

Eastern Shore Post

JANUARY 17, 2025

THE VOICE OF ACCOMACK AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES ON VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE

FREE OF CHARGE

LOCAL SLUGGER NAMED ONE OF NATION'S TOPS



PHOTO COURTESY PIRATE CREATIVE

Emma Jackson, a Chincoteague High School graduate, slides into home for East Carolina University's softball team. She recently was named to Softball America's Preseason Top 100 Players List. See story, page 18.

EXMORE

Town mulls pumping the brakes on yellow arrows

BY STEFANIE BOWMANN
Eastern Shore Post

Exmore Mayor Douglas Greer at the Monday, Jan. 13, town council meeting brought back to light concerns about the safety of traffic signals with flashing yellow arrows.

Police Chief Angelo DiMartino reported that there was only one vehicle crash in Exmore in November, a "car versus deer," but there were seven crashes in December.

"It's been a pain," he said.

Of the seven crashes, four involved traffic signals. Three crashes were caused by red light runners and one crash was at a yellow

(Continued on page 9)

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Tax preparation services provided by Volunteer Income Tax Assistant volunteers.
Funding for free Tax Preparation Services provided by Virginia Action Community Partnership.

Former nurse practitioner pleads guilty to child porn charges

Lucas Allen Fussell, 42, of Onley, pleaded guilty on Wednesday, Dec. 18, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to two counts of distribution of child pornography.

Judge Rudolph Contreras scheduled a sentencing hearing for May 6.

According to court papers, between Dec. 20, 2023, and Feb. 7, 2024, Fussell, using an anonymous account on an end-to-end encrypted messaging application, exchanged videos and images containing child pornography with another individual whose phone was later seized and searched by the FBI pursuant to a search warrant.

In the course of those conversations, Fussell shared details that revealed his identity.

Those details included his home address, a description of his vehicle, and numerous sexualized comments about examining the genitals of patients — some as young as 11 years old — that he saw in the course of his work as a nurse

practitioner.

In June 2024, an undercover agent with the FBI-Metropolitan Police Department Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force used the seized phone to respond to a message from Fussell on the end-to-end encrypted messaging app.

On June 22, 2024, and again on June 30, 2024, Fussell sent the undercover agent numerous images and videos depicting the rape and sexual abuse of pre-pubescent boys.

On July 16, 2024, the FBI executed a search warrant at Fussell's residence in Onley and seized numerous encrypted electronic devices.

Fussell was arrested and has remained in custody ever since.

Fussell faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison and a statutory maximum of 40 years in prison. He also faces mandatory restitution.

The maximum potential sentence in this case is prescribed by Congress and is

provided here for informational purposes only, as any sentence imposed in this case will be determined by the court after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul V. Courtney of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and trial attorney James E. Burke IV of the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section.

The FBI Washington Field Office and Metropolitan Police Department's Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force investigated the case.

The task force is composed of FBI agents, along with other federal agents and detectives from northern Virginia and the District of Columbia.

The task force is charged with investigating and bringing federal charges against individuals engaged in the exploitation of children and those engaged in human trafficking.

Assistance was provided by the FBI Norfolk Field Office, the Accomack County Sheriff's Office, the Onley Police Department, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section's High Technology Investigative Unit, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse, launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice.

Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and Childhood Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

For more information about Project Safe Childhood, visit [justice.gov/psc](https://www.justice.gov/psc)

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Pocomoke Mayor utilized city car for personal travel

BY JANET BERNOSKY

Eastern Shore Post

Pocomoke Mayor Todd J. Nock used a city-owned vehicle to travel on Jan. 3 to the Washington, D.C. installation ceremony of Maryland's newest U.S. senator before driving north of Baltimore to visit family and spend the night.

Nock returned the city vehicle to Pocomoke the next day after attending a Baltimore Ravens NFL football game, but Nock said he did not use the vehicle to get to the game.

The family Nock visited lives in Owings Mills, which is where he left the city vehicle while attending the game.

Owings Mills is roughly 50 miles north of the U.S. Capitol, where the

ceremony for U.S. Sen. Angela Alsobrooks was held, and not on the route back to Pocomoke City.

Nock justified using the taxpayer-owned vehicle to attend the Alsobrooks ceremony almost 150 miles away from Pocomoke, saying he was a representative of the town and that the new senator will be a civic friend.

"Sen. Alsobrooks is expected to become a significant ally to our city, and building a strong working relationship is crucial for the benefit of our community," Nock said in an email afterward.

