

# New all-time scoring leader

Arcadia's Jordan Cropper (at far right) eclipses record held by Baron Broadwater (in cap) for more than three decades | page 22



# Eastern Shore Post

JANUARY 16, 2026

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

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## THE ECONOMY

# Bridge-tunnel traffic declines for second year

Tolls down in '25 almost \$900K

BY JIMMY SHOCKLEY  
Eastern Shore Post

The number of vehicles using the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel declined in 2025 for the second consecutive year.

Bridge toll revenues also declined in 2025 from the previous year, figures provided by bridge-tunnel officials show.

Declines are being attributed to a number of factors, including a reduction in commercial traffic "following the implementation of tariffs" earlier last year, said Tom Anderson, the bridge-tunnel's deputy executive director.

Anderson said bridge-tunnel car and light

(Continued on page 33)



THE NORTH TOLL PLAZA AT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE-TUNNEL | EASTERN SHORE POST/JIMMY SHOCKLEY

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Two indicted for murder in death of Eastville child

Two Eastville residents were indicted on Monday, Jan. 12, by a Northampton County grand jury on charges of second-degree murder in the death of their four-month-old son.

Ivan Ross III, 46, and Ashley Marie Moore, 34, who lived together at Fox Court, a mobile home park beside Northampton High School, each also have been indicted on three counts of child abuse.

Ross and Moore have been released on bond. The deceased child's two siblings are living with relatives.

"Prosecutors say they will show that each had a duty and was culpable for the abhorrent, unhealthy living conditions to which the children were subjected ... and that each defendant was present and responsible for their children's care on the day the infant died," WAVY-TV reported.

### Three Broadwater students charged in threat vs. staffer

Three Broadwater Academy students have been criminally charged with threatening "to kill or do bodily injury" to an employee at the Exmore independent school, the Northampton Sheriff's Office said in a prepared release.

The students are of juvenile age and their names were not released. The threat happened on school property on Monday, Jan. 12, Sheriff David Doughty said.

The Broadwater staff member tar-

geted in the threat was not identified. The students facing charges have been removed from school, Doughty said.

"The safety processes of the school were followed and executed as designed," said Broadwater Head of School Fran Ryan, who is "in Asia on a long-scheduled student recruiting trip," a press release from the school stated.

Ryan said deputies were at the school investigating the incident. Doughty said the investigation is continuing.

People with information can call the sheriff's office at 757-678-0458.

### Cape Charles woman gets jail after DWI conviction

A Cape Charles woman who overturned her sport utility vehicle in the town's main business district on a Sunday afternoon last September was sentenced to five days in jail after being convicted in Northampton General District Court of first-offense driving while intoxicated.

Tammy B. Mahames, 62, crashed the GMC sport utility vehicle at the intersection of Mason Avenue and Peach Street on Sept. 28, 2025.

Police said the vehicle, which had the vanity license plate "LOVE CC," struck a parked car before it overturned.

Mahames was fined \$500, charged \$246 in court costs, had her driver's license suspended for one year, and must complete the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program. She also was sentenced to 35 days in jail with 30 days suspended.

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COMMUNITY

# Shore events to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Accomack, Northampton, Pocomoke fetes are slated

A number of events celebrating the life of civil rights leader the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be held on Monday, Jan. 19, the federal holiday that honors him.

The day is a national day of service that encourages Americans to give back to their communities.

■ On Jan. 19, at 10 a.m., the Accomack County NAACP is hosting a King Day memorial service at Macedonia AME Church in Accomac.

The guest preacher will be Pastor James Rich, of Greater Works Worship Center in Accomac. The program also will include musical selections, spoken word performances, and presentations from local students.

The service will be followed by a march to the county courthouse, where several speakers will address the crowd.

Participants are encouraged to create uplifting signs, dress warmly, and bring a chair for the outdoor portion of the event.

Rich is one of many Shore residents featured in "Before the Lighthouse," a movie about the Eastern Shore. There will be a free showing at 1 p.m. at the Roseland Theater with a panel discussion to follow.

■ On Jan. 19, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., The Impact Center at the Historic Cape Charles Elementary School, Cape Charles, will be hosting a grand opening.

There will be a ribbon cutting, followed by a program and an open house.

The center is located in the town's former Washington-Rosenwald school.

A \$3.5 million initiative to restore the structure recently has been completed.

The school was built in 1928 and opened in 1929 as part of an initiative

to educate African-American children during legalized segregation.

The school closed in 1966 and the building became a seafood processing plant, which closed in 1977.

■ On Jan. 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Northampton County NAACP, Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore, and a number of partners will be making and delivering soup for seniors as part of the Northampton County Soup for our Unified People Event.

Volunteers will gather at the Do Drop Inn in Weirwood beginning at 9 a.m.

The event is an offshoot of the Northampton County Community Unity Day, which was held annually at Northampton High School on the King Day holiday until the COVID-19 pandemic.

■ On Jan. 19, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Sturgis One Room School Museum, 209 Willow St., Pocomoke City, will be open for King Day.

The museum will offer free tours, to include a poster exhibit educating visitors on King's history as well as the museum.

Local pastors will provide community prayer at 11:10 a.m. and 3 p.m. sharp.

Miriam "Peaches" Cane, past museum board member and volunteer, will provide tours, and Mayor Todd Nock will stop by for a visit.

The museum is the only African American one-room school in Worcester County retaining its original integrity.

■ On Saturday, Jan. 17, at 6 p.m., Friends of the Do Drop Inn will host Community Unity — Building Bridges Together.

The event will launch the King Day holiday weekend with music, remembrance, and celebration.

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# Northampton grad elected mayor of South Fulton, Georgia

BY JIMMY SHOCKLEY  
Eastern Shore Post

A Northampton High School graduate recently was elected to be the first woman mayor of South Fulton, Ga., a city with a population two and a half times as big as the Eastern Shore's.

The election of Carmalitha Gumbs surprised many — including Gumbs herself.

"This was not on my bingo card," Gumbs said in a telephone interview.

Born in New York, Gumbs grew up in Birdsnest with her mother, the late Nancy Gumbs, who passed away in November 2024.

Gumbs attended school in Northampton County and graduated from Northampton High in 1993.

Gumbs then attended college at



**Carmalitha Gumbs**

Hampton University, later transferring to Norfolk State University, where she graduated in 2000 with a degree in social work.

Gumbs was surprised at her ascension to mayor because she never considered a role in politics when she was young.

While she has always worked around people, it has mainly been in the field of health care marketing, in which she worked for 25 years in Richmond and Atlanta.

Gumbs' background in community outreach and marketing helped her candidacy — she said she has always worked to engage with people.

Local government had never entered her mind until recently, especially not on a scale this large.

South Fulton, a city in the metropolitan area of Atlanta, became incorporated as a city in 2017.

The population of South Fulton is about 115,000 people, according to its website.

It is very different from the area where she was raised. Gumbs remembers growing up on the Eastern Shore fondly and recalls one of her main influences along the way.

Gumbs mentioned former Northampton High School business teacher Dianne Davis as one of her favorites.

Davis is also well-known in Cape Charles and has been involved in the Cape Charles Rosenwald School Restoration Initiative.

Gumbs won the election in December and took her oath of office earlier this month.

In all, nine people entered the race for mayor. Gumbs won in a runoff, becoming the city's first woman mayor.

She previously served eight years on the South Fulton city council. Before serving on the council, she served as a chief of staff for a county commissioner in a nearby county.

Gumbs said she would like to visit the Eastern Shore more often.

Her last visit was when her mother died a little more than a year ago.

Even though she hasn't lived on the Eastern Shore in a while, people who know Gumbs or her family will be cheering her on from a few states away.

"It's still a new city — it's cool to have this opportunity," she said.

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# January has been a deadly month for Eastern Shore servicemen

**BY TED SHOCKLEY**  
Eastern Shore Post

January has been a deadly month for Eastern Shore of Virginia military servicemen. Some of those who died in service to our country during the month of January are remembered here.

■ U.S. Army Pfc. Homer Guy Mears, 23, of Parksley, was killed in action in Korea on Jan. 1, 1952, during the Korean War.



**Homer Guy Mears**

Mears was inducted into the Army Sept. 30, 1950, and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. Mears and his infantry regiment were "cited for outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism in action against the armed enemy," according to an article in the Jan. 10, 1952, edition of the Peninsula Enterprise newspaper.

Mears was a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Parksley and attended Parksley High School.

Mears' remains are interred in Liberty Cemetery, Parksley.

His mother, Althea Guy Mears,

who died in 1985, and his father, Milton Jones Mears, who died in 1979, also have grave sites in Liberty Cemetery.

■ U.S. Army Cpl. Raymond Jones, 19, of Chincoteague Island, was killed in action in France on Jan. 16, 1945, during World War II.



**Raymond Jones**

He was survived by his parents, Maurice Jones, who died in 1968, and Agnes Jones, who died in 1983.

His brother, Leroy A. Jones, was 101 years old when he died in 2020. Leroy Jones was the last surviving resident of Assateague Village. He also was survived by two sisters.

■ U.S. Marine Corps Pfc. Michael Lewis Dorn, 20, of Withams, was killed in action in Vietnam on Jan. 19, 1969.

