

Eastern Shore Post

FEBRUARY 13, 2026

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

FREE OF CHARGE

NORTHAMPTON

Area Air Force recruit, 18, dies in crash

Rease, Northampton grad, killed when auto flips

BY TED SHOCKLEY
Eastern Shore Post

It was the afternoon of the Super Bowl and Michael Justin-Travis Rease Jr. left to get some Chinese food to bring home for dinner.



His mother asked him to take out the trash as he left. He grouched a bit, as teenagers sometimes do about chores, but he abided.

“He went and got it,” Yolanda Rease said.

Michael Rease Jr.

It was the last thing she ever said to him — a mother’s everyday request before a son’s commonplace dinner run on a cold Sunday afternoon.

Rease, 18, never made it back home. State police said the vehicle he was driving on Arlington Road, east of Townsend, ran off the road and rolled several times.

Police said Rease, who was not wearing a seat belt, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The crash happened a short distance from the Cheapside home where he lived with his mother.

Yolanda Rease said she went to the site of the crash but later left to

(Continued on page 25)



EASTERN SHORE POST/TED SHOCKLEY

Helber Oliver, of Painter, moves items belonging to artists Margie and John Labadie from the Historic Onancock School on Tuesday, Feb. 10. The former school, now a home for merchants and studios, has been closed in the wake of a Jan. 31 fire.

In Onancock fire’s aftermath, a ‘mix of emotions’

BY SARAH BARBAN
Eastern Shore Post

There has been a whirlwind of emotions in the aftermath of a fire Jan. 31 at the Historic Onancock School, a community center that holds commercial shops, artists’ studios, and

recreation spaces.

There also have been whirlwinds of activity as the building is emptied so cleaning and restoration can begin, of questions about how the fire started, and of community support for the school and those impacted.

A fire in the basement of the south

wing was reported by a patron of the school. The basement and the floor above were heavily damaged.

As the town began working with the insurance company to determine the cause of the fire and begin restoration, tenants were told they must

(Continued on page 25)

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CSB seeking local artists' work

The Eastern Shore Community Services Board is seeking artwork from local creatives.

The art will be displayed at the CSB's newly renovated Parksley Behavioral Health Center.

Art can be displayed for sale, exhibited, or donated.

The CSB aims to bring warmth and creativity to the space.

For more information contact

Charmin Horton at 757-655-0086.

The mission of the Eastern Shore CSB is to provide services, support, prevention, and education regarding mental health, intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, and substance use issues to the people of the Eastern Shore of Virginia utilizing a person-centered, coordinated care delivery model.

COMMUNICATING WITH THE EASTERN SHORE POST

- PRESS RELEASES AND SUBMITTED PHOTOS: Email them to editor@easternshorepost.com.
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Recycling event collects nearly 66 tons of tires

On Tuesday, Feb. 3, Accomack County producers gathered at the Southern Landfill in Melfa for a highly productive Farm Tire Recycling Event.

The initiative, generously sponsored by the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District and Accomack County Farm Bureau, provided local farmers with the opportunity to recycle up to 3 tons of tractor, large truck, and implement tires at no cost.

The community's enthusiastic participation resulted in the collection of just under 66 tons of tires, underscoring the commitment of Accomack County's agricultural community to sustainability and responsible waste management.

With Accomack County Public Works providing the space for col-

lection, the event made a significant positive impact on the local environment by removing bulky and potentially hazardous waste from farms and fields.

Event organizers extend their gratitude to all producers who participated and contributed to the event's success, as well as to the volunteers and partners whose support made the collection possible.

The Farm Tire Recycling Event stands as a testament to the power of collaboration in promoting conservation and protecting our local resources.

Learn more about the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District at www.esswcd.org

For more information about Accomack County Farm Bureau, visit <https://www.vafb.com/offices/accomack>



COURTESY PHOTO

Almost 66 tons of tires were recycled on Feb. 3 at an event sponsored by the Eastern Shore Soil and Conservation District and Accomack County Farm Bureau.

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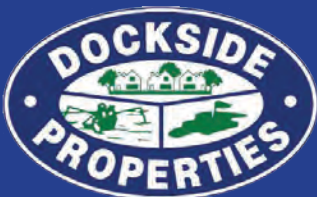
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EDUCATION

Literacy Council awarded Eastern Shore of Virginia Community Foundation grant

The Eastern Shore Literacy Council (ESLC) received a \$7,000 grant award from the Eastern Shore of Virginia Community Foundation (ESVCF) to support the local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library book gifting initiative.

This grant award will support the monthly distribution of books to registered age-eligible children. Over 30,000 books have been mailed directly to the homes of children registered for the Imagination Library since the Eastern Shore Literacy Council became an Imagination Library Local Program Partner.

In 2025, 10,856 books were mailed to registered children. As a local program partner, the Eastern Shore Literacy Council covers the cost of books and mailing each month, promotes the program in the community, registers age-eligible children, and seeks program funding support.

The average retail cost of Imagination Library titles is about \$14 per book. However, by purchasing in volume, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is able to acquire and mail customized books for about \$2.60 per child per month. The cost for local program partners is \$31 per child annually.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is the flagship program of the Dollywood Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Tennessee organization. The Imagination Library fosters early literacy by delivering age-appropriate books directly to the homes of children from birth to age five.

The program is made possible through funding shared by Dolly Parton herself and local program partners in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and the Republic of Ireland.

Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly started the Imagination Library in 1995 to serve the children of her hometown in Sevier County, Tenn.

Today, her program spans five countries and gives over 3 million free, high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to children around the world. There is never a charge to families who participate in the program, and it is open to all children under the age of five in geographic areas with operating programs.

The ESVCF is a regional nonprofit that connects local donors with community needs in Accomack and Northampton counties, managing endowed funds for permanent support and providing grants for education, health, environment, arts, and social welfare to strengthen the region. It works with donors to create charitable funds and partners with the Hampton Roads Community Foundation for investment, offering philanthropic solutions to build a stronger, more vibrant Eastern Shore.

The ESLC is a nonprofit organization providing free literacy services to adults, including one-on-one tutoring for reading/writing, Adult Basic Education (ABE), and English as a Second Language (ESL), aiming to empower residents for better community participation, education, and employment. ESLC also supports children's literacy through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Find out more about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library or register a child at www.imaginationlibrary.com

Children can also be registered by the Eastern Shore Literacy Council at www.shoreliteracy.org or by calling 757-789-1761.



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County floats idea to seek grant to build teacher housing

BY JIMMY SHOCKLEY
Eastern Shore Post

Northampton County, at a meeting Tuesday, Feb. 10, proceeded with a concept to build housing for its teachers.

County Administrator Matt Spuck brought forth a proposal to fix the issue of affordable teacher housing, which Northampton County has faced for years.

While the plan is still in early stages, the Board of Supervisors approved the proposal, meaning the next step is requesting a grant for the construction.

Spuck's proposal is to purchase eight houses in the Machipongo area with rent at a level that ensures residents won't be "housing burdened," which is when the resident of a home spends more than 30% of their income on housing costs, including utilities.

Spuck said the aim is for the rental homes to cost about 25% of the resident's income, with a maximum residency of five years.

When the time comes for the occupant to move out, Northampton County would help the renter to put a deposit down on buying a home in the county.

The plan was proposed due to problems attracting and retaining school faculty for Northampton County Public Schools.

Northampton County Public Schools Superintendent Lisa Martin said it isn't uncommon for the school system to have applicants who are interested in a position but can't find housing, leading them to look for a job elsewhere.

"It's a problem of homes being affordable and available," Martin said.

Rent prices will be dependent on several factors, according to the pro-

posal. If the occupant has a partner who lives with them, rent will be dependent on household income, not just the income of the occupant who works for the school system, meaning the rent could be higher.

Also, even if units are identical, one person could still end up paying more rent than another because they have a higher income.

While the plan is still in its infancy, it is a much-needed solution for a problem that is affecting the school system, one official said.

"This may not work, but if we don't try, we'll never know," Spuck said.

School support programs

Martin said the school district is implementing new systems to combat chronic absenteeism, which is defined by the state as students missing 10%

of school days or more.

Martin said the school district is working with the Virginia Virtual Academy to offer a fully online alternative for Northampton County students.

The school district is also working to offer more trade classes, such as HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and carpentry, she said.

It is also working with Eastern Shore Community College to offer welding and automotive courses on the college campus in Melfa, she said.

Supervisor Ernest Smith Jr. said he believes offering these courses does much more than merely allowing students to gain experience.

Smith said he believes that offering these courses gives students something to be proud of outside of the normal classroom setting, which in turn will help behavioral problems in students.

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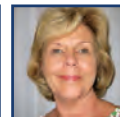
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COURTESY PHOTO

NOAAWIVA Sportsmen Inc. is hosting a firearms safety and competitive service rifle training on Saturday, March 21.

Firearms safety training offered

The Civilian Marksmanship Program is a Congressionally-chartered corporation with the mission of promoting safety and marksmanship for American youth.

NOAAWIVA Sportsmen Inc., a CMP-affiliated club, will provide training in firearms safety and competitive service rifle on Saturday, March 21.

The range entrance is located 300 yards east of the intersection of Route 13 and Chincoteague Road.

Participants should arrive by 9:30 a.m. to complete releases. The training will begin at 10 a.m. and will end around 3 p.m.

The training is free for children ages 13 to 17. The cost for adults is \$25.

Participants need to be age 13 or

older and United States citizens.

Boys and girls, men and women are welcome, including those with disabilities.

Participants should wear long pants and long sleeves, a billed cap, and glasses if they need them to read.

Personal firearms are not permitted. Ear and ear protection, drinks, and snacks will be provided. This a rain or shine event.

Contact Brett at 757-710-0294 or Dave at 757-442-3013 with any questions. Follow the Facebook page "NOAAWIVA Junior Rifle Team" for timely updates.

Parents and other adults are welcome on the adult team, as well as to help out in other ways.

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After discussion, council OKs lawnmower purchases

BY JIMMY SHOCKLEY

Eastern Shore Post

The Exmore Town Council on Monday, Feb. 9, voted to purchase two new riding lawnmowers, priced at \$14,500 each, and one in each of the next two years.

This came after a discussion last month in which Town Manager Pam Ward mentioned the town's current fleet of mowers are all at least 19 years old, with one being 24.

"All four should've been replaced many years ago," Ward said at Monday night's meeting.

Ward got a quote from the Exmore Western Auto in January but was asked to get two more quotes for the sake of comparison.