However, after being questioned by a reporter, Nock said he would foot the bill for the vehicle's fuel and said he was "more than willing" to reimburse the city for tolls incurred on the trip.

He said in an email he "didn't deem it necessary in this instance" to submit a reimbursement request for fuel.

The Eastern Shore Post filed a public records request for the town's policy on use of city-owned vehicles, for the make and model of the vehicle Nock used on the trip, and the mileage incurred.

City Manager John Barkley noted in a Jan. 10 report the purchase of three new vehicles for the city — "one assigned to the mayor and council."

Nock said he personally paid all expenses for the trip, including food and the football game ticket.

Although he said the city would cover fuel costs if he submitted receipts, "covering gas or tolls is not something I view as a burden or give

a second thought to."

Nock added that he loves Pocomoke City and doesn't undertake his duties with reimbursement in mind.

"It's a privilege to serve, even if that means using my personal resources."

The Post also made a records request for the town's policy on the usage of cellular phones while driving city-owned vehicles.

Nock missed attending in person a Jan. 3 city meeting he coordinated so he could go to Alsobrooks' installation ceremony. However, he attended the meeting remotely while driving.

Nock said the city vehicle "is equipped with a hands-free system that allows me to safely operate while participating in meetings or calls."

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COURTESY PHOTO

Tysha Addison-Chambliss, president of the Accomack Northampton Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, and Mallory Reckling, director of development and marketing for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, are pictured at the Behind the Scenes Breakfast at the foodbank's Norfolk location on Thursday, Jan. 9.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured from left are Stephanie Cuffee, volunteer manager for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, Tysha Addison-Chambliss, president of the Accomack Northampton Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Christopher Tan, president and CEO for the foodbank, and Nicole Todd, director of programs for the foodbank.



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Come Find Out Why We're Small But Mighty!

Wells named Northampton County Schools Teacher of the Year



COURTESY PHOTO

Northampton County Public Schools Teacher of the Year Laren Everage Wells is flanked by Superintendent Lisa Martin and Northampton High School Principal Gary Clark.

Laren Everage Wells, a science teacher at Northampton High School, has been named Teacher of the Year for Northampton County Public Schools.

at Chapel Hill.

Wells will now represent NCPS at the regional level.

School-level Teachers of the Year are:

- Wells, at Northampton High;
- Susan Kellam, at Occohannock Elementary School;
- Charity Thomas, at Northampton Middle School;
- Amanda Queck, at Kiptopeke Elementary School.

“This outstanding educator exemplifies excellence in the classroom and beyond, inspiring students and colleagues alike with their dedication, creativity, and passion for teaching,” a release from the school system stated.

“Each of these educators has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to fostering student success and embodying the values of NCPS,” said superintendent Lisa Martin, adding, “These educators represent the very best of Northampton County Public Schools, and their hard work and dedication inspire us all to aim higher every day.”

“I always say that it’s chance that brought me to the Eastern Shore but fate that brought me to Northampton High, and it is here that I’m able to couple two things for which I am very passionate — universal education and environmental stewardship,” said Wells.

Wells, who formerly taught at Broadwater Academy, is a graduate of the University of North Carolina

at Chapel Hill.

Saturday

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PHOTO COURTESY MONICA GOULD

The steeple of Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church in Onancock emerges through a clearing in the trees on Saturday, Jan. 11, after several inches of snow fell overnight.

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- Open house & testing will be at the Eastern Shore Fire Training Center,
28598 Beacon Road, Melfa
- Anticipated Start Date: **April 2025**



For Additional Information and to apply, visit:
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Exmore

(Continued from page 1)

flashing light.

DiMartino raised concerns in August 2024 about the yellow flashing lights that the Virginia Department of Transportation installed at two Exmore intersections.

The lights were installed to improve the safety and efficiency of drivers turning left, but accidents have happened when drivers failed to yield.

"The flashing light, is that something that you have the ability to ... do away with?" Greer asked.

"I don't know," DiMartino said. "We're going to keep an eye on the crash data, and we may have to argue" for removing the flashing yellow lights.

When he recently completed a quarterly report for a Virginia DMV grant, he documented the increase in vehicle crashes — 33 in 2024, up from 22 in 2023, DiMartino said.

"Our crashes are going up. That's not what they want to see," he said of the DMV.

The flashing yellow arrows are "convenient to some people, but what a gamble," DiMartino said.