An Eastern Shore News account of his death reported Dorn died as the result of shrapnel wounds to the head while "in hostile action with the enemy" in Da Nang, Vietnam.

Dorn was born in Philadelphia but moved to Accomack County when he

was less than a year old.

"He was my baby boy," said his mother, Emma Douglas of Withams, in a 2014 interview with the Eastern Shore News.

"You lose people, but when you lose a child, it takes something out of you," she said.

When servicemen came to her door to tell her of her son's death, she walked away from the door, she said in the interview.

**Michael Lewis Dorn**

"I just left them," she said. "I didn't want to hear it. When I saw them, I knew something wasn't right."

After attending Mary N. Smith and Atlantic high schools in Accomack County, Dorn studied welding for a year at a Job Corps center in Breckenridge, Ky. He joined the Marine Corps in February 1968.

Dorn's body was interred in John Wesley Cemetery in Marion Station, Md.

■ U.S. Army SSgt. Kenneth S. Melson, 24, of Accomac, who had volunteered for the Army Air Service, died on Jan. 20, 1944, in Miami, Fla., during World War II, while waiting his military reassignment.

Melson was staying at the Patriarchian Hotel in Miami during military processing when he was "accidentally gassed" in his hotel room, according to the Peninsula Enterprise newspaper.



**Kenneth S. Melson**

"The body was found about noon Thursday after a fellow soldier detected the odor of gas escaping from Sgt. Melson's bedroom," the newspaper reported.

Melson was a 1937 graduate of Accomac High School and worked with his father in the seafood business before enlisting.

"Kenneth was a very popular young man; was a great lover of young people and delighted in doing little favors for his friends," the Peninsula Enterprise reported.

"His death cast a gloom over the entire community."

Melson's remains are interred in Edgehill Cemetery, Accomac, as are his parents, Elizabeth Stevens Melson, who died in 1962, and Levin Thorogood Melson, who died in 1954.

■ *The writer is editor of the Eastern Shore Post. Reach him at editor@easternshorepost.com.*



## MILTONS HONORED

American Legion Post 56 in Cape Charles Honored Marvin and Pat Milton at the auxiliary monthly meeting by naming the Post's kitchen after them. Together, they have prepared countless Friday night dinners and are active in every aspect of Post 56 activities. Marvin Milton is a charter member of Sons of the American Legion Squadron 56 and Pat Milton is a longtime member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 56. Pictured from left are Post 56 Commander Nancy Wilderson, Marvin Milton, Pat Milton, Mike Enright, and Mirchelle Enright.

COURTESY PHOTO

# Trying to explain the power and truth in an Eastern Shore inkling

Some special people I know get Eastern Shore inklings. Their inklings almost always are borne out. I envy their remarkable talent for positioning themselves for success



Ted Shockley

and predicting outcomes.

Eastern Shore inklings are hard to explain. But they exist, I am certain.

Inklings are kind of like gut feelings, but not really.

You don't feel an inkling in your gut. Inklings involve

a strange combination of your head and your heart, your experiences, and your social portfolio.

Gut feelings will lie to you, sometimes. Gut feelings are a slave to the comfortable and will make you overly cautious. But inklings seem to be based on an analysis of possibility.

Inklings are kind of like hunches, but have more certainty than a hunch.

You wouldn't bet money on a hunch. But you might bet a little bit of money on an Eastern Shore inkling, if you are the betting type.

Inklings are not opinions. Opinions are like germs — they travel fast and far and are contagious. Like germs, the opinions of others are usually bad

for us. They infect our thinking and actions.

People always are guarded and cautious when around someone who is sick, and they wear masks. People should also be guarded and cautious around people brimming with opinions, but are not, for some reason.

Inklings are rarely spoken. People like to talk about their gut feelings and hunches. They freely give their unwanted opinions and complaints. But inklings seem to be part of our inner dialogue.

Your boss might be naive and uninformed. You might have an inkling that his strange ideas will not work well on the Eastern Shore.

People with opinions tell others the boss is an idiot. People with Eastern Shore inklings predict the specific problems the crazy ideas from the boss will cause, work to mitigate them, and try to nudge the boss in the right direction.

Maybe someone has a fantastic idea for a brand-new business. People with gut feelings and hunches may say it is a great idea. People with opinions might say it is a bad idea.

People with Eastern Shore inklings, however, might intuitively understand the challenges facing the new business, because they have seen things. They spend money at the new business because shopping local is important. But they aren't surprised if the new business fades away. They had an inkling something like this

might happen.

Inklings do not make these people know-it-alls. People who are know-it-alls have a need to be correct and tell everyone when they are.

People with inklings are quieter — the reasoning behind an inkling is notoriously hard to put into words. Further, most people with inklings have no need to be publicly correct. People with inklings do not seek the empty calories of social media validation.

Every day, inklings large and small are what hold the Eastern Shore together, I would argue. Thank God for them. To keep a special place like ours special, we need to rely on these inklings.

Inklings aren't formed from studies, spreadsheets, or computer programs. I know this upsets the techies and the eggheads. But it is the truth.

Artificial intelligence, appealing to some, will not make much of a difference on the Eastern Shore, because AI does not take inklings into account.

Inklings are formed from observation and conversation and experience. Eastern Shore inklings derive, in part, from your Eastern Shore social portfolio. Let me explain.

An Eastern Shore social portfolio worthy of distinction includes time spent sitting near the old heads, women and men both, and listening as they talked about what they have seen.

It includes interacting with people who never got a break but never asked for help. It includes people who have spent some time doing difficult work, like working behind a cash register, on the water, or on the farm.

And it includes people who haven't been smashing successes or industry leaders. Great advice frequently comes from people who have messed up, made a mistake, or failed, but have learned from it and persevered.

Developing inklings includes time observing — what was successful and what was crazy, what made good sense and what did not.

Further, some things that make sense everywhere else do not make sense on the Eastern Shore. And what works on the Eastern Shore sometimes does not work everywhere else. Inklings are based on this.

As I have aged, I've learned to trust those with inklings more than those with gut feelings or opinions. I've also tried to develop my own inner inklings.

People rightly bemoan what the Eastern Shore has lost over the years — businesses, people, ways of life.

So it is increasingly important to ensure our Eastern Shore leaders have good inklings about stuff.

And it is critical to develop in our young people the ability to form their own Eastern Shore inklings.

■ *The writer is editor of the Eastern Shore Post. Reach him at editor@easternshorepost.com*

## James Madison announces Eastern Shore honors

James Madison University announces that the following students made the President's List for the fall 2025 semester:

■ Taylor Thornes, of Onancock, who is majoring in communication sciences and disorders

■ Grace Farlow, of Exmore, who is majoring in elementary education

■ James Coulthard, of Onancock, who is majoring in engineering

■ Ally Pearce, of Atlantic, who is majoring in global religions and cultures

■ Abigail Hildebrand, of Melfa, who is majoring in health services administration

■ Allison Tittermary, of Jamesville, who is majoring in hospitality management

■ Janalee Beach, of New Church, who is majoring in kinesiology

■ Guadalupe Solorzano, of Melfa, who is majoring in nursing.

## Crisfield Area Chamber sets open house dates

The Crisfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center will have an open house from Jan. 26 to Jan. 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day.

Businesses are invited to bring their flyers, menus, and rack cards, update current information, and share new information.

Visitors are invited to find information about businesses and organizations and the events coming up this year.

There will be free treats for attendees.

The chamber of commerce and visitor center is located at 906 West Main St., Crisfield.

# An Open Letter to Residents of the Town of Onancock

My appreciation to the 106 residents who responded to the 580 surveys which I mailed to all Town residents this past November, 2025. Below are the results of that survey.

*Sincerely,*  
**Rosemary Paparo**

1. How often do you or members of your household visit the Historic Onancock School each year? (Select one)

<input type="checkbox"/> 0	22
<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3	30
<input type="checkbox"/> 4-6	16
<input type="checkbox"/> 7-12	16
<input type="checkbox"/> More than 12	22

2. What brings you to the school building? (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Workspace	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Visit artists/artisans, attend art shows, or purchase art/crafts	69
<input type="checkbox"/> Visit the Watermen's Museum	28
<input type="checkbox"/> Visit a commercial tenant (gym, massage therapist, seamstress, etc.)	37
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend a home-school meeting	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend a class	14
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend a club meeting (please list club(s):	7
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend Historic Onancock School fundraisers	36
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend private functions	23
OTHER	10

3. Do you feel the school currently serves the entire Onancock community?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	56
<input type="checkbox"/> No	39
NA/Not sure/Don't know	11

4. What activities would encourage you to visit more often? (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Reading or activity time for pre-school children (weekday mornings)	20
<input type="checkbox"/> After-school homework help (math, reading, etc.)	19
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday programs for children (sports, arts, chess, etc.)	25
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekday summer programs for children (sports, arts, etc.)	28
<input type="checkbox"/> Help with college or financial-aid (FAFSA) applications	11
<input type="checkbox"/> Lectures for children/adults (watermen, farmers, naturalists, historians, finances, aging in place, etc.)	56
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular game times (mah jong, chess, cards, board games)	38
<input type="checkbox"/> Beginner art classes (painting, pottery, carving, etc.)	53
<input type="checkbox"/> Beginner yoga or meditation classes	44
BLANK	24

5. Are there other activities, programs, or events you would like to see offered at the school? *PLEASE SEE COMMENTS BELOW; the numbers after each comment represent how many residents mentioned each issue.*

Outdoor activities: although my questions were limited to the school building, a number of residents stated their wishes for the outdoor property.