After reviewing all three quotes — one from Western Auto, one from Fairdale Farms in Accomac, and one

from Land & Coates in Virginia Beach — the council decided to move forward with the original quote from Western Auto, citing ease of servicing and competitive pricing.

The town decided not to buy all four at the same time so they all don't need to be replaced at the same time.

Two will be purchased now, one in 2027, and one in 2028.

The vote was opposed by Councilman Chase Sturgis, who said the town should spend more money on each unit in order to get fuel-injected mowers instead of carbureted ones.

Exmore finances good

The town of Exmore has seen a major financial resurgence in the last 15 years, officials said.

Ward, who gives the town financial report at meetings, said the town

has \$9.3 million in the bank, a number that increases each month because of interest.

Mayor Douglas Greer commended the "team effort" from the town and its administration, saying the change has been massive since he began with the town. Ward also credited previous staff and managers for their smart finance work.

Public works fixes leaks

Ward said that the cold weather in the past two weeks has challenged the town's public works department, but employees are up to the task.

The weather has caused water leaks and close monitoring of septic grinder pumps.

Ward said the workers have experienced many early mornings, late nights, and a few skipped lunch breaks

in the weather, but she's looking out for them in the cold.

"I'm trying to take care of them because they're taking care of us," she said.

Council thanked

Multiple members of the public attended the meeting in order to thank the town council for its efforts that helped to prohibit Vaulted Deep from constructing a deep-well injection facility on the Eastern Shore.

The site would have pumped liquefied poultry litter beneath the Eastern Shore's federally designated sole-source aquifer, contamination of which would be catastrophic.

"This is a great example of citizens and government working together," said local resident Ken Dufty.

"Thank you for what you did."

Greenbackville/Captain's Cove Mosquito Control Commission Fiscal 2024-2025 Summary Statement of Financial Condition

As required by the Code of Virginia § 30-140, a summary of the financial condition of the Greenbackville/Captain's Cove Mosquito Control Commission for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year is hereby published. The Commission's complete financial activity is issued in separate financial statements. These statements can be obtained from the Greenbackville/Captain's Cove Mosquito Control Commission, P.O. Box 218, Greenbackville, VA 23356.

Financial Condition Summary

Statement of Net Position Summary

Total Assets	\$ 190,374
Total Liabilities	\$ 44,338
Total Net Position	\$ 146,036

Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position Summary

Total Operating Revenues	\$ 67,039
Total Operating Expenditures	(82,089)
Operating Loss	(15,050)
Other Sources	-
Other (Uses)	-
Total Other Sources (Uses)	-
Change in Net Position	\$ (15,050)

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Chincoteague to get Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla

BY JIMMY SHOCKLEY

Eastern Shore Post

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary held an event Saturday, Feb. 7, commemorating the reestablishment of key services on Chincoteague Island.

Chincoteague Island will be receiving a volunteer flotilla, a group of at least 15 members who assist the Coast Guard and U.S. Navy and provide services such as boater's safety courses and vessel checks.

"Chincoteague is a key boating area. There's a lot of activity," said Division 12 Vice Commander Don Kuczenski, referring to the need for extra assistance to the Coast Guard on Chincoteague.

Chincoteague once had a Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla, but it was discontinued about five years ago.

In the years since, the flotilla has been missed by the Coast Guard and the public, Kuczenski said.

In recent years, Chincoteague has been serviced by the Ocean City, Md., flotilla, but servicing both areas out of one flotilla wasn't ideal, Kuczenski said.

Chincoteague's new flotilla will be Flotilla 12-06, joining Division 12, which oversees flotillas in Ocean City, Salisbury, and Painter.

The Flotilla commander for 12-06 is Warren Peake, and the vice commander is Mark Wrightstone.

Division 12 Commander Jim McCarty said that the creation of flotillas is "extremely rare" — so rare that when it came to reestablishing the Chincoteague flotilla, nobody in the division knew the process for how to do it.

The loss of a flotilla is much more common than the addition of one.

In McCarty's 20 years as a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, he'd never seen the establishment of one.

"There just aren't as many people enlisting," he said.

Because of dropping enlistment rates, it took a year and a half of recruiting to find 15 people to reestablish Chincoteague's flotilla, McCarty said.

Those 15 members will assist at the Coast Guard boat station on the island, assist in public safety, and provide assistance during the island's Pony Swim, as well as additional activities outside Chincoteague.

The flotilla won't only serve Chincoteague Island — it will mainly serve northern Accomack County as well as the entire Eastern Shore and parts of southern Maryland.

The flotilla will also assist the Navy at Wallops; McCarty said Division 12 already has a great relationship with the Navy at Wallops.

"Having this group reestablished gives us the opportunity to provide more support," Kuczenski said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured from left at the reestablishment ceremony for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla on Chincoteague Island are, from left, Vice Commander Don Kuczenski, James (Mark) Wrightstone, Melinda Wrightstone, Wayne Bass, Lisa Joynes, Stephen Wehlan, George Diamond, Ian Redmond, Luann Roche, Bill Roche, Stephen Myers, and James (Bo) Busler. Not pictured but members of the flotilla are Richard (Dick) Hall, Warren Peake, and Thomas Polaski.



U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Division Commander Jim McCarty addresses those present at the reestablishment ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 7. He said the creation of flotillas is "extremely rare" — so rare that when it came to reestablishing the Chincoteague flotilla, nobody in the division knew the process for how to do it.

EASTERN SHORE POST/
JIMMY SHOCKLEY

EDITORIAL

Eastern Shore Post

Eastern Shore Post

Founded in 1999

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SERVING VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE

THE PAPER'S POSITION

A commitment to Black history on the Eastern Shore

During Black History Month, congratulations are in order to those whose time, effort, investment, and research have preserved and promoted the Eastern Shore of Virginia's own deep, rich Black history.

Over the decades, our area's fascinating and inspiring Black history has been increasingly chronicled, discovered, and recognized. However, we all know this critical mission is incomplete. There remain important discoveries to be made — and we eagerly await them.

As we preserve our Black history in Accomack and Northampton counties, we also continue to add to our history and achieve hard-won historic milestones. This year is particularly significant in that, for the first time in Accomack's long history, the chair and vice chair of the elected county board of supervisors are Black. This is a triumph of equality and a source of community pride. We eagerly await the accomplishments of those who follow in these leaders' footsteps.

This year brought the opening of a community center at the former segregated Black school in Cape Charles. Vibrant community centers also exist at former segregated Black high schools in Machipongo and Accomac. The creative reuse of these buildings honors and preserves our history. We look forward to the next example of Black history preservation.

Never before has there been such a depth and breadth of written content available about Black history on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. We eagerly await the publication of more of it.

We are fortunate to live in a time in which Eastern Shore Black history is so thoughtfully and robustly recognized. We thank those who have worked so hard to preserve and promote it.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

The Eastern Shore Post strives for accuracy. Corrections and clarifications will be printed in this space. Email editor@easternshorepost.com.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Will Eastern Shore's trail actually be utilized by bicyclists?

To the editor:

I just read elsewhere that the Eastern Shore rail bed bike trail has received more funding — federal funding, of course.

Who else would throw good money after bad?

Admittedly, I don't do a lot of bicycle riding anymore. So maybe I'm not the best judge of such expenditures.

But I bet the Eastern Shore can find lots of ways to better use these millions of dollars than a narrow strip of asphalt running for nearly 50 miles.

I'm mostly basing my remarks on proximity and experience.

Here in Smithfield, where population density is a tad more than anything along U.S. Route 13, our elected officials saw fit to help fund a shorter bike trail

Guest columns and letters to the editor of the Eastern Shore Post

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 should pertain to Eastern Shore issues or reference articles in the Eastern Shore Post.

Writers are limited to one letter or guest column every six months.

Send letters to editor@easternshorepost.com.

here, too.

The last I heard, over \$8 million dollars had been spent.

My office is right across a busy road from the trail, yet I rarely see bikers using it.

Instead most bikers are right on the road, often at Smithfield rush hour — a term I use loosely.

I view our local bike trail as a monument to local and federal government waste.

I will be eager to see how well your monument, I mean trail, is ultimately utilized by bikers.

Don Lovett
Smithfield

Eastern Shore Post

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IN MEMORIAM

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Eastern Shore Post, 1999-2024

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JIM RITCH | PUBLISHER, publisher@easternshorepost.com

WILLIAM E. SHOCKLEY III | EDITOR, GENERAL MANAGER
editor@easternshorepost.com

RYAN WEBB | ASSISTANT EDITOR | Obituaries, legals, classifieds
ryan@easternshorepost.com

MEGAN LEWIS | ADVERTISING MANAGER
ads@easternshorepost.com

CAROL VAUGHN, carol@easternshorepost.com

SARAH BARBAN, sarah@easternshorepost.com

JIMMY SHOCKLEY, jimmy@easternshorepost.com

MARK MORING, mark@easternshorepost.com

JONI HAMILTON, Shore Marketing Services

NANCY DRURY DUNCAN

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On a father's birthday, recalling the gift of his memories, values

BY ELISE McMATH
Guest columnist

The kitchen mattered most. My late father, Donald Randolph McMATH, wanted the drainboard sink in his grandparents' Cape Charles home returned to its place. His grandmother once had stood there. The smell of her pies still seemed to rise from the room.

The house holds more than memory. It holds a lineage — generations of family members passed through and still ask, quietly, to be remembered.

My father would have been 77 years old this week. He was born on Feb. 11, 1949, at the original — and long-ago demolished — Northampton-Accomack Memorial Hospital in Nassawadox.

He grew up at 529 Tazewell Ave., Cape Charles, with cousins a few houses down and grandparents two blocks away. Even after his career carried him across the bay, he never let go of his grandparents' house. He didn't want to flip it or modernize it. He wanted only to tend it, the way you tend a rose bush, with patience and faith in the bloom to come.

As my father got older, he showed me how Cape Charles had changed. From the vehicle's passenger seat, he pointed out the landmarks of his past: his grandfather's drugstore on Mason Avenue, the Cape Charles High School football field, the old ferry dock at the harbor.

We stopped at the Cape Charles Cemetery, where he showed me a footstone bearing the name Donald McMATH. This was the name he carried so his uncle, killed in World War II, would not disappear.

On the way back, we passed the "old colored school," where he had helped Coach Carl Kane move used desks over from the white school. And as we drove down the hump — the town's vehicular railroad overpass — he gifted me a priceless memory of him and his best friend, Russ Parsons, racing downhill together as boys until the brakes of their home-built vehicle gave out.

