hearing is to consider an application from the Museum to permit a change of use of the facility located at 3378 Main St. Exmore VA. For information call Dave Scanlan at 757-392-5151 or stop by Dave's Quality Service Center Inc.
Pursuant to Decrees of the Circuit Court of the County of Accomack, Virginia entered in the cases specified herein, the following real estate will be sold at public auction on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, at the Accomack County Circuit Courthouse, 23316 Courthouse Avenue, Accomac, VA 23301 at 12:00 p.m., to wit:

PARCEL A: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs WILLIAM C. ADKINS
MAP NO. 005A70100016500
All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, being Lot 165, Section 13, Captain’s Cove Subdivision.

PARCEL B: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs WILFORD L. DENNISON
MAP NO. 005A10100052400
All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, being Lot 524, Section 1, Captain’s Cove Subdivision.

PARCEL C: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs WOODROW DIXON
MAP NO. 005A30100162800
All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, being Lot 1628, Section 3, Captain’s Cove Subdivision.

PARCEL D: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs EDWARD GODWIN
MAP NO. 03800A000000900
All that parcel of land in Messongo Neck, Accomack County, Virginia, being 12.00 acres, more or less, bounded North by Harriet A. Stant; East and South by C. S. Witham and Brother and West by public road.

PARCEL E: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs EDWARD GODWIN
MAP NO. 02300A000001600
All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, in Pocomoke Neck, being 3.00 acres, more or less, bounded North by “Jack’s Creek”; South by James E. Anderton; East by Major Stuart and West by J. L. Anderton.

PARCEL F: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs FRANK J. HIGGINS, JR.
MAP NO. 005A90300009600
All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, being Lot 96, Section 16, Captain’s Cove Subdivision.

PARCEL G: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs THOMAS J. HOLDEN
MAP NO. 005A40100201600
All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, being Lot 2016, Section 4, Captain’s Cove Subdivision.

PARCEL H: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs SIDNEY A. HOOKS
MAP NO. 029A10200006200
All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, being Lot 62, Unit 3, Sheet 7, Chincoteague Bay Trails End.

PARCEL I: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs PAULA V. JONES
MAP NO. 029A20100027000
All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, being Lot 270, Unit 2, Sheet 2, Chincoteague Bay Trails End.

PARCEL J: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs ROBERT E. JONES, SR.
MAP NO. 029A10200021500
All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, being Lot 215, Unit 3, Sheet 7, Chincoteague Bay Trails End.

PARCEL K: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs HOWARD D. KOONTZ
MAP NO. 029A20600000700
All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, being Lot 7, Unit 2, Sheet 9, Chincoteague Bay Trails End.

PARCEL L: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs LAWSON J. LOSH II
MAP NO. 029A10200026800
All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, being Lot 268, Unit 3, Sheet 7, Chincoteague Bay Trails End.

PARCEL M: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs ROBERT L. MARTIN
MAP NO. 022B2000013500
All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, being Lot 210, Unit 3, Sheet 6, Chincoteague Bay Trails End.

PARCEL N: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs GENE G. MIDGETTE
MAP NO. 029A10300021000
All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, being Lot 210, Unit 3, Sheet 6, Chincoteague Bay Trails End.

PARCEL O: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs BEVERLY ANN MUNROE
MAP NO. 029A10200007400
All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, being Lot 74, Unit 3, Sheet 7, Chincoteague Bay Trails End.

PARCEL P: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs FRANK J. NIEMCZYK
MAP NO. 029A20100015200
All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, being Lot 152, Unit 2, Sheet 2, Chincoteague Bay Trails End.

PARCEL Q: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs ERNEST RUSSELL
MAP NO. 030A5A000010000
All that parcel of land known as the Elmer Jeffries house located at 66154 East Street, Chincoteague Island, Accomack County, Virginia, having a frontage of 47 ft. on East Street and bounded Northeast by East Street; Southeast by Laura Bell Jester; Southwest by Minnie Hill and Northwest by Aleita Merritt.

PARCEL R: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs LINDA L. SCHNAUFER
MAP NO. 005A002000000
All that parcel of land in Accomack County, Virginia, being Lot 72, Section 10, Captain’s Cove Subdivision.

PARCEL S: ACCOMACK COUNTY vs DONN L. TRACY
MAP NO. 01300A000009900
All that parcel of land at Silva, Atlantic District, Accomack County, Virginia, being 0.50 acre, more or less, bounded North by the County Road leading from Silva to New Church; East by the County Road leading from Silva to Horntown and South and West by Clinton R. and Irene D. Taylor. LESS AND EXCEPT a conveyance recorded in Accomack County Deed Book 287, at page 400.

The terms of sale shall be cash or a deposit of 25% of the bid price with the balance due in ten days. Additional terms will be announced at the sale. Each sale shall be subject to confirmation by the Court.

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Eastern Shore Taxidermy  Travis Pruitt
Specializing in white-tail deer  710-8015
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Dear Editor:

At first I was going to say: “I’m sorry” for what I am about to write. But then I decided I am not sorry. I am not sorry for calling on people to think before they speak, and in some cases, speak not all you think. And above all, if you have something to say, stop the nastiness. Comments like “useless employees” have no positive value. In fact, they are demeaning, derogatory, baseless, mean-spirited and flat-out rude.