#### Performance Pavilion:

Outdoor concerts, including gospel music: 19  
Dance concerts: 3  
Theater: 4  
Movies: 1  
Local talent performances: 1  
Church activities: 1  
Art in the park: 1  
Pickleball court: 3  
Tennis court: 1  
Basketball court: 1  
Skating rink: 1  
Nature trail: 3  
Bird blind: 1  
Preserve our waterways: 1

#### Individual Comments:

- . the school already has many activities in place: 3
- . the school and the green space is a wonderful asset to our community and should be preserved: 3
- . the school needs to better publicize its activities to Town residents: 3
- . school needs to better publicize activities to bring in out-of-town visitors: 3
- . all programs and rooms should be free to Town residents: 1
- . Town should renegotiate lease/school should pay a higher rent so the Town can recoup some of its reserve funds: 3
- . against Town funding or concern that the Town may have to fund more than \$800,000: 3
- . concern that work should be competitively bid: 1
- . concern that the school is the Town's biggest asset and investment in it and promotion of its activities should be a Town priority: 2
- . concern that Town tax dollars are supporting artists who are hobbyists and businesses who cannot afford and/or don't want to pay market rents: 1
- . the Town shows no results for the school's calling itself a "hub for business generation": 1

#### Building

Meeting rooms free for residents/community room free for resident activities: 3  
Speakers: 3  
Dance classes: 3  
Adult dance classes: 1  
Fitness classes/yoga: 3  
Light exercise for seniors: 1  
Mental health programs: 1  
Farmers market: 1  
Craft show: 1  
Weekend activities for kids in winter (play groups/arts & crafts): 1  
Programs for kids: 3  
Indoor play space/music for preschool kids: 1  
Open rec room: 1  
Programs for adolescents/teens/young adults/young moms and young families: 1  
Programs for older adults: 5  
Adult learning: 1  
Senior citizen lunches: 1  
Nighttime activities: 1  
Library/reading room/book club space/poetry readings: 4  
Music lessons (piano/guitar/etc): 3  
Computer/tech classes/assistance: 2  
Language classes: 1  
Garden advice/seed exchange: 2  
Jigsaw puzzle swap: 1  
How to decorate for the holidays using local botanicals: 2  
Tax prep assistance: 1  
Home projects/simple repair workshop/how to use tools: 1  
Mahjong/bridge lessons: 1  
Class reunion: 1  
Historic community center: 1

*There was a comment supporting a festival but no indication as to indoor, outdoor or both.*

# ENTERTAINMENT

Eastern Shore Post

## Friday, January 16

■ **WALKING GROUP:** 9 to 10 a.m., Island Community House, 6246 Mumford St., Chincoteague. Walkers meet at Island Community House before taking a one-and-half mile walk around downtown Chincoteague.

■ **TRAINING:** 11 a.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library, Parksley. Get trained and certified to use the MakerSpace 3D printer at the library. Call the library to register at 757-787-3400.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 6 to 9 p.m., Teaguer's Pub and Restaurant, Chincoteague. Margot and Val perform live.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 7 p.m., Chattie's Lounge, Chincoteague. Ron Cole and Marc Jay perform live.

## Saturday, January 17

■ **DUCK DIP:** 9 a.m., Camp Occohannock on the Bay Camp, 9403 Camp Lane, Belle Haven. Camp Occohannock is hosting its 18th annual Polar Duck Dip. In addition to the dip, this year a Duck Dash 5k has been added. Runners can hit the trails around the camp and compete for medals and prizes. The cost of the run is \$40. At 10:30 a.m. the doors will open for the silent auction, followed by a program at 11 a.m., lunch at 11:45 a.m., and the Polar Duck Dip at 1 p.m. To register visit <https://tinyurl.com/5n8chjsv>

■ **FOOD DISTRIBUTION:** 9 to 10:30 a.m., Jerusalem Baptist Church, 10011 Jerusalem Road, Temperanceville. The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore is hosting a mobile pantry.

■ **STORYTIME:** 10:30 a.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library, Parksley. Kids age 5 and under can hear a story and engage in play literacy.

■ **PUZZLE RACE:** 11 a.m., Island Community House, Chincoteague. Compete solo or as a team of two against others to

## Best bets

■ **Saturday, Jan. 17, Camp Occohannock on the Bay Camp will host its annual Polar Duck Dip. This year's event begins with the Duck Dash 5K at 9 a.m. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/5n8chjsv> to register.**

■ **Monday, Jan. 19, at 10 a.m. The Accomack County NAACP is hosting a Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Service at Macedonia AME Church in Accomac. The service will be followed by a march to the county courthouse.**

see who can put a puzzle together fastest. A prize is awarded for the fastest solve.

All teams keep their puzzle. Lunch will be provided. The cost is \$20. To register visit <https://tinyurl.com/jn88xkkk>

■ **FOOD DISTRIBUTION:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Myrtle Landing Apartment, 815 Randolph Ave., Cape Charles. The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore is hosting a mobile pantry.

■ **BIRDING FIELD TRIP:** 1 p.m., Queen Sound Boat Ramp, Chincoteague. Birding Eastern Shore is hosting a field trip. Maggie Long and Paul Anderson will lead a driving tour of seaside waterfowl habitats. The trip will explore the Chincoteague Island National Wildlife Refuge. To register contact Long at [maggie.long55@gmail.com](mailto:maggie.long55@gmail.com)

■ **SCRAPBOOKING:** 1 to 2 p.m., Museum of Chincoteague Island, 7125 Maddox Blvd., Chincoteague. During this Beginners Scrapbooking Class attendees can create two-page layouts using Simple Memories kits. The cost of the class is \$30. To register email [msk131@ymail.com](mailto:msk131@ymail.com)

■ **MEETING:** 1 to 2 p.m., Historic Onancock School, 6 College Ave., Onancock. The Eastern Shore Art League is hosting a member meeting and a gallery talk about the league's winter show. It is open to the public and light refreshments will be served.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., The Oyster Farm Seafood Eatery, 900 Marina Village Circle, Cape Charles. Frank Sinatra Tribute singer Frank Sings Frank will perform live. Call 757-331-8660 for reservations.

■ **FUNDRAISER:** Doors open 6 p.m., Giddens Do Drop Inn, 8204 Bayford Road, Franktown. Community Unity: Building Bridges Together will feature live music by Willie C. and the Gang and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$25 at the door and proceeds benefit the restoration of the Giddens Do Drop Inn.

## Sunday, January 18

■ **WORKSHOP:** 3 to 4 p.m., Island Community House, Chincoteague. The Breath: Back to Basics Workshop will teach partic-

ipants about the respiratory system and nervous system regulation through breathwork. The cost is \$30. RSVP to [jaynes.stacie@gmail.com](mailto:jaynes.stacie@gmail.com) to attend.

## Monday, January 19

■ **MLK DAY PROGRAM:** 10 a.m., Macedonia AME Church, Accomac. Accomack County NAACP is hosting a Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Service. The guest preacher will be Pastor James Rich of Greater Works Worship Center in Accomac. The service will be followed by a march to the county courthouse.

■ **GRAND OPENING:** 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., The Impact Center at the Historic Cape Charles Elementary School, Cape Charles. The Impact Center is hosting a grand opening. There will be a ribbon cutting, followed by a program and an open house. Visit [ccimpactcenter.org](http://ccimpactcenter.org) to register.

■ **MOVIE:** 1 p.m., Roseland Theatre, Onancock. The theater will be screening "Before the Lighthouse" for free.

■ **GAMES:** 1 to 4 p.m., Island Community House, 6246 Mumford St., Chincoteague. The Island Community House hosts open board game play. Bring a friend or make some new ones. Snacks are welcome.

■ **MEETING:** 7 p.m., Sage Diner, Onley. The Accomack Republican Party is holding its monthly meeting. For information contact Chairman Sam Sellard at 757-709-8252.

## Tuesday, January 20

■ **COFFEE TALK:** 10 a.m., Village Neighbors, 6246 Mumford St., Chincoteague. This session of Village Neighbor's Coffee Talk will be a discussion on vision boards. The community is encouraged to share hopes, ideas, and

(Continued on page 15)

## Be included

The Eastern Shore Post wants your listings for live music, theatrical performances, carnivals, special events, and anything else that is just plain fun. Send to [editor@easternshorepost.com](mailto:editor@easternshorepost.com)

## Important standing meetings and emergency numbers for the Eastern Shore

■ **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** For meetings in Accomack and Northampton, visit [www.aaeasternshoreva.org](http://www.aaeasternshoreva.org) or call 757-350-0466.

■ **AL-ANON:** For more on Al-Anon, a group of relatives and friends of alcoholics. visit [www.vaalanon.org/districts/district-7-eastern-shore](http://www.vaalanon.org/districts/district-7-eastern-shore)

■ **OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS:** Group meets every Wednesday at Rock Church, 27112 Lankford Highway, Onley. Call 757-999-6771.

■ **COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** All-day, every-day hotline for those impacted by domestic violence or sexual assault: 757-787-1329.