He wasn't just telling stories. He was showing me the places that mattered. I didn't understand then what he was preparing me for.

There is a moment after a parent dies when the world goes on and you feel yourself become an orphan.

Then, when you least expect it, someone will say your late parent's name.

A man I did not know passed slowly by our family home. He rolled down his window and asked if I was Donald *MAC-muth's* daughter. I was comforted by this endangered pronunciation, kept alive by the Eastern Shore and the people who belong here. He offered up memories of my father like they were currency, and I quickly tucked them away among my most precious heirlooms.

My father never treated what he inherited as something to profit from. A son does not take his father's possessions to be appraised after he dies. He cares for them. He keeps them safe — not for what they're worth but for the life they carry.

In this way, the Cape Charles hump is like a mature oak. It has witnessed more history than any one person can hold. Rooted where it stands, it gives memory somewhere to live. Those who belong here understand that its value is not monetary but spiritual.

Places that are alive can continue to hold people after they are gone. There, even the dead have addresses.

Belonging in a place, I have come to understand, is much like the lives of plants.

There are those native plants whose roots run deep enough to hold the ground together.

There are those invasive plants, like kudzu, that conquer and displace.

And there are those who come from elsewhere but who give more than they take and who respect those who came before them.

My father taught me the value of the things money can't buy. On the days I need him most, I am blessed to be held by the place that held him first.

I love you, Dad. Happy heavenly birthday.

■ *The writer is director of programming and communications at The Impact Center in Cape Charles. She and her father began the restoration of his grandparents' Cape Charles home. After his death, she completed the restoration.*



COURTESY PHOTO

Elise McMATH and her late father, Donald McMATH, sit on the front porch of his grandparents' home in Cape Charles. She restored the home after his death.



A young Donald McMATH and his grandmother, Anne Eaton McMATH, stand with a cake on his birthday in 1952. "My father taught me the value of the things money can't buy. On the days I need him most, I am blessed to be held by the place that held him first," said his daughter, Elise McMATH.

COURTESY PHOTO

With AI, the Eastern Shore has a role in writing the future

BY W. ALEX FOXWORTHY

Guest columnist

Something enormous is happening, and for many of us, it has not fully sunk in yet.

When I talk to students about artificial intelligence, I occasionally hear concerns — someone worried about water usage, someone worried about future jobs, someone who says they just don't like it.

But mostly what I encounter is something more basic: a lack of awareness that a seismic shift is underway.

The headlines come and go, and daily life on the Shore continues. It is easy to assume this is all happening somewhere else to someone else. It isn't.

We are living through a major technological transition — one that will reshape health care, agriculture, education, and nearly every industry that employs people in our community.

And transitions are precisely the moments when ordinary people have the most power to shape what comes next. The rules aren't settled. The outcomes aren't locked in. But that window won't stay open forever.

The real, the distracting

Part of the problem is that the public conversation about AI mixes genuine concerns with science fiction.

When everything sounds equally alarming, it's hard to know where to focus — so people either panic or tune out. Neither response is useful.

The "Terminator scenario" — machines deciding to wipe us out — makes for good movies but poor analysis. It's a distraction from the problems we can actually do something about.

And while mass unemployment won't arrive overnight, let's be honest: Significant job displacement over the coming years is a real possibility.

Entire categories of work are already changing. That's not a reason to despair — it's a reason to get moving. The people who understand these

tools and can work with them will be far better positioned than those who ignored them until it was too late.

The real challenges are less cinematic but are more urgent and far more personal.

How do we make sure that we, our children, and our neighbors are learning the skills this economy increasingly demands?

How do we update our health care systems, our schools, and our workforce programs to take full advantage of tools that didn't exist five years ago?

How do we make sure that rural communities aren't again the last to benefit?

The Eastern Shore has lagged behind the state on too many measures for too long — educational attainment, broadband internet access, health care outcomes, median income. That's a painful reality.

But with a technological disruption this large, the whole deck is being reshuffled.

These tools are fundamentally democratizing. The most powerful AI systems in the world are available right now to anyone with a computer and an internet connection.

You don't need to live in Northern Virginia or hold a graduate degree. You need curiosity, willingness to experiment, and access — and expanding that access is something a community can organize around.

It is happening here

Virginia hosts the largest concentration of data centers in the world — the physical backbone of the AI systems is making headlines.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport at Wallops Island is one of only a handful of Federal Aviation Administration-licensed orbital launch facilities in the nation.

Virginia ranks fifth nationally in renewable energy growth and will need an estimated 40,000 new solar workers over the next decade, with community colleges already partner-

ing to fill the pipeline.

But the opportunities most relevant to the Eastern Shore may be the ones closest to our daily lives.

Let's be realistic about health care: We're not going to solve our provider shortages by recruiting a wave of new doctors and specialists to the Eastern Shore. That hasn't happened, and there's little reason to expect it will.

But AI gives us something different — tools that are well-suited to rural realities.

AI-assisted diagnostics, remote monitoring, and decision-support systems can improve care with the staff and budgets we actually have.

Nearly \$190 million in first-year federal funding is flowing to Virginia specifically for rural health technology and modernization — telehealth, remote monitoring, electronic health records, and mobile clinics.

In agriculture and environmental stewardship — industries that define this peninsula — the same pattern is emerging.

Organizations like The Nature Conservancy and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science are already using drones to collect and analyze environmental data along our coast.

Precision agriculture tools are helping farmers do more with less. These are practical applications, not futuristic fantasies, and they need people who understand both the technology and the land.

AI is a tool — so learn it

I sometimes hear from students that they don't want to rely on AI because they want to develop real skills themselves. I respect that instinct. Critical thinking, problem-solving, and deep knowledge matter enormously and always will.

But consider an analogy. If you want to build houses, you need to learn how to use a hammer. You could, in theory, build a timber-frame house with no nails and no hammer — people have done it for centuries. But that's a boutique skill today, not the

one that gets you hired on a construction crew.

Learning to use AI effectively isn't a shortcut around developing real skills. It is a real skill — and increasingly, it's the one that makes all your other skills more powerful.

Research is showing that how you use these tools matters. Used lazily, they can lead to shallow thinking. Used well — to check your reasoning, explore alternatives, push deeper into problems — they multiply your learning and your capability.

The goal is not to let AI think for you. The goal is to think better with AI than you could without it.

In our K-12 schools and at the college level, education could be a key leverage point. One teacher who learns to use these tools effectively and brings them into the classroom reaches hundreds of students.

But students can't learn what their teachers don't know. If we wait until we're told exactly how to use AI in education, we'll be years behind the students who need us now.

We don't need a perfect policy or a finished curriculum. We need educators who are willing to experiment — to try these tools in their own work, figure out what is useful and what isn't, and share what they learn.

But here's the thing about experimentation: It only happens when people feel safe enough to try. Teachers won't take risks if every misstep becomes a problem. Administrators can help by treating early efforts as learning opportunities rather than performance failures.

Parents can help by understanding that figuring out how to use new tools well means figuring out what doesn't work along the way. A community that has its teachers' backs will get teachers who lead. One that second-guesses every attempt will get teachers who wait for someone else to go first.

The Shore's schools and college can be where this community first learns to work alongside these tools, or they

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AI on the Shore

(Continued from page 12)

can be the last place it happens. That's a choice we're making right now, whether we realize it or not.

People who show up

The Eastern Shore has weathered major economic transitions before — from agriculture to seafood processing, from small-scale farming to tourism and service economies.

None of those shifts were painless. But the communities that adapted, that looked for opportunity in the disruption, came through stronger.

This transition is bigger. The stakes are higher. But the fundamental dynamic is the same.

I'm not suggesting everyone needs to become a programmer. I'm suggesting that the worst possible response to a changing world is to

sit it out. Learn what these tools can do. Ask how they might affect your industry, your community, your family. Talk to your kids about what they're seeing — and what they're not seeing.

The people who participate in transitions help shape them. The people who don't get shaped by them.

This can't just be a conversation for educators, though. It has to be a community conversation — in our schools, our clinics, our churches, our town halls.

The future of the Eastern Shore — like the future of AI itself — isn't written yet.

And the people who help write it will be the ones who chose to pick up the pen.

■ *The writer, who lives in Onancock, holds a Ph.D. in neuroscience from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is the science program chair at Eastern Shore Community College.*

SHORE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY DONATES



COURTESY PHOTO

With Valentine's Day coming up, Shore Christian Academy students made goodie bags with a prayer enclosed for local police department officers. Exmore Chief of Police Adam Zieger accepted the goodie bags presented by a few SCA students. Pictured from left are Lily Rose Riley, Emily Gonzalez, Zieger, Aren Childs, and Koen Boyd.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Eastern Shore Post

Friday, February 13

■ **CRAFT:** Noon, Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library, Parksley. Adults can learn how to make Valentine's Day cards using recycled materials.

■ **COOKIES AND CONVERSATIONS:** Noon to 4 p.m., Eastern Shore Regional Animal Control Facility, 28167 Beacon Road, Melfa. The community is invited to enjoy cookies and ask any questions or share any thoughts with the facility's manager.

■ **DEATH BY CHOCOLATE:** From 3 to 7 p.m. Death By Chocolate will bring a scavenger hunt to downtown Chincoteague. Visit participating businesses for a chocolate treat and get a playing card validated for a chance to win prizes and raffles. This is a free event.

■ **MEET AND GREET:** 4 to 6 p.m., Sundial Books, Chincoteague. Meet Darcy and Steve Cole of DSC Photography and learn more about their 2026 edition of "Stallions and Mares of the Wild Chincoteague Pony."

■ **YOUTH DANCE CLASS:** 5 to 6 p.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Family YMCA, Onley. The Y is hosting a youth hip hop dance class on Fridays.

■ **BINGO:** Doors open 5:15 p.m., early bird games begin at 6:15 p.m., and regular games start at 6:45 p.m., Great Pocomoke Fairgrounds, 2037 Broad St., Pocomoke City. The fairgrounds is hosting a Valentine's Day edition of cash bingo.

■ **PARENTS NIGHT OUT:** 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Epworth United Methodist Church, 4158 Seaside Road, Exmore. The church is hosting a Parents Night Out. Parents can drop their children off for dinner, music, a movies, snacks, and crafts. To register visit <https://tinyurl.com/3vu3c8je>

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 6 p.m., Teaguer's Pub and Restaurant, Chincoteague. Paul Brion per-

Best bets

■ **Friday, Feb. 13, from 3 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** the annual Death By Chocolate will bring a scavenger hunt to downtown Chincoteague. Visit participating businesses to collect stamps on a playing card for a chance to win prizes.