Town Manager Taylor Dukes noted that of the 10 traffic signals in Northampton County, five are in Exmore, and VDOT plans to have flash-

ing yellow lights at all five of them.

He said town officials want cameras installed on Exmore's traffic signals to catch red light runners, but Virginia Code permits traffic cameras only in towns with populations of at least 10,000.

Dukes asked the town council members to contact Del. Robert Bloxom or State Sen. Bill DeSteph to request legislative assistance in the matter.

Dukes called U.S. Route 13 a "dangerous highway."

"That's most of the crashes ... red light runners," he said. "We need to do something if we can."

DiMartino said that Exmore never received its November check for police fines collected by the Northampton County General District Court, more than \$52,000.

Town staff contacted the court clerk, and a new check was issued within about an hour, he said.

Police fines of more than \$481,000 were collected for Exmore in fiscal year 2024.

DiMartino announced the hiring of new officer Angel Matteo, who will start the police academy this month and is expected to graduate in June.

Matteo is a former U.S. Marine, and he worked for Virginia811, formerly Miss Utility, before he was hired by Exmore.

"He's fitting in well," DiMartino said. "He's going to be a good asset to the town."

Exmore Moose hosting clothing drive

The Exmore Moose Lodge is hosting a clothing drive through the end of January.

They are seeking new hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens in all sizes.

Anyone who donates items for the clothing drive will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate.

Items can be dropped off at the Moose Lodge at 15315 Merry Cat Lane, Belle Haven.

Cheriton UMC hosting cook-off

Cheriton United Methodist Church is hosting a Soup-er Chili Cook-Off on Jan. 25 at 11 a.m.

For \$6 diners can sample up to five chilis or soups. For \$10 diners can try five soups and five chilis.

Diners will also get to vote for their favorite soup or chili. There will also be a baked goods table.

Cheriton United Methodist Church is located at 21309 S. Bay-side Road, Cheriton.



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THE PAPER'S POSITIONS

Accomack should remove building threatening highway

We expect a government to provide for the safety of those it serves. It's one of the foundational tenets of governments of all sizes — ensure public safety.

If a situation is unsafe and threatens residents, it is the role of a government to step in — with law enforcement officers, with emergency fire and medical responders, with social services professionals, with health experts. When the snow comes, our governments scrape and salt the roads because they are unsafe.

So it is confusing that a house in Painter that is crumbling into U.S. Route 13 has not been razed by some level of government.

It is a pertinent question for the Accomack Board of Supervisors: Why hasn't the county stepped in, contracted with a demolition company, and removed this hazard to public safety?

Almost three months ago, a driver who suffered a sudden medical condition ran off the road and hit the house, which stands hard by the highway. The home was immediately condemned and cannot be occupied by the owner.

Later, blocks and building materials from the home collapsed into the highway, damaging passing vehicles. Right now, one entire lane of the highway is blocked to traffic because of the danger.

The owner of the home said she cannot sleep at night for worry that, during this windy winter, the remainder of the building might blow down.

The owner also is awaiting money from the vehicle's insurance to fund the demolition, but last week one company backed out of the project because it was too close to the highway. We shouldn't wait any longer.

Accomack County has undertaken projects like this previously. In the name of public safety, county officials worked hard to improve the road at Linhaven Circle, near Painter, because the road was so bad rescue equipment couldn't use it. The county also has funded a program to raze old and dangerous buildings.

County leaders need to step in, hire a contractor, and remove this building — in the name of public safety.

LETTERS

Cannot get information on property crash

To the editor:

On Jan. 1, we were awakened at 7 a.m. by a loud bang and loss of electricity. A car had crashed into the electric pole in front of our house and kept going into our fence before stopping.

Electrical fires started so emergency vehicles came to the scene. No one was hurt, thankfully, but about 15 feet of our fence was destroyed, pieces of the car (air filter, pieces of metal, and plastic) were strewn across the yard, and the deep rut caused by the car is engraved in the yard.

We were without electricity for about six hours and without Spectrum services for hours.

No one came to my door to give any information about the accident. Since then, we have tried to get information about this so we could get our

Guest columns and letters

The Eastern Shore Post welcomes your letters and guest columns. Letters and columns must include a phone number and a town of residence for verification.

Letters should be no longer

than 250 words. Guest columns should be limited to 500 words.

Letters and guest columns may be edited. It is preferred that letters and guest content in the Eastern Shore Post or about the Eastern Shore.