■ **SUICIDE HOTLINE:** If you are having thoughts of suicide or know someone at risk, call 988. Call the local 24-hour hotline at at 757-442-7707 or 800-764-4460.

# Calendar

(Continued from page 14)

inspirations for 2026 with others or create a vision board to express them.

■ **CROCHET CLUB:** 10 a.m. to noon, Chincoteague Island Library, Chincoteague. The Coastal Crocheters will meet. Crocheters are invited to create in a welcoming, safe environment.

■ **MUSIC AND MOVEMENT:** 10:30 a.m., Worcester County Library Pocomoke Branch, Pocomoke City. Children age 5 and under can sing silly songs, play rhythmic instruments, and dance.

■ **TEEN CRAFT:** 4:30 p.m., Worcester County Library Pocomoke Branch, Pocomoke City. Barbara Barga, a 4-H educator, will demonstrate how to needle felt for children age 12 to 18. Each student will get to create a piece to take home. To register call 410-957-0878.

■ **TEEN GAME NIGHT:** 5 to 6:30 p.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library, Parksley. Teens can play video or board games or put together a puzzle.

■ **YARN CLUB:** 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library, Parksley. Crafters can bring their knitting or crochet projects and chat with other fiber artists while working.

## Wednesday, January 21

■ **WORKSHOP:** 8:30 a.m., Community Church of God, 9079 Birdsnest Drive, Birdsnest. A community tree planting workshop is being held to help choose the trees and shrubs landscaping the Eastern Shore Rail Trail in the Birdsnest area. Five trees will be given away. For more information email esvashorestrong@gmail.com or call

757-787-2936.

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

■ **FOOD DISTRIBUTION:** 10 to 11:30 a.m., African Baptist Church, 4224 Sunny Side Road, Cheriton. The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore is hosting a mobile pantry.

■ **FOOD DISTRIBUTION:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 28281 Main St., Hallwood. The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore is hosting a mobile pantry.

■ **SIT AND STITCH:** 1 to 3 p.m., Island Community House, 6246 Mumford St., Chincoteague. Bring a handheld project and work in the company of others.

■ **MEMORY CAFE:** 1:30 to 3 p.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library, Parksley. Memory Cafe is a social engagement for those living with brain changes and their caretakers. This support group is hosted by trained facilitators.

■ **FIBER GROUP:** 6 to 8 p.m., Cypress Roots Brewing Company, Pocomoke City. The Feral Fibers is a social group for fiber artists. Crafters can bring knitting, crochet, felting, or spinning projects and work in the

company of others.

## Thursday, January 22

■ **BIRDING FIELD TRIP:** 9 a.m., Queen Street Parking Lot, Onancock. Maggie Long and Paul Anderson will lead a Birding Eastern Shore guided walk around Onancock. Birders will walk across the town's two bridges and to the marinas on Onancock Creek for some winter bird watching. Attendees will wrap up at the Historic Onancock School nature trail. This program is free and open to the public. To register contact Long at 610-500-9971.

■ **PLAYTIME:** 9 to 9:45 a.m., Christ United Methodist Church, 6253 Church St., Chincoteague. The church is hosting a weekly playtime for children age 4 and under and their caregivers.

■ **OPEN HOUSE:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Holly Grove Christian School, Westover, Md. Holly Grove is hosting an open house. Prospective students can take a tour, sit in on classes, and talk to staff.

■ **STORYTIME:** 10 a.m., Chincoteague Island Library, 4077 Main St., Chincoteague. During Tales for Tots children age 5 and under can hear stories, sing songs, and play.

■ **CRAFT:** 11 a.m., Worcester County Li-

brary Pocomoke Branch, Pocomoke City. Create a candle holder using air dry clay. To register call 410-957-0878.

■ **GAMES:** 1 to 4 p.m., Island Community House, 6246 Mumford St., Chincoteague. The Island Community House hosts open board game play. Bring a friend or make some new ones. Snacks are welcome.

■ **KIDS ACTIVITY:** 5:30 to 7 p.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library, Parksley. Kids can make crafts, enjoy pizza and treats, and have an indoor snowball fight to celebrate the winter season.

■ **CROCHET CLUB:** 4 to 6 p.m., Chincoteague Island Library, Chincoteague. The Coastal Crocheters will meet. Crocheters are invited to create in a welcoming, safe environment.

■ **KIDS CRAFT:** 6 p.m., Northampton Free Library, Nassawadox. Children can color and decorate paper winter hats.

■ **DANCING:** 6 to 7:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Onancock. Ballroom and More on the Eastern Shore is hosting a dance lesson. The cost is \$5 per person. All skill levels are welcome.

■ **NEEDLECRAFT GROUP:** 6 to 8 p.m., Chincoteague Island Library, Chincoteague.

(Continued on page 16)



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# OBITUARIES

Eastern Shore Post

## Richard Byrd

**Mr. Richard Merrill Byrd**, 73, of Horntown, husband of Lisa Cooke, passed away on Jan. 7, 2026, in Horntown.

Born on May 18, 1952, in Nassawadox, he was the son of the late Jesse Merrill Byrd and Fannie B. Ballard-Alvis.

Richard worked for Waste Management until he retired in 2012. He was



**Mr. Byrd**

a member of New Church First Baptist Church and loved going when he was well enough. He also enjoyed going to the race track, whether it was drag racing or dirt track.

Other than his wife, Lisa, Richard is survived by a son, Benjamin John Byrd; a sister, Eva Porter, of Sanford; a granddaughter, Brittany Lynn Byrd; and a great-granddaughter, Nova.

There was a time of remembrance at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 11, at New Church First Baptist Church.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to New Church First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 237, New Church, VA 23415.

Arrangements were by the Thornton Funeral Home in Parksley.

To sign the guest book online, visit: [www.thorntonfuneralhome.net](http://www.thorntonfuneralhome.net)

## Shirley Isdell

**Mrs. Shirley Fay Parks Isdell**, 85, of Tasley, entered peacefully into rest at her home on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family. She now rests in the blessed hope of Christ's return.

Born March 28, 1940, in Harborton, Shirley was the daughter of Brower Colburn Parks and Flora Ellen Parks. From an early age, her life reflected a servant's heart, guided by her faith and a deep calling to care for others.

Shirley devoted her life to her fami-

ly, creating a home filled with love, patience, and prayer for her husband and their four children. Her compassion extended beyond her home as she became a certified nursing assistant, dedicating many years of service at Shore Memorial Hospital in Nassawadox. There, she found great purpose ministering to mothers and newborns in the maternity ward, offering comfort, kindness, and gentle encouragement during some of life's most sacred moments.



**Mrs. Isdell**

She was blessed to share 55 years of marriage with her beloved husband, Robert Earl Isdell Sr., until his passing in 2010. Together, they built a family grounded in faith, love, and hard work. A devoted member of Cornerstone Seventh-day Adventist Church in Exmore for more than 65 years, Shirley faithfully served the Lord in many capacities and had a special passion for the church's soup kitchen and found joy by supporting and serving in any way she could.

Shirley will be remembered for her gentle spirit, unwavering faith, and selfless devotion to God, her family, and all those she served. Though she will be deeply missed, her family rejoices in the promise of eternal life and the comfort of knowing she is at peace in the care of her savior.

Shirley is survived by her children, Robert Earl Isdell Jr. (Brenda), Barbara King (Bill), Marsha Holland (Bryon), and Christopher Isdell Sr. (Shannon); her grandchildren, Ariel Killmon, Robert Isdell III, Amon Killmon, Christopher Isdell Jr., Erica Vaughn, Andrea Rice, Emily Isdell, and Peyton Isdell; her great-grandchildren, Liam Chew, Gage Vaughn, Luna Chew, Lochlann Isdell, and Andrew Isdell; her sister, Amelia "Sissy" Custis, of Portsmouth; her brother, William Parks (Brenda), of

Onancock; and many extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, Shirley was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Earl Isdell Sr.; her sister, Jane Bennett; and her brother, Colburn Parks.

Funeral services were conducted from the chapel of the Williams-Onancock Funeral Home on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 2 p.m., with Pastor Ken Coleman officiating. Interment followed at the Fairview Lawn Cemetery. Family greeted family and friends at the funeral home one hour prior to the service.

Contributions in Shirley's memory may be made to Cornerstone Seventh-Day Adventist Church, P.O. Box 643, Exmore, VA 23350, <https://adventistgiving.org/donate/ANB8B6>

Memory tributes may be shared at [www.williamsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.williamsfuneralhomes.com)

Arrangements were by the Williams-Onancock Funeral Home.

## Peter Pulman

**Mr. Peter Boothe Pulman Jr.**, born Feb. 28, 1936, in Manhattan, N.Y., to Peter Boothe and Carolyn Burgess Pulman, died peacefully at his home on Chincoteague Island on Dec. 31, 2025.



**Mr. Pulman**

Peter graduated from Alice Deal Jr. High and Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, D.C.

He attended Randolph-Macon College in Ashland and graduated in 1959 with a bachelor's degree in biology.

Following college, he spent most of his time working in medical and research labs before finding a place in kitchen design.