■ **Saturday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m.,** the Historic Palace Theatre welcomes The Deloreans. For tickets visit <https://tinyurl.com/546n3ye5>

forms live.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 6 to 8 p.m., Charlotte Hotel, Onancock. La Doo Vay performs live jazz.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 6 to 9 p.m., The Blarney Stone Pub, Onancock. Margot and Val perform live.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 7 p.m., the North Street Playhouse, 34 Market St., Onancock. The Chris English Band performs live. To make reservations call 757-710-8718. The cost is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Purchase tickets at Morphosis.

■ **PLAY:** 7 p.m., Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St., Chincoteague. The Chincoteague Island Theater Company presents "Southern Fried Funeral." Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online at <https://tinyurl.com/23zdehuk>

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 7 to 10 p.m., Captain's Cove Marina Club, Greenbackville. The Rhythm Section performs live.

Saturday, February 14

■ **PANCAKE BREAKFAST:** 9 a.m. to noon, The Table Social Hall, 19444 Main

St., Melfa. A pancake breakfast is being held. The menu includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, and beverages. Monetary donations will be accepted.

■ **VENDOR FAIR:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Great Pocomoke Fairgrounds, 2037 Broad St., Pocomoke City. The fair is hosting a craft and food vendor fair in honor of Valentine's Day.

■ **DEATH BY CHOCOLATE:** From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Death By Chocolate will bring a scavenger hunt to downtown Chincoteague. Visit participating businesses for a chocolate treat and get a playing card validated for a chance to win prizes and raffles. This is a free event.

■ **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.

■ **FOOD DISTRIBUTION:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bayview Heritage Gardens, 22807 Blue Heron Road, Cheriton. The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore is hosting a mobile pantry.

■ **MEET AND GREET:** 11 a.m. to 2p.m.,

Sundial Books, Chincoteague. Author Jake Jacobs will be available with copies of the latest book in his Detective Brogan series.

■ **BRUNCH:** Noon to 4 p.m., Eastern Shore Community College Great Hall, Melfa. The Love Yourself First Brunch: The Blooming Experience is a women-only brunch focused on empowerment, self-love, personal growth, wellness, and connection. The cost is \$45. For tickets visit <https://tinyurl.com/4dfkjmj2>

■ **LECTURE:** 6 p.m., Museum of Chincoteague Island, 7125 Maddox Blvd., Chincoteague. Darcy Cole will discuss the 2025 Chincoteague pony foal season. The cost is \$10. To register for a seat visit <https://tinyurl.com/ycyw6se>

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 6 to 8 p.m., Bizotto's Gallery Cafe, Onancock. Joe Esham performs live.

■ **PLAY:** 7 p.m., Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St., Chincoteague. The Chincoteague Island Theater Company presents "Southern Fried Funeral." Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased beginning Jan. 23 at H and H Pharmacy or online at <https://tinyurl.com/23zdehuk>

■ **VALENTINE'S EVENT:** 7 p.m., Cypress Roots Brewing Company, Pocomoke City. Cypress Roots is hosting Singing Singles, a karaoke and game night. There will be dating games with prizes for winners and karaoke.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 7:30 p.m., Historic Palace Theatre, 305 Mason Ave., Cape Charles. The Deloreans perform live. For tickets visit <https://tinyurl.com/546n3ye5>

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 8 p.m., Par 4 Bar and Grill, Temperanceville. The Infinity Band performs live. Tickets are \$20 for a single ticket or \$35 for couples. The cost includes a buffet.

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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

Important standing meetings and emergency numbers for the Eastern Shore

■ **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** For meetings in Accomack and Northampton, visit 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

■ **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)

- **LIVE MUSIC:** 8 p.m., Chattie's Lounge, Chincoteague. Fil Rhythm performs live.
- **LIVE MUSIC:** 9 p.m., Teaguer's Pub and Restaurant, Chincoteague. Witches Brew performs live.

Sunday, February 15

- **SPECIAL SERVICE:** 10:30 a.m., Unitarian Universalists of the Eastern Shore, 15421 Merry Cat Lane, Suite 15B, Belle Haven. The church is hosting Peace, it's Complicated. There will be reflection, community, and conversation. All are welcome.
- **SOUP LUNCH:** Noon to 1 p.m., Drummondtown Baptist Church, Accomac. The church is hosting a soup lunch to raise funds for its Walk to End Alzheimer's team. There will be a variety of soups, rolls, sweet potato biscuits, ham, salads, and desserts. Donations will be accepted.
- **SCRAPBOOKING WORKSHOP:** 2 p.m., Museum of Chincoteague Island, 7125 Mad-dox Blvd., Chincoteague. Shellie Menzoff is leading a beginner scrapbooking class at the museum. The class will cover how to create a basic two-page layout. The cost is \$30. To register visit <https://tinyurl.com/575ehere>
- **BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM:** 3 to 5 p.m., St. Mark's Baptist Church, 28523 Railroad Ave., Melfa. The Most Worshipful Consolidated Hiram Grand Lodge is presenting a black history program. Dinner will be served. African attire and the black history colors of black, red, and green are encouraged.
- **CONCERT:** 4 p.m., Lemon Tree Gallery, Cape Charles. See opera in an intimate setting with Virginia Opera's Arias and Duets. For tickets visit <https://tinyurl.com/3dw2zv5c>
- **PLAY:** 7 p.m., Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St., Chincoteague. The Chincoteague Island Theater Company presents "Southern Fried Funeral." Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased beginning Jan. 23 at H and H Pharmacy or online at <https://tinyurl.com/23zdehuk>

Monday, February 16

- **FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION:** 6 to 9 p.m., Onancock Taphouse, Onancock. American Legion Post 100 and Onancock Taphouse are holding a salute to firefighters. There will be live music by the Southern Fog Band and specials for firefighters and fire companies.
- **MEETING:** 7 p.m., Sage Diner, On-

ley. The Accomack Republican Party will hold its monthly meeting. For more information contact Chairman Sam Sellard at 757-709-8252.

Tuesday, February 17

- **PANCAKE SUPPER:** 5 to 7 p.m., Capeville United Methodist Church, Cape Charles. The church is hosting a pancake supper. The menu includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, scrapple, baked apples, coffee, and juice. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.
- **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.
- **LECTURE:** 5:30 p.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library, Parksley. Jenean Hall will discuss two letters from the letterbook of Thomas Cable, an 18th-century merchant and Northampton County Clerk.
- **PANCAKE SUPPER:** 5:30 p.m., Grace United Methodist Church, 18484 Wilson Ave., Parksley. The church is hosting a pancake supper. The menu includes pancakes, bacon, scrapple, baked apples, and beverages. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under age 12.
- **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.
- **INFORMATION SESSION:** 5:45 p.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Melfa. A community discussion about state redistricting is being held. A light meal will be provided. To register submit your name and phone number to bh0859696@gmail.com or 757-993-0266.
- **GAME NIGHT:** 6 to 10 p.m., Par 4 Bar and Grill, Temperanceville. Each week Par 4 hosts a game night featuring cards, dominoes, corn

hole, and bingo.

- **BOOK CLUB:** 7 p.m., Chincoteague Island Library, Chincoteague. The Island Readers book club will meet. This month's book is "The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession and the Natural History Heist of the Century," by Kirk W. Johnson.

Wednesday, February 18

- **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 Sun-

ny Side Road, Cheriton. The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore is hosting a mobile pantry.

- **NATURE JOURNALING:** 10:30 a.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library, Parksley. The Nature Conservancy is hosting a nature journaling activity. Attendees can meet some marine animals and journal about them.
- **FOOD DISTRIBUTION:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 28281 Main St., Hallwood. The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore is

(Continued on page 16)

ANNOUNCEMENT

*February Freeze event
matching sponsors announced*




Our 2026 Celebrity Dipper, Pattie Brogan of One Presidential Mortgage, has just heard from anonymous sponsors willing to match up to \$15,000.00 towards her dipping team. But only if she can raise the same amount **between now and February 28th**, the day of the event. *Please consider sponsoring her so that she can hit the target and lock in the matching funds.*

Donations to Team Pattie can be made by mailing a check payable to **ESVA Habitat for Humanity, ATTN: Team Pattie, PO Box 1299, Exmore, VA 23350** or online at:



https://givebutter.com/ESVA-H4H_Feb-Freeze

Make sure to select Celebrity Dipper: **Team Pattie Brogan**

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Habitat for Humanity strives to build strength, stability and self-reliance through safe and affordable housing. This goal cannot be achieved unless members of the community join us in a common effort to provide the necessary funds for completing this vision. Please consider helping us fulfill our mission of building affordable housing for families in need on the Eastern Shore.

**For more information, please contact
Chris Guvernator, Executive Director at 757-650-5097**






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"GOAT"

Sport/Comedy Rated PG

Calendar

(Continued from page 15)

hosting a mobile pantry.

■ **SPECIAL SERVICE:** Noon to 12:30 p.m., Grace United Methodist Church, 18484 Wilson Ave., Parksley. The church is hosting an Ash Wednesday service.

■ **MEMORY CAFE:** 1:30 to 3 p.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library, Parksley. People living with brain changes and their caregivers can attend Memory Cafe, a support group hosted by the Martha W. Goodson Center.

■ **YOUTH CHESS:** 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Eastern Shore Family YMCA, Onley. The Y is hosting a youth chess club every Wednesday.

■ **TRAINING:** 6 p.m., Chincoteague Island Library, Chincoteague. The Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence is hosting Practical Tools For Supporting Survivors of Sexual and Domestic Violence. Refreshments will be provided.

■ **FIBER CLUB:** 6 to 8 p.m., Cypress Roots Brewing Company, Pocomoke City. Feral Fibers is a group for fiber artists to knit, crochet, felt, and spin while sharing community.

■ **BOATING SAFETY:** From 6 to 8:30 p.m., at the Exmore Firehouse, the Coast Guard Auxiliary will be hosting a Boat America course. The cost is \$215. To register visit <https://tinyurl.com/43wvh3az>

■ **SPECIAL SERVICE:** 7 to 7:30 p.m., Grace United Methodist Church, 18484 Wilson Ave., Parksley. The church is hosting an Ash Wednesday service.

Thursday, February 19

■ **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.

■ **PRESCHOOL CIRCLE:** 10 a.m., Eastern Shore Family YMCA, Onley. The Y is hosting preschool circle time.

■ **BOOK CLUB:** 1 to 3 p.m., Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church, Onancock. The Third Thursday Book Club will gather to discuss any of the books written by Mary Higgins Clark. All are welcome.