Send letters to editor@easternshorepost.com.

damages taken care of, but it has been to no avail.

Several phone calls were made to the state police before we got the officer's name and several more phone calls were made to get an incident number.

We were told the Department of Motor Vehicles has the report and we have to call them.

Well no one at DMV feels the need to answer calls so here we are two weeks later, and still we have no information to get our repairs done.

I am just amazed that someone can come onto your property, destroy it, and no one seems to care about it.

The person who drove his car into our fence has not bothered to contact us, either. (Homeowners insurance won't get involved, either.)

I just don't understand how we got to the point where it seems to be OK to not take responsibility for what you've done.

Deborah Barban
Cape Charles

(Continued on page 11)

Eastern Shore Post

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IN MEMORIAM

Troy Justis | Jan. 11, 1964 — July 18, 2024

Eastern Shore Post, 1999-2024

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NANCY DRURY DUNCAN

Calendar

(Continued from page 13)

\$30 for adults and \$25 for children who aren't museum members. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/z2n2vc9a> to reserve a seat.

■ **BINGO:** 1 to 3 p.m., Chincoteague Center, 6155 Community Drive, Chincoteague. There will be 20 games at a cost of \$5 a card. Refreshments are provided on a donation basis.

Tuesday January 28

■ **TECH HELP:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Northampton Free Library, Nassawadox. Get on-demand help with tech issues.

■ **STORYTIME:** 10:30 a.m., Worcester County Library Pocomoke Branch, Pocomoke City. Kids can enjoy stories, songs, and crafts. This week's theme is dinosaurs.

■ **STORYTIME:** 10:30 a.m., Cape Charles Memorial Library, Cape Charles. Kids can hear STEM-related stories and enjoy educational crafts.

■ **TEEN MANGA BOOK CLUB:** 5 p.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library in Parksley. Teens can discuss their favorite manga, play games, and enjoy snacks.

■ **ART CLUB:** 6 p.m., Worcester County Library Pocomoke Branch, 401 5th St., Pocomoke City. Artscape is a place for artists of all levels to gather. Teens are welcome. This month's theme is charcoal and chiaroscuro. RSVP to 410-957-0878.

Wednesday, January 29

■ **BOOK CLUB:** 6 to 8 p.m., The Book Bin, Onley. The Book Bin Book Club will be discussing "The Vaster Wilds" by Lauren Groff.

Thursday, January 30

■ **MOVIE NIGHT:** 6 p.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library in Parksley. The feature for Family Movie Night will be "Inside Out 2." There will be free popcorn.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 6 to 9 p.m., Onancock Taphouse, 8 North St., Onancock. Vince Korney performs live.

Friday, January 31

■ **DECOY SHOW:** noon to 5 p.m., The Oyster Farm at Kings Creek, 700 Marina Village Circle, Cape Charles. Carvers will display their work for the 3rd annual Eastern Shore of Virginia Decoy Show.

■ **OYSTER ROAST:** 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.,

Eastern Shore Community College Workforce Center, Melfa. Enjoy live entertainment by BigForestFire and a menu of roasted oysters, steamed clams, chowder, barbecue, and sides. There will also be a silent auction. Tickets are \$75. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/392wcuw3> for more information.

■ **GAME NIGHT:** 6 to 9 p.m., Davis Center, 23531 Parks St., Parksley. Play card or board games. There will also be Taboo and karaoke.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 6 to 9 p.m., The Blarney Stone Pub, Onancock. Dee Erv performs live.

Saturday, February 1

■ **FARMERS MARKET:** 9 a.m. to noon, Onancock Winter Market, 22 Market St., Onancock. Shop for local produce, baked goods, meat, and more.

■ **DECOY SHOW:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., The Oyster Farm at Kings Creek, 700 Marina Village Circle, Cape Charles. Carvers will display their work for the 3rd annual Eastern Shore of Virginia Decoy Show.

■ **OPEN HOUSE:** 10 a.m. to noon, Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library in Parksley. Toastmasters International, Debedeav-

on Chapter is hosting an open house so that those interested can learn more. There will be a lecture and practical application.