Though he was born in New York and spent time in Connecticut, Maryland, and Arizona, most of his adult life was spent in Virginia's Loudoun and Accomack counties. Even prior to

retiring, he found time to volunteer at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (CNWR) as a greeter and interpreter at the information center, at the Assateague Lighthouse, and on bus treks to the north end of the island. He also monitored traffic at the over sand vehicle stations. He was presented volunteer of the year award in 2019. He was a life member of the Friends of Chincoteague Refuge, where he served on the board of directors.

As an avid tennis player, he was a life member of the Chincoteague Community Tennis Association, where he played regularly for over 20 years until his health declined. He also served as vice president on the board of directors.

He was a regular communicant at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Jenkins Bridge, for over 20 years, and served on the vestry as junior warden at one time.

Peter was predeceased by his parents, Peter Boothe and Carolyn Burgess Pulman; and his brothers, John Allen Pulman and retired U.S. Navy Capt. Vincent Onslow.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Bragg Pulman; his sons, Shawn Allen Pulman, John Porterfield Pulman and his wife, Andrea Stocks, Charles Oliver Pulman and his wife, Danielle Ann Pulman; his daughter, Kate Laura Smith and her husband, Lee Edmond Smith; his grandchildren, Andrew Scott Pulman, Oliver Tiberius Pulman, Liam Edmond Smith, Truett Boothe Smith, and Joshua Stephen Stocks; and his great-granddaughter, Hayden Smith.

A memorial service will be held at Emanuel Church, 26405 Horsey Road, Jenkins Bridge, VA 23442, on Saturday, Jan. 24, at 10:30 AM.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Emmanuel Church, CNWR, SPCA Onley, and/or Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

(Continued on page 19)





# A place to go in the place to go: Town to get new restrooms

**BY TED SHOCKLEY**  
Eastern Shore Post

Call it a place to go in the place to go: Popular downtown Cape Charles is getting new public restroom facilities.

The Cape Charles Town Council on Thursday, Jan. 8, unanimously voted to authorize its town manager to finalize a 10-year lease agreement for the front of the building at 7 Strawberry St., which will be a public restroom.

The building has housed many businesses, including Etz's Restaurant and Rebecca's, over the years.

It is part of a potty priority in town — the town council also approved the final payment for a \$65,000 portable, custom restroom trailer due to arrive in town this month and earmarked for special events.

The Strawberry Street restroom facility will cost the town about \$2,100 per month amortized. The town council

capped work on the project at \$300,000. About \$67,000 remaining from a Northampton County infrastructure grant could be used for the project to reduce the payment.

The facility would include four restrooms that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. It also would have space for a small seating area and advertisement rack cards.

One town resident, Sam Jones, spoke in favor of the Strawberry Street proposal, saying it is centrally located to Mason Avenue, Strawberry Street, and Strawberry Plaza.

"It's a nice space," said Bob Panek, a project manager for the town.

Panek said the target date for opening is June 1, but it could be finished later.

The portable restroom trailer will be used for a number of Cape Charles events, town manager Rick Keuroglan said.

"It's needed for more than just Festive Fridays," Keuroglan said.



EASTERN SHORE POST/JIMMY SHOCKLEY

The building at 7 Strawberry St., Cape Charles, is set to become a public restroom.



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<p><b>Chincoteague Island</b> 6426 Maddox Boulevard Chincoteague Island, VA 23336 757.336.5100</p>	<p><b>Captain's Cove</b> 37054 Stateline Road Greenbackville, VA 23356 757.824.5195</p>	<p><b>Cape Charles</b> 300 Mason Avenue   Suite C Cape Charles, VA 23310 757.331.2500</p>
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# Daggins, Sturgis celebrate 100 wins

**BY MARK MORING**  
Eastern Shore Post

Jerry Sturgis is expected to make Northampton High School sports history this weekend for the second time in two months.

In November, Sturgis, a senior running back and linebacker, helped the Yellow Jackets win a game in the state football playoffs for the first time in 30 years.

Now Sturgis looks to make school history again by notching his 100th career wrestling victory. The Jackets are competing in the 35-team Lafayette Ram Rumble Friday and Saturday in Williamsburg.

Fellow senior Andrew Daggins already joined the Northampton history books on Jan. 7, when he posted his 100th victory. Sturgis and Daggins are the first Jacket grapplers to hit the century mark since 2019.

“It’s pretty cool,” says Sturgis, who wrestles at 190 pounds.

“It doesn’t feel real,” adds Daggins, who usually competes at 144 pounds, but intends to drop to 138 for the regional and state tournaments. “It’s been a minute since the last time a Northampton wrestler hit 100 wins.”

Both young men brought stellar pedigrees into their senior seasons. Daggins is a two-time regional champion who has finished third and sixth in the state. Sturgis is a regional champion who has placed fifth and sixth in the state.

Both believe they have a good chance to stand atop the podium at this year’s state championships, to be held Feb. 20 and 21 in Salem.

“I should win states this year,” says Daggins, without a hint of braggadocio. “I’m putting a lot of pressure on myself to win it.”

Sturgis says winning the state title is also his goal — not bad con-



EASTERN SHORE POST/MARK MORING

**Jerry Sturgis (left) and Andrew Daggins talk strategy at a recent practice. Sturgis is expected to join Daggins this weekend as a member of the 100-win club.**

sidering he was ready to quit the sport after his 8th-grade season. A good friend had quit, and Sturgis planned to follow suit.

Before Sturgis’ freshman year, Ray Wells was named the new

coach, and he went into recruiting mode.

“He asked me to come back,” Sturgis remembers. “At first I said no, but then I ended up doing it.”

Wells is pretty happy about that.

He has high praise for both of his star grapplers.

“Jerry’s a strong leader and has an infectious personality,” Wells says. “And he’s loud! You can hear his loud and distinct voice in any room.”

“Yeah,” says Sturgis, “I’m a little loud. Whenever I get energetic, my voice just gets louder.”

Of Daggins, Wells says, “He is a phenomenal athlete and an even better person. His teammates love him, he works hard, and he embodies the grind mindset of wrestling. He’s a goofball off the mat but hits a switch when he wrestles.”

“I like to have fun,” Daggins says, embracing the “goofball” charge. “You can’t always be serious because if you are, you’ll tense up. So loosen up.”

Daggins is the son of Lewis and Rochelle Daggins, of Nassawadox. His father is a plumber, and his mother is a caregiver for Andrew’s disabled older brother, Lewis.

Sturgis, who was raised by his father and grandmother, Jerry and Elsie Sturgis, respectively, lives in Cape Charles. He has two older siblings, Jikera and Jahiem, both Northampton grads.

After graduation, Sturgis plans to join the U.S. Air Force and become an aviation mechanic. He wants to retire after 20 years in his late 30s and come back to the community to run a wrestling program for youth — much like the G.O.A.T. House in Onancock, run by former Northampton star Casey Paglia.

Daggins is heading to Old Dominion University to major in civil engineering and is considering a career in construction management.

But first things first: They’re going to keep adding to 100 wins and set their eyes on a couple of state titles.

# A champ is crowned



COURTESY PHOTO

Accomack County Parks and Recreation ran a volleyball league at Arcadia Middle School from November to December last year. Seven teams participated. Pictured is the champion team, which won the regular season and the postseason tournament.



COURTESY PHOTO

Accomack County Parks and Recreation ran a volleyball league at Arcadia Middle School from November to December last year. Seven teams participated. Pictured is the second place team for the regular season and the postseason tournament.

## High School Sports Schedule Jan. 15 to Jan. 23

### TUESDAY, 1/20

#### Boys Basketball

Denbigh Baptist at Broadwater, 7 p.m.  
Chincoteague at Middlesex, 6:30 p.m.  
Northampton at Windsor, 7 p.m.

#### Girls Basketball

Denbigh Baptist at Broadwater, 5:30 p.m.  
Windsor at Northampton, 5:30 p.m.  
Holly Grove at Nandua, 5 p.m.  
Chincoteague at Middlesex, 5 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, 1/21

#### Boys Basketball

Broadwater at Chincoteague, 7 p.m.  
Salisbury Christian at Northampton, 6 p.m.

#### Girls Basketball

Broadwater at Chincoteague, 5:30 p.m.  
Salisbury Christian at Northampton, 4:30 p.m.

#### Boys Wrestling

Northampton at Nandua, 5 p.m.

### THURSDAY, 1/22

#### Boys Basketball

Arcadia at Oaktree Academy, 7:30 p.m.

#### Girls Basketball

Nandua at Pocomoke, 5 p.m.  
Arcadia at Oaktree Academy, 6 p.m.

#### Boys Wrestling

Multiple Schools at Deep Creek meet, TBA

#### Girls Wrestling

Multiple Schools at Deep Creek meet, TBA

### FRIDAY, 1/23

#### Boys Basketball

StoneBridge at Broadwater, 7 p.m.  
Greenwood Mennonite at Holly Grove, 6 p.m.  
Pocomoke at Nandua, 6 p.m.

#### Girls Basketball

StoneBridge at Broadwater, 5:30 p.m.  
Greenwood Mennonite at Holly Grove, 4:30 p.m.  
Lancaster at Northampton, 5:30 p.m.  
Arcadia at Thomas Jefferson, 6 p.m.

#### Swim & Dive

Nandua at Sussex Central, 3:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, 1/15

#### Boys Basketball

Arcadia at Lakeland, 7:30 p.m.  
Green Run at Northampton, 6 p.m.