■ **KIDS CRAFT:** 6 p.m., Northampton Free Library, Nassawadox. Children can learn how to make paper plate Valentine bugs.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 6 to 8 p.m., Kuchisabishii, Onancock. Sean Thomas and the Kuchisabishii Jazz Trio perform live every Thursday.

■ **BOATING SAFETY:** From 6 to 8:30 p.m., at the Exmore Firehouse, the Coast Guard Auxiliary will be hosting a Boat America course. The cost is \$215. To register visit <https://tinyurl.com/43wvh3az>

■ **DOCUMENTARY:** 7 to 9 p.m., Roseland Theatre, Onancock. Shore History is screening a documentary called "Steamboats on the Chesapeake." Tickets are \$10.

Friday, February 20

■ **LECTURE:** 9 to 10 a.m., Eastville Community Center, 17202 Courthouse Road, Eastville. The Virginia Cooperative Extension is hosting its Perk Up and Learn Coffee Hour. This month's topic is the history of Eastern Shore agriculture.

■ **TRAINING:** Noon, Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library, Parksley. The library is hosting a training to certify patrons to use the library's sewing machine. To register call the library at 757-787-3400.

■ **SPAGHETTI DINNER:** 5 p.m., Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church, 89 Market St., Onancock. The church is hosting a spaghetti dinner to benefit No Limits Eastern Shore. Dine in and take out are available. Donations are welcome.

■ **YOUTH DANCE CLASS:** 5 to 6 p.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Family YMCA, Onley. The Y is hosting a youth hip hop dance class on Fridays.

■ **ASTRONOMY NIGHT:** 6 to 8 p.m., Robert Reed Waterfront Park, Chincoteague. NASA Solar System Ambassador Daniel McGill is leading an astronomy night to view the stars. Jupiter, Saturn and the moon will be visible if the night is clear. If it is cloudy the event will move into the Chincoteague Island Library.

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

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 6 to 9 p.m., Blarney Stone Pub, Onancock. Brandon Bower performs live.

■ **PLAY:** 7 p.m., Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St., Chincoteague. The Chincoteague Island Theater Company presents "Southern Fried Funeral." Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased beginning Jan. 23 at H and H Pharmacy or online at <https://tinyurl.com/23zdehuk>

■ **SPECIAL SERVICE:** 7 p.m., Baptist Bible Church, 24577 Front St., Accomac. The church is hosting a Kingdom Education Seminar with S. L. Sherril, the founder of North Raleigh Christian Academy. To reserve a spot visit <https://tinyurl.com/mwhx6y2k>

■ **MUSICAL REVUE:** 7 p.m., North Street Playhouse, Onancock. The playhouse presents "A Starry Night at North Street," a musical revue featuring performances by singers who have graced the stage in playhouse musicals. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at www.northstreetplayhouse.org

Saturday, February 21

■ **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.

■ **TRAINING:** 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., Chincoteague Pony Center, 6417 Carriage Drive, Chincoteague. The center is hosting a three-hour large animal rescue training. There will be instructions and hands-on demonstrations about how to move large animals safely. The cost is \$60 per person. Attendees should dress to be outside and bring leather gloves and a safety helmet. To register call 302-381-6290.

■ **FINANCIAL EDUCATION:** 10 a.m. to noon, Accomack County Department of Social Services, 22554 Center Parkway, Accomack. Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia is hosting a financial education class and diaper distribution. The class will teach basic budgeting.

■ **CRAFT SWAP:** 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Cape Charles Civic Center, 500 Tazewell Ave., Cape Charles. An arts and crafts supply swap is being held at the civic center. Crafters can drop off excess supplies to share or pick up items for their collection, all for free. Tables will be provided.

■ **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.

■ **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.

■ **CLAM FRITTER LUNCH:** 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tasley Volunteer Fire Company, 23395 Tasley Road, Tasley. The fire company will be selling clam fritters.

(Continued on page 17)



ACCOMACK REPUBLICAN PARTY

Impacting our Schools, County and State

Members of the public are invited to attend our monthly meeting.

Monday, February 16, 2026 7:00 pm

Sage Diner in Onley



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Chairman: Sam Sellard (757)709-8252
accomackrepublicanparty.com

Paid for by Accomack County Republican Party

PUBLIC NOTICE

Effective noon on February 12, 2026, until Monday, February 23, 2026, Northampton County is auctioning multiple vehicles and other equipment through an on-line vendor. To see a complete list of items available for sale, please visit GovDeals.com and search for "Northampton County".

Calendar

(Continued from page 16)

Bagged lunches with a clam fritter sandwich, chips, and a drink will be \$13. Clam fritters without the bun will be sold for \$8 each. Advance orders are encouraged. To place an order call or text 757-710-5547 or send an email to hannahanniscpr@gmail.com

■ DOCUMENTARY: 2 p.m., Roseland Theatre, Onancock. Shore History is screening a documentary called "Steamboats on the Chesapeake." Tickets are \$10.

■ FUNDRAISER: 5 p.m., Vaux Hall Farm, 16165 Vaux Hall Lane, Melfa. Eastern Shore Ducks Unlimited is hosting its annual dinner and auction. There will be a catered dinner, auction, and raffles. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/398mrsvr> for tickets.

■ FUNDRAISER: Doors open 5 p.m., Pocomoke Elks Lodge, 1944 Worcester Highway, Pocomoke City. The Lower Eastern Shore chapter of the Friends of the NRA is hosting its annual banquet. There will be a prime rib dinner, live auction, silent auction, raffles, and

games. Tickets are \$75 per person. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/28he8a84> for tickets.

■ BINGO: Doors open 5 p.m., sales start at 6 p.m., games start at 7 p.m., Eastville Community Center, 17202 Courthouse Road, Eastville. The Eastville Volunteer Fire Company is hosting bingo.

■ LIVE MUSIC: 7 p.m., The Listening Room at Morphosis, 33 Market St., Onancock. Melinda and the Speakeasies perform live. To make reservations call 757-710-8718. The cost is \$15.

■ PLAY: 7 p.m., Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St., Chincoteague. The Chincoteague Island Theater Company presents "Southern Fried Funeral." Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased beginning Jan. 23 at H and H Pharmacy or online at <https://tinyurl.com/23zdehuk>

Sunday, February 22

■ DINNER FUNDRAISER: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., New Church Volunteer Fire Company, 4264 Firehouse St., New Church. The fire company is hosting its annual chicken and dumplings dinner. The menu includes chicken and dumplings, mashed potatoes, green beans, and cornbread. Desserts will also be

for sale. Dine in and carry out are available. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$7 for children 12 and under.

■ PLAY: 2 p.m., Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St., Chincoteague. The Chincoteague Island Theater Company presents "Southern Fried Funeral." Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased beginning Jan. 23 at H and H Pharmacy or online at <https://tinyurl.com/23zdehuk>

■ LIVE MUSIC: 2 to 5 p.m., Giddens Do Drop Inn, 8204 Bayford Road, Franktown. La Doo Vay performs live. Tickets are \$25 at the door.

Monday, February 23

■ TOURISM SUMMIT: 9:30 a.m., The Impact Center, 1500 Old Cape Charles Road, Cape Charles. The Eastern Shore of Virginia Tourism Commission is hosting its annual Tourism Summit. The keynote speaker is Jon Schallert, a destination business expert. Afternoon workshop topics include branding strategy, customer service, and AI marketing. Admission is free with breakfast and lunch provided. Call 757-787-8268 to RSVP.

■ BINGO: 1 to 3 p.m., Chincoteague Center, 6155 Community Drive, Chincote-

ague. Island Community House and Village Neighbors are hosting bingo. The cost is \$5 per card or \$20 for five cards.

■ TEA PARTY: 6 p.m., Chincoteague Island Library, Chincoteague. The library is hosting a Bridgerton-themed tea party. There will be sweet and savory treats and tea. The event kicks off the library's Author Book Club, which is focusing on Julia Quinn, the author of the "Bridgerton" series.

Tuesday, February 24

■ CONFERENCE: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Northampton County Parks and Recreation Community Center, 7247 Young St., Machipongo. The Eastern Shore Small Farm/Homesteader Workshop will provide knowledge and hands-on activities about fruit trees. The morning session, from 8 a.m. to noon, will cover fruit tree basics, common pests and diseases, and budding and grafting demonstrations. The afternoon session, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. will be conducted at Pickett's Harbor Farm with pruning demonstrations for peach trees and blueberry bushes. The cost is \$15 per person. Lunch and refreshments are provided. To register visit <https://tinyurl.com/VCE-SFW-2026>

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- Revolutionary Shore
- Landmarks: African American Historic Sites

Go to visitesva.com to find these trails and other heritage trails throughout Accomack and Northampton Counties. Don't let this year pass without discovering your own trail to independence!

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OBITUARIES

Eastern Shore Post

Francis Middleton

Mr. Francis Elmer Middleton passed away peacefully in his sleep on Friday, Jan. 30, 2026. He was predeceased by his wife, Mary Rita Ward Middleton.

Services will be held at a later date at the convenience of his family.

Family and friends may sign the guest book at www.hollandfuneralhome.net

Arrangements were made by the Holland Funeral Home in Nassawadox.

Delores Garrison

Mrs. Delores J. Garrison, 84, wife of the late John Wayne Garrison and a resident of Hampton, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, at Riverside

Regional Medical Center in Newport News.

She is survived by her most precious son, John Wayne Garrison II (Johnny), of Hampton; her brother, Ralph

Jenkins; her sister, Mary Ellen Belote and her husband, Ted; two nephews; and two great-nephews, all of Harborton.

In addition to her loving husband of 59 years, she was predeceased by her parents, William T. Jenkins and Nettie P. Jenkins; her maternal grandparents, Henry L. Parks and Berlie Parks;

and her paternal grandparents, Robert J. Jenkins and Florida E. Jenkins, all of Harborton.

Delores worked in the administrative medical field for 43 years and was an accredited record technician and certified medical staff coordinator and a member of Bethany Global Methodist Church in Hampton.

She would tell you that the greatest accomplishment of her life was the birth of her most precious son, Johnny.

A graveside service was held Thursday, Feb. 12, at 10 a.m. at Fairview Lawn Cemetery, with Pastor Barbara Parker and the Rev. Mary Sullivan-Trent officiating.

Flowers will be accepted, or memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes, P.O. Box 930, Nicholasville, KY 40340.

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

Arrangements were made by Doughty Funeral Home in Exmore.