■ **FUNDRAISER:** 6 p.m., Island House Restaurant, 17 Atlantic Ave., Wachapreague. Eastern Shore Ducks Unlimited hosts its annual dinner and auction. The menu includes appetizers and a surf and turf dinner. There will also be a live auction, a silent auction, and raffles. For tickets visit <https://tinyurl.com/ycytvzps>

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 7:30 p.m., the Historic Palace Theater, Cape Charles. The Dave Matthews Tribute Band performs live. Tickets are \$40 in advance. For tickets visit <https://tinyurl.com/bddsmeK2>

Tuesday, February 4

■ **STORYTIME:** 10:30 a.m., Worcester County Library Pocomoke Branch, 401 5th St., Pocomoke City. Kids can enjoy stories, songs, and crafts. This month's theme is "Be my Valentine."

■ **WATERCOLOR CLASS:** 6 to 9 p.m., Island Community House, 6246 Mumford St., Chincoteague. Paint a watercolor of ice cream with Daniel Thomas. The cost is \$42. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/mrychx8x> to register.



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SPORTS

Eastern Shore Post

Jackson, Chincoteague alum, a star at the plate

BY MARK MORING

Eastern Shore Post

Two years ago, Emma Jackson thought about quitting softball for good. Today, she's one of the top college players in the nation.

Last week, Jackson, a former Chincoteague star and now a junior outfielder at East Carolina, was named to Softball America's Preseason Top 100 Players List.

Upon hearing the news, Jackson says her reaction was "very surreal. If you had asked me two or three years ago, I would have never dreamed I would be here."

It's been an up-and-down journey for Jackson, who graduated from Chincoteague in 2022 after being named first team all-state. She posted impressive numbers as a senior — a .700 batting average, 13 home runs, 37 RBI, 41 runs scored, and 10 stolen bases.

Jackson rode those numbers to Virginia Tech, a top-25 team that put her to work right away as a freshman. She appeared in 27 games with 14 starts, coming up with some big hits, including four home runs, against tough competition. She also was named to the All-ACC Academic Team.

But all was not well in Hokie World, where Jackson says she didn't perform "the way I would have liked." She lost her love for the game for reasons she would rather not get into, noting only "circumstances beyond my control."

By the end of her freshman year, "I wasn't sure if I wanted to play again."

But after meeting with coaches at East Carolina University, something clicked. "I didn't know much about ECU," she says, "but I knew they would give me another chance to learn how to love softball again."



PHOTO COURTESY PIRATE CREATIVE

Chincoteague graduate Emma Jackson, a junior at ECU majoring in health and fitness, was named to Softball America's Preseason Top 100 Players List.

So she transferred to the Greenville, N.C., school before her sophomore year, and that decision paid off in a big way — for Jackson, and for the Pirates. She hit .397 with a team-best 75 hits, 50 RBI, 13 home runs, and 24 doubles, second most in the nation on that last stat. She led ECU to 38 wins, the program's

most in 13 years, and was second team all-American Athletic Conference. The health and fitness major was also named to the AAC all-academic team.

That is quite a turnaround for someone who had considered hanging up her cleats.

Jackson says that in her first

year at ECU, "all I wanted to do was prove everyone wrong." Whatever doubters she might have had at Virginia Tech have been left far behind. Her ECU coaches have full confidence in her, particularly at the plate.

"My greatest strength is my approach to hitting," says Jackson. "Softball is a mental game at this level. If you think you're going to strike out, you're most likely going to.

"When I'm getting ready to hit, I have full confidence that my abilities are always better than the pitcher's. As I step into the batter's box, I tell myself the entire time that she can't beat me."

Despite going 38-19 last year, the Pirates did not qualify for the NCAA Tournament. They finished in the middle of the pack in the AAC with a 13-14 league record and lost to North Texas 9-1 in the second round of the conference tournament.

Jackson says the Pirates didn't make the NCAA field because of "a lack of tougher competition. The only way we could have gotten a bid was if we won the conference or the conference tournament."

She thinks things will be different this season. ECU has a stronger non-conference schedule, including No. 8 Duke (twice), No. 23 Michigan, and No. 24 Virginia.

"I think people might be underestimating us this year," Jackson says. "I know what we're capable of, and we're set for a lot of success."

Her goals are to win the regular season AAC title and the conference tournament while maintaining at least a .400 batting average and striking out fewer than 10 times. She also hopes to be named an All-American.

Eastern Shore Ice Bowl set for Feb. 22

The 15th annual Eastern Shore Ice Bowl, co-sponsored by Northampton County Parks and Recreation and the Eastern Shore of Virginia Disc Golf Club, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 22, at Indiantown Park in Eastville.

The Eastern Shore Ice Bowl, a one-day disc golf tournament open to the public, raises money for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore.

The registration fee is \$20. Food donations will also be accepted. Registration and tournament start times will be announced at a later

date.