#### Girls Basketball

Nandua at Crisfield, 5:30 p.m.  
Arcadia at Isle of Wight, 5 p.m.

### FRIDAY, 1/16

#### Boys Basketball

Broadwater at Portsmouth Christian, 7 p.m.  
Nandua at Bruton, 7 p.m.  
Northampton at King & Queen Central, 7 p.m.

#### Girls Basketball

Broadwater at Portsmouth Christian, 5:30 p.m.  
Smithfield at Arcadia, 6:30 p.m.

#### Boys Wrestling

Northampton at Lafayette Tournament, 8 a.m.

#### Boys Swim & Dive

Meet at Nandua (YMCA Onley), 5 p.m.

#### Girls Swim & Dive

Meet at Nandua (YMCA Onley), 5 p.m.

### SATURDAY, 1/17

#### Boys Wrestling

Northampton at Lafayette Tournament, 8 a.m.  
Nandua at King William, 9 a.m.

### MONDAY, 1/19

#### Boys Basketball

Nandua vs Perquimans at Elizabeth City State University, 11:30 a.m.  
Arcadia vs Camden County at Elizabeth City State University, 1 p.m.

#### Girls Basketball

Arcadia at Greenville County, 12:30 p.m.

*Schedule was accurate at press time but is always subject to change.*

# Northampton, Exmore oppose poultry manure injection

BY JIMMY SHOCKLEY

Eastern Shore Post

Northampton County and the town of Exmore are encouraging Accomack County to stand its ground against a Texas company that is proposing to pump liquefied poultry litter 5,000 feet underground in northern Accomack County.

The company, Vaulted Deep, has faced backlash from Eastern Shore organizations and residents for its proposal.

Vaulted Deep's plan is not allowed under current Accomack County zoning. The company has appealed the decision, and the proposal will be heard by the Accomack County Board of Zoning Appeals at its 10 a.m. meeting March 4.

While the company says all necessary precautions will be taken to ensure the process doesn't

go wrong, Eastern Shore natives and subject matter experts remain unconvinced.

At the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 13, Northampton County administrator Matt Spuck read aloud a resolution that states Northampton County's official opposition to the project and allows coordination with Accomack County to establish legal strategy for how to oppose it.

One of the top concerns surrounding the project is the contamination of the Eastern Shore's sole source aquifer, which supplies drinking water for Accomack and Northampton counties.

Damage or contamination to the aquifer, many say, would be irreversible.

The resolution was passed with Northampton board Chairman Dixon Leatherbury saying, "Sometimes I

shake my head at some of the environmental stuff that comes along and say, 'We don't need that,' but this one, we do need to" oppose the Vaulted Deep measure.

The Exmore Town Council on Monday, Jan. 12, also asked the town attorney and town manager to work together to create a resolution opposing the Vaulted Deep project.

Vaulted Deep proposes to dispose of carbon in the form of poultry litter in order to receive carbon credits.

The carbon credits can then be sold to larger corporations for them to be able to emit a certain amount of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases, which is how Vaulted Deep would profit from the project.

If allowed, the project would bring 31 new jobs to Accomack County.

At Exmore's meeting, an Eastern Shore resident with experience in the

general field also warned of some of the dangers of the project.

Steve Lawson, who lives near Jamesville, once worked in rural Alaska working in oil drilling facilities in Prudhoe Bay, he told the town council.

Lawson also helped in the efforts to clean up the Exxon Valdez oil spill, citing that experience in instances when operations similar to Vaulted Deep's happen to fail.

Lawson and other citizens expressed concerns over contaminating the aquifer.

He also said that rather than pumping the slurry underground, it has uses like making fertilizer.

"There is a better use for this so-called waste other than inserting it under our drinking water," Lawson said.

"We deserve real solutions, not a reckless experiment."

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## NORTHAMPTON

# Dempster takes board seat, Spuck hits ground running

**BY JIMMY SHOCKLEY**  
Eastern Shore Post

The Northampton County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Jan. 13, welcomed Jon Dempster to his first meeting since winning election to the District 1 seat in November.

Dempster, a Cape Charles restaurant owner, replaces Jon Coker, a long-time former supervisor who did not seek a third four-year term.

The new board chairman is District 4 Supervisor Dixon Leatherbury, who served as vice chair last year.

The new vice chairman is District 3 Supervisor Oliver Bennett.

Another new face at the meeting was county administrator Matt Spuck, who was hired to replace recently retired Charlie Kolakowski.

Spuck said he plans to keep established projects going smoothly, while also providing some of his own new plans — one of which is providing a written county administrator's report prior to every meeting for clarity for the Board and the public.

Spuck also thanked the supervisors, Kolakowski, and Northampton County staff for the smooth transition and for the trust placed in him.

## New police equipment

Supervisors approved funding for Sheriff David Doughty to purchase three new pieces of equipment for the sheriff's office.

All of the Taser stun guns being used right now will no longer be supported by the manufacturer after Jan. 27.

A new contract will be signed with the manufacturer to replace all of them for \$12,000 using savings from job vacancies.

The board also approved for Doughty to purchase a handheld device that can detect chemicals and narcotics within contained spaces.

The device will be used by all public safety departments in Northampton County, Doughty said.

Supervisors also approved purchase of a device that can scan crime scenes and document them in three-dimensional images.

Accomack County already has this device, which Doughty described as a "game changer."

The latter two devices cost about \$117,000, the money for which is coming entirely from a grant, Doughty said.

The cost includes hands-on training for both devices.

### *National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Wallops Flight Facility Draft Shoreline Protection Program Environmental Assessment is Available for Review*

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 established a national policy to protect the environment by directing federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on the human environment prior to implementing the action. NEPA also requires that federal agencies give the public an opportunity to participate in the process. NASA is pleased to announce the availability of the Draft Shoreline Protection Program Environmental Assessment (EA) for renourishment and protection of infrastructure at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), Accomack County, Virginia.

The Draft EA evaluates the environmental effects of a range of reasonable alternatives that would restore the Wallops Island shoreline infrastructure protection area to reduce the potential for damage to or loss of assets on Wallops Island. The Proposed Action would involve the following over the next 7 years: repair and extension of the existing seawall, renourishing the beach using sand from an offshore shoal, and constructing up to 12 breakwaters.

The Draft EA will be available for review at the following locations and at <https://www.nasa.gov/goddard/memd/pepa/shoreline/>

Chincoteague Island Library, Chincoteague, Virginia  
Eastern Shore Public Library, Parksley, Virginia  
WFF Visitor Center, Wallops Island, Virginia (open Friday - Saturday)

NASA will consider all comments in preparing the Final EA. Comments on the Draft EA are requested by February 17, 2026. Comments should be addressed to:

Center NEPA Manager  
Mail Stop 250  
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center WFF  
34200 Fulton Street Wallops Island, VA 23337  
Email: [gsfc-dl-nepa@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:gsfc-dl-nepa@mail.nasa.gov)

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# Eastern Shore Post

# ANEC warns of higher bills due to cold

The National Weather Service reports that the Commonwealth experienced its coldest first 15 days of December since 2010.

The local region experienced temperatures as much as 9 to 10 degrees colder than what is typical for this time of year, according to A&N Electric Cooperative.

Extended periods of colder weather often lead to increased electricity use, as heating systems must run longer and more frequently to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures, even if thermostat settings stay the same.

Similar to peak summer conditions, extreme cold places additional demand on home energy systems compared to milder weather.

As a result, ANEC members may see higher energy usage reflected on their January electric bills.

“Extreme cold means heating systems must work harder to keep our homes warm, leading to increased energy usage and higher bills for service,” Lori Shreaves, A&N’s director of member services said. “In addition to following our recommended energy conservation tips, members should contact us for alternative payment solutions, such as budget billing or payment assistance options.”

Cooperative members can monitor their daily and monthly energy use with SmartHub, the app ANEC utilizes.

Also, making some of the following changes can help members take better control over their energy costs this winter:

■ Set thermostats to the coolest comfortable temperature to save on heating costs. Set programmable ther-

mostats to adjust the temperature during times when no one is home or residents are sleeping.

■ Take advantage of daylight. Allow the sun to brighten living spaces instead of turning on the lights. Keep shades and curtains open during the day on the south side of the home to prevent heaters from having to work as hard to warm the space.

■ Lower your water heater’s maximum temperature to around 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

■ Use space heaters sparingly and only in small, occupied areas for short periods of time.

ANEC also offers free energy assessments to its members to help pinpoint opportunities to lower energy consumption and detect issues that may be increasing usage.

In addition, members can influence

the demand portion of their bill by managing when electricity is used.

Because demand measures how much total electricity is being used at a single point in time, one of the most effective ways to control this is to avoid running large appliances at the same time.

Members struggling to pay their electric bill this winter can contact their county Department of Social Services office and apply for Members Helping Members assistance.

Members who wish to give back this season can also support Members Helping Members, a nonprofit that assists local families and individuals with paying their electric service bills, by calling 757-787-9750 or by filling out the Members Helping Members contribution form at [anec.com](http://anec.com)

## HEALTH

# Riverside updates mask guidelines

Hampton Roads is experiencing a significant increase in flu activity this season, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and regional health surveillance reports.