Louis Shield

Mr. Louis Stewart Shield Jr., 90, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, at his residence at Commonwealth Senior Living in Onancock.

He was born on May 3, 1935, to Louis S. Shield Sr. and Dorothy Whaley Shield.

Upon graduating high school, he joined the U.S. Air Force and became an

aircraft radio operator. He was a Korean War veteran and was very proud to serve his country.

After serving in the Air Force, he was employed at Newport News Shipbuilding as a welder.



Mr. Shield

He later met Virginia Rogers, and they married and lived in Hampton for many years prior to returning to the Eastern Shore. He and Virginia bought a home in Wardtown and opened a store called Cowbells Country Store.

While operating the store, he responded to a help wanted ad from Eastern Shore Community College for a welding instructor. He was hired and another chapter began. He helped build a welding program that would train many people and provide employment opportunities, and many of the program's graduates would follow in his footsteps and work at Newport News Shipbuilding. He loved what he did and was very proud of what he helped build as well as those who came through his program. He reached the level of associate professor of welding and taught until his retirement in 1998.

He is survived by his son, Jimmy Rogers; his daughter, Jeania Branch; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces,

and nephews.

In addition to his loving wife of 50 years, Virginia, he was predeceased by his parents; his daughter, Betty Kay Caminade; his sister, Mary Mears; and several grandchildren.

The family thanks the nursing and care staff at Commonwealth Senior Living for the care they provided as well as their friendship. He loved you all.

The family will have a private interment, which will be held at a later time.

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

Arrangements made by Doughty Funeral Home in Exmore.

Dick Marshall

Mr. Richard F. "Dick" Marshall died peacefully on Jan. 31, 2026. He was born on Nov. 16, 1932, in New Church.

He is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Evelyn M. (Sabo) Marshall; his twin sons, Richard B. Marshall and Steven C. Marshall; his daughters-in-law Debbie Mazur and Mary Day; his grandchildren, Steven and Jessica; his great-grandsons, Alex and Collin; and his great-granddaughters, Alexis and Ariel.

A visitation will be held on Feb. 27 from 11 a.m. to noon, followed by a service at noon at Schoedinger Northeast, 1051 East Johnstown Road, Gahanna, OH 43230.

To view the full obituary please visit www.schoedinger.com



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SPORTS

Eastern Shore Post

WRESTLING

Daggins, Suarez win region

On Saturday, Feb. 7, Northampton's Andrew Daggins and Justin Suarez each won their weight divisions in the Class 1A Regional Championships at Mathews High School.

Daggins won the 144-pound event, and Suarez won at 285, pacing the Yellow Jackets to a fourth place team finish in the 10-team event.

Daggins and Suarez will lead a contingent of nine Northampton wrestlers at the VHSL Class 1 State Championships, to be held Feb. 20 and 21 in Salem.

Northampton's other qualifiers were Cameron Sanders (second place, 106 pounds), Isaiah Johnson (third, 126), Brendan McGee (fourth, 132), Lucas Kindt (second, 157), Manolo SalasarMorena (fourth, 175), Jerry Sturgis (second, 190), and Palmer Hubbard (second, 215). The top four finishers in each weight class advanced to the state meet.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Firebirds top Ponies

On Thursday, Feb. 5, Amani Hope's 17 points, eight rebounds, and five steals led Arcadia to a 48-14 district win at Chincoteague.

Other leaders for Arcadia included Megan "Boo" Montross (10 points, six steals), Payton Taylor (10 assists, four rebounds), and Ryan Giddins (eight points, seven rebounds).

BA wins two of three

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, Broadwater dropped a 41-22 decision to visiting Portsmouth Christian.

Kacey Ford led the Vikings (10-7) with eight points, while Adrianna Holloway and Miranda Smith had 12 and nine rebounds, respectively.

On Friday, Feb. 6, Holloway had



PHOTO COURTESY RAY WELLS

Northampton wrestlers Andrew Daggins, left, and Justin Suarez are regional champs.

16 points and Ford added 15 to lead the Vikings to a 40-22 win at Hampton Christian Academy.

On Thursday, Feb. 5, Ford's 17 points, five rebounds, and seven steals led BA to a 29-22 win over visiting Atlantic Shores Christian. Smith added four points and eight rebounds.

HGCS drops two of three

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, Holly Grove Christian lost, 27-22, to visiting Salisbury School.

Mackenzie Muir led the Eagles (11-7) with nine points and seven steals, while Abby Pruitt had five points and 13 rebounds.

On Monday, Feb. 9, Kamryn Salvas had 15 points, six rebounds, three assists, and three blocks to lead the Eagles to a 48-12 victory over visiting St. Michaels. Cate Sterling added 10 points and four boards.

On Friday, Feb. 6, the Eagles fell, 35-23, at Greenwood Mennonite. Muir paced HGCS with 10 points

and eight steals, while Pruitt added six points and six rebounds.

Nandua wins pair

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, Nandua posted a 36-11 Eastern Shore District win at Chincoteague.

On Thursday, Feb. 5, Nandua notched a 45-41 district triumph over visiting Northampton.

The Warriors (4-8, 2-3) did not report individual stats for either game.

(Continued on page 20)

High School Sports Schedule Feb. 14 to Feb. 21

SATURDAY, 2/14

Boys Wrestling

Arcadia, Nandua in 2A Regional Tournament at Poquoson High School, TBA

SUNDAY, 2/15

Girls Wrestling

Arcadia, Nandua in Zone 1 Regionals, Kellam High School, 9 a.m.

MONDAY, 2/16

Girls Wrestling

Arcadia, Nandua in Zone 1 Regionals, Kellam High School, 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, 2/18

Swimming

Nandua at Class 2 State Meet, SwimRVA, Richmond, 10 a.m.

FRIDAY, 2/20

Boys Wrestling

Arcadia, Nandua, Northampton in State Tournament, Salem Civic Center, 10 a.m.

SATURDAY, 2/21

Boys Wrestling

Arcadia, Nandua, Northampton in State Tournament, Salem Civic Center, 10 a.m.

Basketball

Multiple basketball playoffs, TBA

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

Roundup

(Continued from page 19)

Jackets lose two

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, Northampton dropped a 52-27 Eastern Shore District tilt to visiting Arcadia.

On Thursday, Feb. 5, Northampton dropped a 45-41 district decision at Nandua.

The Yellow Jackets (4-9, 3-3) did not report individual stats for either game.

Chincoteague falls

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, Chincoteague fell, 36-11, to visiting Nandua in an Eastern Shore District game.

The Ponies (1-14, 1-5) did not report individual stats.

On Thursday, Feb. 5, Chincoteague dropped a 48-14 district game to visiting Arcadia. Alissa Bennicoff led the Ponies with five points.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Firebirds nip Ponies

On Thursday, Feb. 5, Jordan Cropper's 32 points, 10 rebounds, and three steals led Arcadia to a 76-74 Eastern Shore District win at Chincoteague.

The Firebirds, who erased a 12-point deficit in the fourth quarter, also had strong games from Kamren Harmon (13 points, three assists, three steals) and Shane Tull (10 points).

Coston paces Jackets

On Thursday, Feb. 5, Traquan Coston led four Yellow Jackets in double figures with 18 points, pacing Northampton to an 80-59 Eastern Shore District win at Nandua.

Other Jacket leaders were Jasheem Collins (17 points, four rebounds, three assists, three steals), Antoine Horsley (15 points, eight rebounds), and Travon Hill (10 points, six assists, five steals).

BA drops three straight

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, Portsmouth Christian raced to a 21-6 first-quarter lead and never looked back in an 84-24 romp at Broadwater Academy.

Bennett Custis led the Vikings with eight points, and Grayson Ross added seven points and five boards.

On Friday, Feb. 6, the Vikings lost, 52-29, at Hampton Christian Academy.

Ross led BA with 13 points, and Noah Pruitt added 12 points and seven rebounds.

On Thursday, Feb. 5, BA lost, 71-35, to visiting Atlantic Shores Christian. Custis led the Vikings with 18 points.

HGCS on a roll

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, Balazs Kiss had 17 points and eight assists to lead Holly Grove Christian to a 43-40 win over visiting Salisbury School.

Other leaders for the Eagles (11-7) were Oliver Mester-Toth (14 points, seven rebounds) and Jack Ellis (12 points, eight rebounds).

On Friday, Feb. 6, Drew Linton's 18 points and three steals paced the Eagles to a 53-39 win at Greenwood Mennonite.

Other HGCS leaders were Mester-Toth (10 points, 11 rebounds, five assists) and Kiss (eight points, five rebounds, six assists).

Nandua snaps 16-game skid

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, Nandua snapped a 16-game losing streak with an 80-71 Eastern Shore District win at Chincoteague.

On Thursday, Feb. 5, Nandua fell, 80-59, to visiting Northampton in district play.

The Warriors (2-17, 1-4) did not report individual stats for either game.

Ponies go 1-1

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, Chincoteague fell, 80-71, to visiting Nandua in an Eastern Shore District game.

The Ponies (8-8, 1-5) did not report individual stats.

On Thursday, Feb. 5, Chincoteague dropped a 76-74 district decision to Arcadia.


The Ponies were led by Camaury Davis (20 points, four rebounds, three assists), Austin Adams (19 points, 14 rebounds, four assists), J'Darius Davis (13 points, 10 rebounds, three assists), and George Katsetos (12 points, six rebounds, five blocks, three assists).

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ACCOMACK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ANNOUNCES

2026 YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

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Saturday (2/21) & (2/28) 10:00AM – 2:00PM

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Jacket boys win thriller; Arcadia girls champs

BY MARK MORING
Eastern Shore Post

The gym at Northampton High School is well-known for its dim lighting. But the Yellow Jackets lit it up on Tuesday night, Feb. 10, with an electrifying come-from-behind Eastern Shore District victory over visiting Arcadia, 82-76.

Jasheem Collins shone brightest, leading all scorers with 27 points, including a pair of rim-rattling dunks in the final two minutes to hold off the Firebirds. Antoine Horsley was a beast underneath, with 18 points and 17 rebounds. Traquan Coston added 17 points, and the two senior captains, Malique Collins and Jaquan Doughty, added nine points each.

Shane Tull led Arcadia with 25 points. Jordan Cropper added 18 points, 12 rebounds, and six assists, and Travar Cropper had 14 points and three assists.

In winning its season finale, Northampton (12-6, 5-1) earned at least a share of the regular-season district title. The Firebirds (13-8, 4-1), who had won five straight games, were in position to share the league crown if they won at Nandua on Thursday night, Feb. 12 (The Warriors were 2-17 going into that game, which ended past deadline.).