We all have the right to express our opinions and our thoughts, as it should always be. However, we also have a responsibility to be rational, reasonable, courteous and knowledgeable.

Before you exercise your right to speak, be sure what you have to say has some basis of fact, or is supported by some sense of rationality. For example: Last year, when the early drafts of the County budget were published, a writer to a local paper claimed the budget was “the most ridiculous budget ever produced.” Yes, it was the writer’s opinion, but the reality of it was the writer never read the budget, or any budget that preceded the one he referred to. The writer knew nothing of the process that, in many ways, dictates what must be in the budget and what cannot be in a budget. The writer knew nothing of the enormous effort county employees put into preparation of that budget. The writer’s opinion was irrational, mean-spirited and of no value whatsoever. In fact, it was harmful to the morale of those who worked hard to put the budget in order.

For those who simply claim: “Get the FAT out of the budget,” I suggest they go one step farther and communicate exactly where they believe the FAT to be, and offer some factual support for their claim. People who have never set foot inside any county office, and have absolutely no knowledge of the day-to-day operations of any department, have little basis for claiming there is FAT in the budget.

In a recent letter to the editor, a gentleman suggested the county “get rid of the useless employees in the Planning Department.” This gentleman, by his own words, has “limited knowledge” of county operations and finance. Yet this gentleman felt justified to publicly demean county employees. Does he know that before the Planning Department was properly staffed, the county was paying its director to type his own letters and make Post Office runs, when he had to log in 60 to 70 hours a week in an attempt not to fall too far behind the demanding workload. Does he know that at that same time, the state was threatening to fine the county hundreds of thousands of dollars for not conducting erosion and sediment inspections in a timely manner? Does he know that the county did not have anyone on staff qualified to conduct those inspections? Would it make sense to eliminate a $50,000 position when that position helps bring in $200,000 of revenue, or avoid severe penalties for not conducting state-required work? Voice your opinion, but a valued opinion is supported by some knowledge and understanding of the situation you write about.

For those who suggest we eliminate the County Attorney’s Office, do you know how much it was costing for legal advice BEFORE we had a county attorney? Do you realize the disadvantage of using an attorney who does not specialize in municipal government? Do you know how many issues must be dealt with on a daily basis that require the concentrated and knowledgeable efforts of a municipal attorney? Best you find out before you hasty call for the abolition of the County Attorney’s Office.

For those who call for the dismantling of the Economic Development Office, have you considered the projected benefits emanating from that office’s efforts? Potentially 600 new jobs; $4 million in new tax revenue.

For those who support “NO INCREASE IN TAXES...ABSOLUTELY NOT,” do you know that Accomack County has one of the lowest tax rates in the entire commonwealth? Do you give thought to the fact that the “cost of doing business” continually increases? How is the County to deal with those rising costs? The private sector will raise prices. Municipalities must, at least, consider raising taxes. The “NO NEW TAXES” supporters would have the county cut current services and staff. Eventually there will be very limited services. But you will have plenty to complain about. You will not get your building permit in the timeframe you would like it. You will not get your inspections scheduled when you want. You will not get your Certificate of Occupancy when you would like it.

You will wait in very long lines to pay your taxes. Road and ditch maintenance will take a great deal longer. And this kind of municipalitv will not attract new businesses, which would provide jobs and help to abate the tax burden.

One writer, in response to a local paper’s inquiry on how to save money, suggested county employees are always on vacation. One has to wonder if that writer takes any vacation. Are they really denying vacation time for county employees? Is that rational? County employees already are foregoing salary increases at the same time their contribution to benefit costs are increasing. And why should 280 county employees bear the entire burden of the budget gap? Why would it not be more equitable for that burden to be spread over the thousands of county taxpayers? We all benefit from the services provided by the county.

How many in the community realize that the financial difficulties are largely the effect of the state’s severe reductions in funding to the local municipalities.

A 2-cent tax increase on a property assessed for $200,000 would result in an additional $38 a year in taxes. There is not one taxpayer in Accomack County who can honestly say he or she cannot afford 73 cents a week; money that would close the $700,000 budget gap and avoid the need to put a number of county employees out of work. And remember, the Sheriff’s Office and School System dilemma is totally the result of the state’s significant reduction in funding.

Write your letters to your state representatives. Continue to offer your opinions and suggestions. Do the best you can to be knowledgeable of the issues you comment on. And certainly know, there is no value to nasty or mean-spirited language.

Dan Hillman, Locustville
Editor’s Note: - Mr. Hillman is staff consultant for Accomack County.

Event Resulted in Dog Adoptions

Dear Editor:

The SPCA would like to thank Ace Hardware in Exmore for hosting a “Meet your Pet” day on Feb. 13. Ace offered hot dogs and hamburgers for sale to the public, with the proceeds going to the SPCA. The management and employees of Ace could not have been more hospitable. The dogs loved the attention of everyone who visited and the kitten, Romeo, entertained with his antics.

Best of all, the event was of significant success, with two of our four available dogs being adopted.

Jack Huh, SPCA
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