Each participant will receive a complimentary mini marker, and there will be prizes for division winners.

For more information about the Eastern Shore Ice Bowl and other Ice Bowl events, visit <https://icebowl.org/>

Youth basketball sign-ups open in Accomack

Accomack County Parks and Recreation will be accepting youth basketball registrations at the Sawmill Park office until Wednesday, Feb. 5. There will be an onsite registration day at Arcadia High School on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Games are scheduled to start on Saturday, Feb. 15, and will be played on Saturdays at Arcadia High School.

Contact the Accomack County Parks and Recreation Department at 757-787-3900 for more information.

Shore Little League spring registration live

Registration for Shore Little League is now live. From Jan. 17 to Feb. 16, single players may register for \$65 and families may register for \$100 at <https://tinyurl.com/3kdfvttn>

Skills assessments for baseball will take place on Saturday, Feb. 15, beginning at 9 a.m. for 6-

and 7-year-olds, 10 a.m. for 8- to 10-year-olds, and 11:30 a.m. for 11- and 12-year olds.

Skills assessments for softball will be held on Sunday, Feb. 16, beginning at 3 p.m. for 8- to 10-year-olds and 4 p.m. for 11- and 12-year-olds.

Volunteers are needed, including coaches and various other positions. If interested, fill out the form at <https://tinyurl.com/34ed7tde>

There will be an All Coaches Meeting/Draft on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m.

Opening Day at Randy Custis Memorial Park, 7162 Rescue Lane, Nassawadox, will be Saturday, March 29.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Montross leads Firebirds

On Tuesday, Jan. 14, Megan "Boo" Montross scored a career-high 26 points to lead Arcadia to a 43-23 win over visiting Isle of Wight Academy.

Payton Taylor (seven points, seven assists, six rebounds, eight steals) and Amani Hope (six points, six assists) helped the Firebirds improve their record to 5-4. The team had 15 assists on 18 field goals while also garnering 35 rebounds and 17 steals.

Arcadia coach Casey Cordrey said it was his team's "best overall game" of the year. "The team played with energy for the whole 32 minutes, and I can't wait to see the growth as the season continues."

Warriors fall in OT

On Tuesday, Jan. 14, Nandua dropped a 50-49 overtime heartbreaker at Southampton. Keira Wheatley

led the Warriors (3-6) with 17 points and seven blocked shots, while Corrin Burrell added 14 points.

Nandua coach Shaquontae Kellam said her team "played their best game of basketball and fought hard right up until the end." The Warriors led 45-43 near the end of the fourth quarter, but a turnover led to a Southampton basket to force overtime.

Vikings drop a close one

On Tuesday, Jan. 14, Broadwater fell, 53-52, to visiting Hampton Christian. Kacey Ford led the Vikings (2-3) with 19 points, while Miranda Smith added 12 points and Leah Smith had nine points, nine rebounds, and three assists.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Northampton blitzes Ponies

In losing six of its first seven games, Northampton didn't look the

part of a defending district champion. But after a two-week layoff, the Yellow Jackets turned things around in a big way on Tuesday, Jan. 14, rolling to a 100-29 Eastern Shore District victory over visiting Chincoteague.

"We finally played as a team, playing very unselfish basketball for the first time this season," said coach Wayne Bell, noting the team's combined 28 assists. "I was happy with their intensity on both ends of the floor tonight for our first district action."

Northampton (2-6, 1-0) had six players score in double figures — Amir Bailey (18 points), Jaylen Anderson (17 points, nine assists), Antoine Horsley (14 points, 10 rebounds), Timothy McCaskill (14 points, 10 rebounds), Jasheem Collins (12 points, eight assists), and Malique Collins (11 points).

Chincoteague (2-3, 0-1) was led

by Byron Hurst (six points, three rebounds, two assists) and Camaury Davis (five points, four assists, two rebounds).

Ponies coach Tim Johnson said Northampton played "a great game. They're a very young and talented team that's going to be a force in the district for years to come."

"We're a better team than we showed, and we look forward to the opportunity to prove it."

Southampton tops Nandua

On Tuesday, Jan. 14, Southampton beat the visiting Warriors, 66-55. No stats were reported for Nandua, which fell to 4-4.

Broadwater falls to 2-2

On Tuesday, Jan. 14, Asher Joyce scored 23 points to lead Hampton Christian to a 91-32 win at Broadwater. Noah Pruitt paced the Vikings (2-2) with 13 points.