In response, Riverside is reinforcing masking guidance and infection prevention measures across care settings to help protect patients, visitors, and staff from the spread of flu and other respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19 and RSV.

Masking is now required for those with respiratory symptoms.

Patients with flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, fever, or a runny nose are required to wear a mask and notify the front desk upon arrival at provider offices and emergency departments.

This requirement applies even if the

patient has received their annual flu vaccine.

Patients who need medical care should not delay treatment due to symptoms.

Masks will be provided as needed and care teams will guide patients on next steps upon arrival.

While vaccination remains the most effective way to reduce the risk of severe illness from the flu, it is not 100% effective.

Individuals who are vaccinated can still contract and spread the virus. Masking when symptoms are present provides an additional layer of protection.

Additional steps to limit the spread of the flu include frequent handwashing, staying home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and getting an annual flu vaccine.

Patients can keep emergency rooms open for critical cases by choosing primary care or urgent care for flu and respiratory symptoms.

Individuals infected with the flu can spread the virus before symptoms are fully apparent, making awareness and early precautions critical.

Patients and visitors experiencing flu-like symptoms are encouraged to consider postponing non-essential visits to hospitalized loved ones when possible.

Common flu symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches, chills, fatigue, and, in some cases, vomiting or diarrhea.

This flu-related masking guidance will remain in effect while flu activity remains elevated in the region.

## Birding Eastern Shore plans trips

Maggie Long and Paul Anderson are leading two field trips for Birding Eastern Shore. One will be on Chincoteague and one will be in Onancock.

On Saturday, Jan. 17, at 1 p.m. birders can meet at the Queen Sound Boat Ramp before embarking on a mostly driving tour of seaside waterfowl habitats in Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

To register email Long at [maggie.long55@gmail.com](mailto:maggie.long55@gmail.com).

Thursday, January 22, at 9 a.m. birders will meet at the Queen Street Parking Lot in Onancock for a walking tour led by Long and Anderson.

Birders will walk across both bridges in town and visit the marinas overlooking Onancock Creek.

The outing will proceed to the natural trail at the Historic Onancock School. To register call Long at 610-500-9971.

Both events are free and open to the public. Loaner binoculars will be available for those who need them.

AUTHOR SPEAKS AT CHINCOTEAGUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



COURTESY PHOTO

Susan Friedland spoke to fourth and fifth grade students at Chincoteague Elementary School. She discussed her new books, “Marguerite, Misty and Me” and “Misty’s First Christmas,” and shared how authors turn ideas into finished stories. Students learned about the research, planning, and writing process and had the opportunity to hear firsthand what it’s like to be a working author. The visit aimed to inspire students to think like writers and ask thoughtful questions about the craft of storytelling.

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# Library offers scholarship

The Chincoteague Island Library is offering a \$1,000 scholarship for local students graduating in spring 2026.

Eligible applicants include high school seniors or home-schooled students who live on Chincoteague or attend Chincoteague High School.

The scholarship may be used for tuition at a four-year or two-year college, trade school, or apprentice program starting in fall 2026.

A current Eastern Shore Public Library card is required, and the recipient must agree to a photo and public announcement of the schol-

arship award.

Signed, completed applications and all required supporting documents must be submitted by Thursday, April 30, to the library or to the guidance office at Chincoteague High School. Applications are available at both locations.

The scholarship recipient will be announced at Senior Awards Night at Chincoteague High School in May.

For more information, contact the Chincoteague Island Library at 757-336-3460 or visit the library at 4077 Main St., Chincoteague.

## ACCOMACK

# Business, education scholarship offered

The Diane E. Ames Scholarship Fund is offering a \$1,500 scholarship to a graduating senior from Nandua High School.

This award honors the legacy of Diane E. Ames, who was an educator and advocate for lifelong learning, by supporting students committed to pursuing careers in business or education.

The recipient of this scholarship should exemplify Ames' spirit, leadership, and dedication to making a meaningful impact.

For over 37 years, Ames served as a business educator in Accomack County Public Schools and at Eastern Shore Community College.

She served students, not only as a teacher but also as a mentor, role model, and champion of success.

Through her work with the Future Business Leaders of America, Ames fostered a culture of excellence and community service.

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must:

- Be a graduating senior at Nandua High School
- Be enrolled in an accredited

college or trade school for fall 2026

- Have a minimum grade point average of 2.5
- Intend to pursue a career in business or education.

Applicants are required to submit the following online:

- Completed application form
- Current high school transcript
- Resume
- Two letters of recommendation from a teacher, employer, or community leader

■ Essay of 500 words answering the question "What inspired your interest in business or education, and how do you plan to use your education to make a meaningful impact in your community or industry?"

- Completed community service form

■ Proof of enrollment in an accredited college or trade school.

For additional details visit <https://dianeames scholarship.com> or email [DianeAmesScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:DianeAmesScholarship@gmail.com).

Applications are being accepted until March 31.

# Specialty crop grant open

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is accepting pre-applications for the 2026 Specialty Crop Block Grant program.

The United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service provides VDACS with Specialty Crop Block Grant funding to increase the competitiveness of Virginia specialty crops in the marketplace.

Pre-applications are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 6, and should be submitted using the agency's online portal at <https://tinyurl.com/8vskzmcp>

Project leaders will receive notification by Feb. 23 as to whether their project is selected to develop a full proposal. Full proposals will be due on Friday, March 13.

The program grant period is expected to begin on Thursday, Oct. 1, and the duration of each grant is up to two years.

This program is contingent upon the availability of federal funding.

VDACS will accept pre-applications of up to \$100,000 per project from state and local government agencies, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, agricultural associations, and industry and producer groups. Individual producers are not eligible to apply for this grant.

Specialty crop competitive grant proposals must be specific and explain how an association, industry group, or organization will use the funds to enhance the competitiveness of spe-

cialty crops.

Some examples include research, promotion and marketing plans, as well as food safety projects and projects that improve food access.

In awarding USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant funds, VDACS will give priority to projects that have the sole purpose of enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops as they pertain to the following issues:

- Enhance food safety.
- Improve the capacity of all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain to comply with the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act and in cost-share arrangements for finding audits of such systems, including USDA GroupGAP, for small farmers, packers, and processors.
- Invest in specialty crop research, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes.
- Develop new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops.
- Improve pest and disease control.
- Increase child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops.
- Improve efficiency and reduce costs of distribution systems.
- Enhance sustainability.

Specialty crops are defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops to include floriculture.

For more information on eligible and ineligible crops visit <https://tinyurl.com/mtap86k3>

## COMMUNITY

# Shore students awarded by SNHU

Several Eastern Shore students were named to the fall 2025 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University. They are:

- Shavon Snead, of Painter
- Unique Bailey, of Onancock
- Austin Studebaker, of Horntown

■ Megan Woods, of Wallops Island

■ Cody Anderson, of Atlantic

■ Jasmine Samuel, of Accomac

Additionally, Randall Blevins, of Temperanceville, was named to the school's fall 2025 Dean's List.

## Harpers named to dean's list at McDaniel College

McDaniel College has announced its fall 2025 dean's list, recognizing full-time undergraduate students for outstanding academic achievement, including:

- Jake Harper, of Chincoteague, who has been recognized with honors
- Jordan Harper, of Chincoteague,

who has been recognized with high honors.

Highest honors are earned for a semester grade-point average of 3.90 or higher, high honors for a grade-point average of 3.70 to 3.89, and honors for a 3.50 to 3.69 grade-point average.

McDaniel College, founded in 1867, is a four-year, independent college of the liberal arts and sciences offering over 100 undergraduate and graduate programs.



## TOWN OF ONLEY PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town Council of the Town of Onley will conduct a Public Hearing beginning at **6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2026**, at the Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA for the purpose of receiving comments from the members of the public concerning the Proposed Amended Town Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026. The following is a synopsis of the proposed amended budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026:

### ESTIMATED AMENDED REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

General Property Tax	\$ 73,436.00
Other Local Tax	\$ 782,750.00
Fines	\$ 175,000.00
Interest Income	\$ 80,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 4,900.00
Grant Income	\$ 24,000.00
Law Enforcement Asst.	\$ 15,796.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,155,882.00</b>

### PROPOSED AMENDED EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

General Government	\$ 367,670.00
Public Works	\$ 244,439.00
Public Safety	\$ 489,773.00
Grant Expense	\$ 24,000.00
Donations	\$ 30,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,155,882.00</b>

#### Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Tax Levy:

- No increase in Real Estate Tax: 6.6 cents/\$100.00 value
- No increase in Personal Property Tax & Boats: 30 cents/\$100.00 value
- No increase in Meals Tax: 4.00%
- No increase in Transient Occupancy Tax: 2.00%
- No increase in Business License: \$30.00

*The Regularly Scheduled Town Council Meeting will immediately follow the Public Hearing.*

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# Town moves with urgency on culvert projects

BY JANET BERNOSKY

Eastern Shore Post

The Town of Chincoteague is moving forward with two culvert projects — one of which is an emergency — that will ultimately result in healthier marshes, Town Manager Mike Tolbert said.

He and Public Works Director Wes Parks provided status updates at the Jan. 5 town council meeting.

Four aluminum culverts along Fowling Creek at Beebe Road need to be replaced immediately, Tolbert and Parks said.