Tuesday night in Eastville, Arcadia appeared to be pulling away in the third quarter, taking a 52-39 lead. Northampton coach Wayne Bell called a timeout with 4:15 left and gave his team the business, urging more defensive pressure.

It worked. Northampton outscored the visitors 22-10 over the next four minutes to pull within a point, trailing 62-61 going into the fourth quarter.

"We focused on getting more stops," said Bell. "We know we can score, but can we stop the other team? Defense always leads to offense."

Things remained tight for the first five minutes of the fourth quarter,



At left, Northampton's Antoine Horsley shoots over Arcadia's Jordan Cropper. At right, Arcadia's Ryann Giddins looks to shoot against Northampton's Jade Collins.



EASTERN SHORE POST/MARK MORING

but back-to-back buckets by Horsley and Malique Collins gave the Jackets a 76-67 lead with about three minutes remaining. Northampton took excellent care of the ball those last few minutes, milking the clock, and the Firebirds got no closer than seven thereon.

"This is a tough loss," said Arcadia coach Keon Harmon. "They took the momentum away, and we could never get it back. We missed some shots, had some costly fouls and turnovers, and their crowd was excellent. That sparked a lot of their momentum."

"The ball didn't bounce our way tonight. Hopefully we can take this loss and learn from it."

Bell said that winning at least a share of the district title "definitely feels good. It gives us good momentum going into the playoffs."

Both teams now wait to hear their regional playoff pairings, to begin late next week.

Arcadia girls win district

In an earlier game, also at Northampton, Ryann Giddins' 22 points and eight rebounds led Arcadia to a 52-27 victory over the Yellow Jackets, clinching a second straight district title for the Firebirds.

Other leaders for Arcadia (15-4, 5-0) included Megan "Boo" Montross (11 points, seven rebounds, five steals, three assists), Amani Hope (11 points), and Payton Taylor (11 assists, five steals). Arcadia jumped out to a 10-5 lead in the first quarter and extended it to 23-13 at halftime. The Firebirds' lead was never really threatened.

"We work hard," said Giddins, "and it's really good to see that pay off on the court."

Taylor said the Firebirds have steadily improved all season long.

"Just to see the progress from our first game until now, it's incredible, from all five of our starters to everyone coming in off the bench," she said.

"We weren't as jelled as we are now. Our team motto is 'family,' and we've come together as a family."

Arcadia coach Casey Cordrey said that players who saw minimal time last year have "really stepped up" this season. "Payton (a junior) has stepped up as an absolute leader. She's averaging over 10 assists and finds everybody that's open. She holds us together."

Cordrey said when his team is playing at its best, "There's not much that can stop us."

Arcadia had three games remaining on its schedule — at Nandua on Thursday night and then two postponed non-district games next week, at Windsor on Monday and at home against Poquoson on Tuesday. After that, the Firebirds will learn about their regional pairings, but Cordrey was anticipating a first-round bye.

Northampton (4-9, 3-3) played its last regular-season game Wednesday at Lancaster.



COURTESY PHOTO

The following students received the Chincoteague Island Library Reading Award for the second nine weeks at Chincoteague Elementary School. In the front row, from left, are Kayden Fosque, Milo Soto-Terry, Maeve Stern, River Kilpatrick, River Geminiani, Autumn McMillan, and Emerson Nagel. In the back row are Marianna Lagunas, Cruz Macareno, Anders Savage, Emmalynn Adams, Amira Scott, and Raphael Zabawa.



COURTESY PHOTO

The following students received the Terrific Kids Award for the second nine weeks at Chincoteague Elementary School. In the front row, from left, are Laney Goodson, Drake Read, Khy'an Neal, Willow Sommerfeldt, and Jessica Guerra. In the back row are Cooper Cherrix, Colton Lewis, Ryan Brophy, Ethan Johnson, and Emmalynn Lagunas. Not pictured are Piper Reed, Emma Nassef, Navy Chaudari, and Beckley Farrell.





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COURTESY PHOTO

The following students, from left, were named to the Principal's List at Chincoteague Elementary School: Ives Clark, Anders Savage, Lacey Donovan, Cooper Cherrix, Cruz Macareno, and Emily Harker. Not pictured is Madison Godwin.

Farm worker minimum wage bill advances in Va. House

BY SARA MATTHEWS

Special to the Eastern Shore Post

State lawmakers will vote on a House bill to extend minimum wage requirements to farm workers in the state, an effort that has been vetoed twice since 2024.

Del. Adele McClure, D-Arlington, introduced House Bill 20 to extend the minimum wage to the currently exempt farm workers, employees, and certain temporary foreign workers.

This marks McClure's third year carrying the legislation, which advanced on party lines twice before being vetoed by former Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

Opponents of the measure had a misconception around the impact it would have on farms and farmers, McClure said. She added that tariffs could have a higher cost.

"This bill is supposed to target the bad

actors that are paying some of the lowest wages to some of the hardest workers who can't even afford to put the food that they harvest on their own table," McClure said. "This would ensure that they could afford to work and support their families and themselves."

Many farmers pay their workers well above the state minimum wage, according to McClure. Her bill targets large farms that pay their workers less.

"I've spoken with a vast amount of farmers, large and small, and a lot of small farmers support this bill because they wouldn't dream of paying anything below \$15 an hour," McClure said. "They need those workers. They depend on those workers, and they can't afford not to have that work."

An employer found in violation of the proposed measure would be subject to a fine ranging between \$10 and \$200, ac-

ording to the bill's impact statement.

Sen. Jennifer Carroll Foy, D-Prince William, introduced Senate Bill 121, the counterpart bill.

Agriculture is Virginia's largest private industry, generating more than 381,800 jobs, according to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Farm laborers contribute to 9.3% of Virginia's gross domestic product. Despite their economic contributions, these workers are not guaranteed the state's \$12.77 minimum wage, which bill supporters say highlights the inconsistency between value and pay.

Farm laborers and employees have been excluded from the Virginia Minimum Wage Act since it was adopted in 1975.

Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, employers are required to pay at least the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.

"It's past time that we stop excluding these hard workers from the protections in our Virginia Minimum Wage Act," McClure said.

The Legal Aid Justice Center supports House Bill 20 and other legislation to protect Virginia workers.

The organization has previously said the law that prevents farm workers from receiving the minimum wage is a "vestige of Jim Crow-era rulemaking."

Manuel Gago, co-director of the Workers Justice Program at the Legal Aid Justice Center, spoke in favor of the bill at a Labor and Commerce committee meeting on Jan. 22.

"This bill is simple," Gago said. "By removing these few outdated lines, we can end unequal treatment in our laws, eliminate Jim Crow-era exclusions, and protect workers without raising food prices or harming the small farms."

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Arts Enter announces winter entertainment lineup

BY SHEILA SHEPPARD VERA
Special to the Eastern Shore Post

Live music has a way of lifting the heart precisely when it is needed most.

On Saturday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m., The Deloreans return to the Historic Palace Theatre with their high-energy 1980s tribute show.

This Valentine's celebration is designed for couples, friends, families, and anyone ready to trade the February blues for neon nostalgia and a full dance floor.

With a cash bar and an energetic crowd, the evening promises something more than a concert — it becomes a shared experience.

Research shows that listening to upbeat music can elevate mood and increase dopamine, the brain's "feel-

good" chemical. Add movement and community, and the effect multiplies.

The following afternoon, Sunday, Feb. 15, at 4 p.m., Arts Enter shifts the tone as Virginia Opera presents Arias and Duets at Lemon Tree Gallery.

The annual favorite features emerging artists Melanie Dubil, Maggie Kinabrew, Daniel Esteban Lugo, and Adam Partridge, whose soaring voices bring opera and show tunes thrillingly close to the audience.

In the gallery's intimate setting, the performance fosters a genuine connection between singer and listener.

Shared live music strengthens feelings of belonging — a fitting reminder, in the season of love, of music's power to connect.

Tickets include champagne and light refreshments.

Fridays at Lemon Tree continue from 6 to 8 p.m. with no cover and a cash bar, offering easy evenings built around live local talent.

Boy Wells and the Originals bring their blend of blues, southern rock, and roots music on Friday, Feb. 13.

A veteran guitarist mentored by Danny Gatton, Wells has performed with or opened for acts including The Beach Boys and Kenny Chesney.

Two Bridges performs on Friday, Feb. 20, and Jason Ochsner takes the stage on Friday, Feb. 27.

These gatherings are casual, a reminder that a ticketed event isn't required to experience the restorative power of live music.

On Saturday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m.,

Karla D. Robinson presents Unforgettable Jazz at Lemon Tree Gallery. Smooth rhythms and expressive vocals invite listeners to slow down and savor the moment.

Relaxing music can reduce stress and even lower heart rates, a fitting note for the season of the heart.

Looking ahead, on Saturday, March 28, Damn the Torpedoes brings an electrifying tribute to Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers to the Palace Theatre, promising a night of rock anthems.

In every genre — pop, opera, roots, jazz, and rock — Arts Enter's late-winter lineup offers more than entertainment.

In a world that often feels fragmented, coming together to listen may be one of the healthiest things we can do

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Onancock

(Continued from page 1)

have their rental spaces emptied by Friday, Feb. 13.

Karyn Belknap, owner of Ten Good Sheep, was hit particularly hard by the fire. She is a fiber artist, and the soot and smoke from the fire completely destroyed all raw materials in her workspace.

As Belknap set about the taxing work of clearing her studio, she had many feelings.

“There’s been such a mixture of emotions,” she said. “Grief, of course. Relief and thankfulness that it wasn’t worse. Gratitude for the amazingly quick responses of the responding fire departments. And a sense of kinship with the school community.”

Belknap rents two spaces in the school. One is a workspace and one is a retail shop. She didn’t lose any fiber or equipment in the shop, which is near the front of the school.

Her workspace and the other studios that share the south hall all sustained varying levels of smoke and soot damage, Belknap said.

The school is expected to be closed for several months as restoration is undertaken. Belknap is using the closure to work on her craft.

“I’m going back to some roots in the coming months — hand-spinning at one of my spinning wheels, experimental weaving... not for production, just for immersing back into the heart of the craft,” she said.

“I see the next few months as a homecoming of sorts — a quiet and private retreat to rest, create, and explore.”

Other tenants at the school have found ways to lean on each other and keep their work flowing.

Artist Laura McGowan, who has had a painting studio in the school for 12 years, received an offer to join a fellow artist from the school in her home studio.