Send your high school sports results to the Eastern Shore Post — scan the QR code to get started

To all high school coaches and athletic directors on the Eastern Shore: We rely on you for your scores and results — and to get your players' names in the paper. Our coverage of your teams can only be as good as you make it.

Please report your results as soon as possible after your games end — by 10 a.m. the next day, or by midnight for games played on Tuesdays.

Use the QR code at right or the link below to report scores and stats: <https://form.jotform.com/EasternShorePost/SportsReport>

Also, we like to write human-interest stories about student-athletes. If you have any questions or story ideas, please contact sportswriter Mark Moring, at mark@easternshorepost.com. Thank you for your help and cooperation, and good luck to you and your teams!



BUSINESS

Eastern Shore Post



EASTERN SHORE POST/TED SHOCKLEY

Maggie Holley poses with a sign for her new real estate agency. She will hold an open house on Saturday, Jan. 18.

Holley opens new real estate agency

BY TED SHOCKLEY
Eastern Shore Post

Maggie Holley, a longtime real estate agent and broker, has opened her own realty firm, Rose 1 Real Estate LLC.

Holley, a native and resident of Northampton County, will hold an open house at her firm on Saturday, Jan. 18, from noon to 3 p.m. It is

located at 35615 Belle Haven Road, Belle Haven. The event will feature a 12:15 p.m. ribbon cutting.

Holley has had a 47-year career as a nurse and holds a bachelor of science of nursing from Old Dominion University.

In 2008, at the suggestion of a friend, she became a licensed real estate agent and later became a broker. She has been working in real estate

on the Eastern Shore through several Hampton Roads-area firms.

Holley said she is “excited” to help people buy homes and list homes for sale.

An emphasis of her firm is helping and educating others.

“There is generational wealth in owning your own property,” she said.

Holley can be reached at 757-619-2650.

Bird flu is found in area flock

A presumptive positive case of HPAI avian influenza has been found on an Eastern Shore commercial poultry farm, Virginia Cooperative Extension reported on Thursday, Jan. 16.

Bird flu is a highly contagious airborne respiratory virus that spreads quickly among birds through nasal and eye secretions and manure.

The virus can be spread from flock to flock, including flocks of wild birds, through contact with infected poultry, equipment, and the clothing and shoes of caretakers.

This virus affects poultry, like chickens, ducks, and turkeys, and some wild bird species, such as ducks, geese, shorebirds, and raptors.

Wild waterfowl and their waste can carry diseases like bird flu. Keep flocks from ponds and away from wild waterfowl.

Biosecurity tips relayed by cooperative extension include:

All handlers must have farm-only footwear and clothing, and footbaths to enter poultry housing are recommended.

Commercial poultry producers should follow the protocol of notifying the company they grow for when they notice signs of disease.

Virginia backyard flock owners who notice any of the signs of HPAI in their flock should call the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at 540-209-9120.

Accomack School Board settles group's FOIA lawsuit

BY TED SHOCKLEY
Eastern Shore Post

The Accomack County School Board has settled a lawsuit brought by a group defending former Superintendent Rhonda Hall that alleged violations of state open-meetings law.

Hall, a 36-year employee of Accomack County Public Schools, was fired effective Friday, Oct. 25, after 16 months as superintendent.

In a prepared statement, School Board Chair Janet Martin-Turner said the school board “successfully resolved” the lawsuit.

“As part of the settlement, the school board acknowledged that it had unintentionally violated at least one procedural requirement” under the state Freedom of Information Act, she said.

The school board also “reaffirmed its commitment to complying with the requirements of the act as it relates to school board meetings,” Martin said.

She said in the statement that the school board “agreed to settle the lawsuit in order to avoid the potentially significant legal expense of participating in a trial — an expense that would have diverted additional funds from the students and school staff of Accomack County.”

She said the school board will pay the attorney’s fees of the plaintiffs. She declined to say how much the fees were.

Plaintiffs alleged notice of the meeting at which Hall was terminated violated open-meeting laws because it wasn’t posted in all required locations and “notice to the public consisting of less than three days was unreasonable under the circumstances.”

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NORTHAMPTON COUNTY INDICTMENTS

■ David Samuel Bailey, 40, of Chesapeake, was indicted Jan. 13 on a felony charge of possession of a Schedule I or II drug, methamphetamine, on July 13, 2024.

He was arrested by Cape Charles police on July 13, 2024, and released the following day on \$1,000 secured bail.