The other project, involving Eel Creek along Maddox Boulevard, is a long-term repair for now.

The total cost for the Beebe Road project is \$752,309.

Because it is an emergency situation, the project will be paid for with existing town funds since there wasn't

time to obtain grants to cover the costs.

The new concrete box culverts on Beebe Road will be the same size as the four aluminum ones they are replacing.

Tolbert said nearby culverts along the creek at Bunting Road and South Main Street are not affected at the moment.

Work is set to start immediately, beginning with the installation of dams so the groundwork for the culverts can then get underway later in January.

They will be manufactured in early February, then transported to the island.

Timing is everything, Tolbert said, because while the project is underway, there won't be through traffic on Beebe Road.

Each step of the project — which could take up to 30 days total — will be carefully planned to avoid undue,



EASTERN SHORE POST/JIMMY SHOCKLEY

**Cones mark the spot where culverts will be replaced on Beebe Road, Chincoteague.**





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lengthy hardships for vehicles using the road.

Once underway, however, residents will need to access their homes either from Main Street or Ridge Road, depending on where they live.

He said letters will be sent out informing residents of the process and timeline.

This project is not unfamiliar to Tolbert, whose father's construction company installed the current culverts in the early 1990s, with Tolbert serving as a crane operator.

Eel Creek runs under Maddox Boulevard close to the bridge leading to Assateague, near the Piney Island neighborhood in an area also served by restaurants, hotels, a major campground, and several businesses.

The current metal pipe, installed just after the Ash Wednesday Storm of 1962, is showing signs of wear and movement that has affected the road surface.

"The existing Eel Creek culvert is extremely undersized, and probably

was when it was first installed," said Tolbert.

The proposed temporary solution would involve a "slip line" repair of a metal pipe by inserting a smaller but more stable pipe inside.

Town officials are seeking to avoid problems that could have a devastating effect on the island's tourism economy that relies on beach access via this part of Maddox.

The slip line repair alone would last decades, but Tolbert said the town intends to move forward with a full replacement in approximately two years.

This would give the town sufficient time to seek funding sources through grants.

Once fully replaced, Tolbert said the capacity would be roughly 10 times greater than before.

Finishing the project would then allow the town to widen the roadway in that area and add sidewalks and bike paths.

Parks is working to obtain a quote for the temporary slip line project.





EASTERN SHORE POST/TED SHOCKLEY

Blair Richardson, left, chief executive officer of Potatoes USA, presents the family of the late Accomack County farmer Phil Hickman a plaque of appreciation. Receiving it are his widow, Sandy Hickman; their son, Phillip Hickman; and their grandson, Logan Hickman.

## Hickman, Snyder, Pickett's Harbor Farms honored at confab

**BY TED SHOCKLEY**  
Eastern Shore Post

The late E. Phillip Hickman Jr., a longtime Accomack County farmer who died last January, was lauded by Potatoes USA, formerly called the National Potato Board, at the 36th annual Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference and Trade Show.

The event was held Jan. 14 and 15 at the Exmore Moose Lodge in Belle Haven.

Hickman served as a board chairman and board member of Potatoes USA, which is based in Colorado and is a national marketing and research organization for potatoes.

"Phil was an absolute influence on my life," said Blair Richardson, Potatoes USA's chief executive officer.

The award was accepted by Hickman's widow, Sandy Hickman; their son, Phillip Hickman, and their grandson, Logan Hickman.

Pickett's Harbor Farms, located south of Cape Charles, was awarded a

certificate of appreciation at the conference by the Association of Eastern Virginia Agricultural Producers Inc.

"It's just a tremendous operation that they're running," said the association's chairman, Bruce Richardson, in presenting the award. "They're doing a great job of promoting agriculture."

Farm owner W.T. Nottingham credited his staff with the award and said it was important to help young people get a start in agriculture.

The association also presented a certificate of appreciation for outstanding service to Richard A. Snyder, professor and director of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Eastern Shore Laboratory in Wachapreague. The laboratory is part of the College of William and Mary.

Richardson talked about Snyder and VIMS' role in the Eastern Shore's aquacultural successes.

"We have a very vibrant aquaculture industry on the Shore, with sales in the hundreds of millions of dollars," Richardson said.



EASTERN SHORE POST/TED SHOCKLEY

Bruce Richardson, left, chairman of the Association of Eastern Virginia Agricultural Producers Inc., presents a certificate of appreciation to Pickett's Harbor Farms. Pictured to the right of Richardson are Erika Aran, farm owner W.T. Nottingham, Brandon Aran, Kiernan Purcell, and Joe Guthrie, commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.



EASTERN SHORE POST/TED SHOCKLEY

Bruce Richardson, left, chairman of the Association of Eastern Virginia Agricultural Producers Inc., presents a certificate of appreciation for outstanding service to Richard A. Snyder, professor and director of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Eastern Shore Laboratory in Wachapreague. At right is Joe Guthrie, commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

# Town council OKs improvements to police headquarters

**BY JIMMY SHOCKLEY**  
Eastern Shore Post

The Exmore Town Council on Monday, Jan. 12, unanimously approved \$30,000 to remodel the town police headquarters.

Town Manager Pam Ward and Mayor Douglas Greer both said the police office is in “dire need” of refurbishing.

The police station is upstairs in the town hall building. All of the Exmore police officers’ desks are crammed into one room, town officials said.

In addition to the carpet peeling back, there are stained ceiling tiles from water damage and homemade desks.

The room also needs more storage solutions because ammunition and evidence must be stored in climate-controlled areas.

Exmore police officers have vol-

unteered to help with the remodel by changing ceiling tiles, light fixtures, and more.

“They deserve it. They work hard and do a great job,” Ward said of Exmore’s police force.

## New mowers needed

Ward brought to light an issue she said has been getting worse for the town every year — its riding lawnmowers.

Ward said the town has four riding lawnmowers, and their best days are behind them. Three of them are 19 years old and one is 24.

Last year, Ward said the town had to spend \$7,400 on repairs alone for these four lawnmowers.

She said she would like for all of them to be replaced because of the

maintenance costs and downtime for repairs.

Ward priced out getting four commercial-grade lawnmowers from one source for \$14,000 each.

Councilman Chase Sturgis said it would be wise to get more quotes from dealers instead of only one.

Sturgis also said it would be wise to not buy all four at once — because it increases the likelihood of having to replace these four all at the same time down the road.

Sturgis was committed to ensuring the town staff has adequate machinery.

“We’ll get them what they need,” Sturgis said.

## Precious metals license

Spring Custis, owner of the Exmore

Antique Emporium, told the town council she has held the only officially issued precious metals dealer license in the town of Exmore since 2013.

Dan and Kathy Brewster, of Inspired Antiques, also on Main Street, were set to open Friday, Jan. 16. They also submitted an application to the town police chief for a precious metals dealer license. The license was granted.

Custis spoke out against this, saying her longtime commitment to the town and the money she has invested in bringing people to the town means, on principle, the town shouldn’t issue the unique license to anyone else.

Ken Dufty, an Exmore antique store owner himself, said, “I think competition in business is great,” and complimented the businesses of both Custis and the Brewsters.

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- Trestle Span BSB1
- Trestle Span BSB202
- Trestle Span CSB1
- Trestle Span BNB1-2

Plans and Specifications for this project are available on the District's website at <https://www.cbbt.com/requests-for-proposals/>

Sealed bids for this project will be received until 2:00 p.m. on February 24, 2026, in the office of the Director of Maintenance, Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel District, 32386 Lankford Highway, Cape Charles, VA 23310, Attention: Mr. Timothy R. Holloway, at which time the bids will be publicly opened.

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* Shortly before auditioning for the part of Stanley Kowalski in Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire" at the playwright's rented cottage, Marlon Brando repaired a clogged toilet and blown light fuse for him.

\* A single day on Mercury lasts 59 Earth days.

\* On average, people in India spend 10 hours and 42 minutes a week reading, the most time of any country on Earth.

\* The German word "kummerspeck" refers to excess weight gained from emotional overeating. Its literal translation is "grief bacon."

\* Brazil's prisons reduce inmates' sentences for reading books and writing reviews.

\* When that "inner voice" speaks in your head, it triggers small muscle movements in your larynx.

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## Sports Trivia

By Ryan Berenz

1. Which Hockey Hall of Famer and four-time Stanley Cup champion may be best known for the Canadian donut shop chain he cofounded in 1964?

2. Which NFL head coach compiled a 34-46 regular-season record with the Dallas Cowboys (1998-99) and Buffalo Bills (2010-12)?

3. What horse racing facility in Hallandale Beach, Florida, hosted the Breeders' Cup in 1989, 1992, and 1999?

4. What university is known as "Sports-caster U." for its many alumni — including Marv Albert, Mike Tirico, Dick Stockton, Sean McDonough and Ian Eagle — with distinguished careers in sports media?

5. What two college football teams play for the Old Brass Spittoon rivalry trophy?

6. Name the Basketball Hall of Famer and Portland Trail Blazers head coach who was arrested in October 2025 as part of an investigation into rigged sports gambling and poker games.

Answers  
1. Tim Horton  
2. Chan Gailey  
3. Gullstream Park  
4. Syracuse University  
5. The Indiana Hoosiers and Michigan State Spartans  
6. Chauncey Billups  
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