Bailey also faces misdemeanor charges of petit larceny and trespassing.

■ Alexander Cleaveland, 66, address unknown, was indicted Jan. 13 on a felony charge of possession of a Schedule I or II drug, cocaine, on Aug. 20, 2024.

He was arrested by a Northampton County sheriff's officer on Aug. 20, 2024, and held without bail.

According to a police report, the officer was responding to a call for service to remove the subject from the property at the time of the arrest.

Cleaveland was released Sept. 26, 2024, on \$2,000 unsecured bond.

■ Daniel Fonseca III, 47, of Lankford Highway, Northampton County, was indicted Jan. 13 on a felony charge of possession of a Schedule I or II drug, cocaine, on Nov. 16, 2024.

He was arrested by a Northampton County sheriff's officer on Nov. 17, 2024, and held without bail.

According to the officer's report, Fonseca had called police twice to report that someone was "trying to cut his pipes off of his F-150 pickup truck." No one was home when police responded to the first call. The second call led to Fonseca's arrest.

He was released on Nov. 19, 2024, on \$2,000 secured bond.

■ Wilbert Junior Freeman Jr., 67, of Cheriton Cross Road, Cheriton, was indicted Jan. 13 on two felony charges: maliciously causing bodily injury by acid, lye, another caustic substance, explosives, or fire; and aggravated malicious wounding by shooting, stabbing, or cutting, both on Aug. 3, 2024.

He also faces a misdemeanor charge of assault and battery.

Freeman was arrested on the misdemeanor charge on Aug. 3, 2024, and held without bail.

He was released Aug. 8, 2024, on \$2,500 unsecured bond.

Freeman was arrested on the felony charges by a Northampton County sheriff's officer on Oct. 26, 2024, and held without bail.

■ Massai Lamir Giddens, 15, of Norfolk, was indicted Jan. 13 on nine felony charges: malicious wounding, malicious shooting at an occupied vehicle, malicious shooting at an occupied building, reckless handling of a firearm, intentionally destroying, defacing, or damaging property worth \$1,000 or more, shooting a firearm in a road, shooting from a motor vehicle, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, and unlawfully and feloniously shooting, stabbing, cutting, or wounding another person, all between June 14 and June 15, 2024.

A grand jury also certified a misdemeanor charge of assault and battery as part of a mob.

Giddens was placed in the Norfolk

Detention Facility on Jan. 10.

■ Lairity James Hose, 44, address unknown, was indicted Jan. 13 on a felony charge of credit card fraud occurring between Aug. 2 and Aug. 20, 2024.

A warrant for his arrest was issued on Jan. 13.

■ Jamiya Stanley Martin, 31, of Virginia Beach, was indicted Jan. 13 on a felony charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle worth \$1,000 or more on July 21, 2024.

She was arrested by Virginia Beach police on Aug. 23, 2024.

According to a police report, Martin rented a moving truck from a Northampton County facility and kept the vehicle for more than 30 days, and the credit card on file repeatedly declined the charges.

She was released Aug. 24, 2024, on \$1,000 secured bail.

■ Tra'veon Lemar Satchell, 25, of Treherneville Drive, Birdsnest, was indicted Jan. 13 on two felony charges, two counts of eluding police and endangerment on Oct. 18, 2024.

He was arrested by Virginia State Police on Nov. 16, 2024, and held without bail.

Satchell also faces misdemeanor charges of displaying an altered or fictitious registration, title, or license plates; reckless driving by speeds of 20 mph or more over the limit; reckless driving by endangerment; and driving with a revoked or suspended license.

He was released Nov. 26, 2024, on \$2,000 bail.

■ James Waylon Widgeon, 33, of Cabarrus Drive, Franktown, was indicted Jan. 13 on nine felony charges: breaking and entering at night to commit larceny and stealing \$1,000 or more, both between Aug. 8 and Aug. 29, 2024; armed breaking and entering at night to commit a felony, stealing a firearm and other property worth \$1,000 or more, possession or transportation of a firearm by a convicted violent felon, and wearing a mask to conceal his identity, all between Sept. 23 and Sept. 24, 2024; and two counts of breaking and entering at night to commit larceny and wearing a mask to conceal his identity, all on Sept. 26.

A grand jury also certified a misdemeanor charge of stealing less than \$1,000 on Sept. 26.

Widgeon was arrested by a Northampton County sheriff's officer on Oct. 11, 2024, and held without bail.

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