Morphosis Gallery in Onan-

cock cleared space for McGowan to store her paintings during the closure.

“Lots of people have responded and come in to help, not just members of the art community, but everyone,” she said.

“There has been a nice show of support. People have said what an important place it is in town and they just want to help get it back to fully functioning any way they can.”

Belknap said the community response has been overwhelming.

“Honestly, a huge number of HOS supporters showed up for us and for their community in so many different ways,” she said.

Onancock’s interim town manager, Bill Porter, said the cause of the fire hasn’t been determined yet.

The insurance company has not yet given the restoration contractor permission to start working.

There has been no dollar figure estimate of the damage as of yet, Porter said.

McGowan said the school fills so many needs in the community, and she hopes this temporary loss of the school will encourage the town of Onancock to take on repairs it previously had funded sooner rather than later.

“This sort of cements in my mind, and hopefully in others’, how important (the school) is, not just to those of us who rent rooms, but for the community and how much we depend on it and how much really happens there,” McGowan said.

“So many people were affected by this and had to scramble to figure out where we can go. There isn’t another place like it on the Eastern Shore.”

The school may be empty for now, but those who believe in its future are filled with hope.

“I do plan to return to the school, and I’m looking forward to it,” Belknap said.

“We’re just getting started with the potential for the school. I don’t want to miss it.”

MILITARY NEWS

Evan Mason graduates from U.S. Coast Guard Academy

U.S. Coast Guard Ensign Evan T. Mason, of Assawoman, graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., on May 21, 2025.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering and received his officer’s commission from the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

Mason also received the Eagle Award, which is given to a distinguished graduating cadet with the highest overall ranking in professional maritime studies.

This award highlights the cadet’s com-



Ensign Evan T. Mason

mitment to learning nautical sciences and leadership skills.

Mason’s current assignment is aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Spencer in Portsmouth, where he is a student engineer officer.

He is a 2021 graduate of Chincoteague High School, where he was valedictorian of his

class. He is the son of Duffy and Cathy Jo Mason.

Fatality

(Continued from page 1)

process her grief.

She had no explanation for why the crash happened. Police said Rease was not wearing a seat belt.

“I don’t know anything,” she said. “My son is dead. That’s all I know. He flipped the car and he’s dead.”

Michael Rease Jr. graduated last June from Northampton High School and was leaving March 10 to report to U.S. Air Force basic training in Texas after completing the enlistment process.

“He was all set and waiting on his date,” she said. “Everything was done.”

Born and raised in Northampton County and named for his father, who lives in Nassawadox, Rease enjoyed basketball and

video games, she said.

He played basketball at several levels — parks and recreation youth leagues, at Northampton High, and with a successful travel team.

“Basketball was his biggest thing,” Rease said of her son, whose age had been incorrectly reported as 19. He had not reached his 19th birthday, she said.

Michael is tragically the second child Yolanda has lost. Her daughter, Jamel Townsend, 27, died in 2017 of a bilateral pulmonary embolism.

Rease, a nurse, was going to go to work when her son returned. He was going to enjoy dinner and watch football on television.

It was a typical Eastern Shore Sunday afternoon until it wasn’t.

“I was waiting for him to come back,” she said.

Chincoteague birding trip set

Birding Eastern Shore has set a field trip to Queen Sound and the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on Monday, Feb. 16, at 1 p.m.

Join Gary Smith and Helen Belencan for a mostly driving tour of seaside waterfowl habitats.

The refuge provides thousands of acres of wintering bird habitat and is

one of the best publicly available spots on the Virginia Eastern Shore to view a diversity of waterfowl, wading birds, and shorebirds.

Participants will meet at the Queen Sound Boat Ramp on the Chincoteague Causeway.

Text Smith and Belencan at 803-292-6883 to attend.

The program is free, and the public is invited to attend.

Loaner binoculars will be available for those who need them.

Eastern Shore Post

WEEKLY MARKETPLACE

CONTACT RYAN AT 757-789-7678 or ryan@easternshorepost.com

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Announcements

Deborah T. Wessells
Happy 43rd Anniversary!
February 12, 1983



You're Forever in My Heart

For all you were to me in life,
and all the joy you brought,
your memory is with me
in every single thought

The pain I felt at losing you will never go away,
but knowing that you're in my heart
helps me through each day
When you were here I always felt
that nothing could go wrong,
but you're still my inspiration,
and your memory keeps me strong
And though my heart is heavy,
it's also full of love,
and that's enough to comfort me
while you're in heaven up above

Love, your husband, Tyrone; son, T.W.;
daughters, Tyrontha & Renae;
and grandkids, Boogie, La'Meere, Jordan,
Carmel, Desi, Derrick,
Brandon & Germauri

THANK YOU

The family of Isaiah Robinson would like to extend our
deepest appreciation to our family and friends for the
expressions of sympathy that were extended to us during
one of our most difficult times. Every act of kindness (calls,
cards, visits, flowers, and food donations) helped to brighten
our day. We are so grateful for the love and support you
have shown to us.

May your lives be filled with continuous blessings from God,
Beatrice, Etta, Isaiah III & Family

Help Wanted



ADULT EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS EASTERN SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Eastern Shore Community College is a member of the
Virginia Community College System. The College serves
the residents of Accomack County and Northampton
County as a two-year institution of higher learning.

Eastern Shore Community College's Adult Education Pro-
gram is seeking qualified GED® and English Language
Learning (ELL) Instructors to provide in-person instruction
for adult learners. Instructors will support students in devel-
oping reading, writing, and math skills while building work-
place vocabulary, employability skills, and career readiness
to prepare learners for academic coursework, workforce
training, and in-demand careers.

Multiple part-time positions are available with flexible sched-
ules, including daytime and evening classes, at locations
throughout Northampton County and Accomack County.

ESCC is seeking applications for these part-time positions.
For additional details, qualifications, and the application
process, please visit <https://jobs.vccs.edu/postings/92933>

EOE

TOWN CLERK

Town of Bloxom looking to hire a Town Clerk – part time. Quick-
Books, Payroll, Payroll Taxes, AP, AR, Collections, Notary, MS
Office. Send Cover Letter, Resume and References to Mayor,
Town of Bloxom, P.O. Box 217, Bloxom, VA 23308 or email
clerk@bloxom.org

Help Wanted

OPEN POSITIONS

Northampton County has the following open positions in the Planning, Permitting and Enforcement Department:

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Northampton County is accepting applications for a full-time Building Inspector. The essential function of this position is to perform building inspections. Provides customer service and clerical duties.

Requires high school diploma or GED, and one (1) year of related experience. Experience as a building inspector is desired. Provides customer service to the public pertaining to building permits. The position is responsible for performing building inspections and reviewing construction plans.

Requires valid Virginia Driver's License. Excellent communication skills are essential. This salary ranges from \$48,261 to \$73,644.

CODE COMPLIANCE INSPECTOR

Northampton County is accepting applications for a full-time Code Compliance Inspector. The essential function of this position is to provide customer service to the public pertaining to code inspections and enforcement of county codes. The position is responsible for inspections and enforces violations of Chapter 92: Abandoned, Inoperable and Unattended Vehicles; Chapter 94: Nuisances; and Chapter 154: Zoning Code.

Requires high school diploma or GED, and one (1) year of related experience. Excellent communication skills are essential. This salary ranges from \$42,665 to \$65,073.

PLANNER/COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Northampton County is accepting applications for a full-time Planner/Community Redevelopment Specialist. The essential function of this position is to provide planning and technical support for the Planning, Permitting and Enforcement Department and various boards and committees. The position is responsible for assisting with planning, policy analysis, regulation enforcement, technical research and support, site/plan review, customer service, and related records and reports. The position works under general supervision of the Director.

Requires Bachelor's degree in planning or closely related field of study or at least three (3) years of related experience and demonstrated ability to handle multiple projects, public speaking, and maintain good public relations. Excellent communication skills are essential. This salary ranges from \$62,877 to \$96,192.

Please refer to Northampton county's website at <https://tinyurl.com/yez6ra> for further position descriptions. Please submit a completed County application with cover letter to Human Resources. **Positions open until filled.**

PART-TIME COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Northampton County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for a part-time Communications Officer. Job does require shift work, nights, weekends, and some holidays.

Qualifications: Over the age of 18 and have obtained high school diploma or GED. All part-time applicants are required to be certified prior to applying.

Applications may be obtained from Northampton County Sheriff's Office, 5211 The Hornes, Eastville, VA 23347 or from the County's website https://www.co.northampton.va.us/government/jobs_opportunities/job_openings

This position is open until filled. EOE.

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The Eastern Shore Community Services Board is seeking candidates for the following positions:

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NORTHAMPTON CO. DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES FAMILY SERVICES SPECIALIST II

JOB REQUISITION: Family Services Specialist II - 5379
(Adult Protective Services)

MINIMUM SALARY: \$36,999

Background & DMV checks conducted.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 13, 2026

APPLY ONLINE: <https://tinyurl.com/373ud5ju>

Northampton County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for:

Jail Deputy at the Eastern Shore Regional Jail

Job will require shift work, nights, weekends and some holidays.

Qualifications: over the age of 21 and have high school diploma or GED.

Benefits include: VRS Retirement, Annual Leave, Sick leave, Paid Holidays, and Health Insurance

Applications may be obtained from the Eastern Shore Regional Jail, 5245 The Hornes, Eastville, Va. 23347 or online at <https://tinyurl.com/5n6epay>

Open until filled.

**Apply in person at the Eastern Shore
Regional Jail**

Northampton County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



IET COORDINATOR / INSTRUCTOR EASTERN SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Eastern Shore Community College is a member of the Virginia Community College System. The College serves the residents of Accomack County and Northampton County as a two-year institution of higher learning.

The IET Coordinator / Instructor supports the Adult Education Program by delivering contextualized instruction aligned with Integrated Education and Training (IET) models while coordinating workforce-aligned classes and supporting student recruitment, enrollment, and persistence.

This part-time position works under the guidance of the Regional Adult Education Program Manager and in collaboration with Adult Education staff, workforce partners, and community organizations to support learner success and grant-funded program objectives. This part-time position is a 42-week-per-year, 25 hours-per-week position.

This position is primarily based at a satellite office in Northampton County, with periodic travel to Eastern Shore Community College for meetings, coordination, and required check-ins.

ESCC is seeking applications for this part-time position. For additional details, qualifications, and the application process, please visit <https://jobs.vccs.edu/postings/93235>

EOE



ADULT EDUCATION SPECIALIST EASTERN SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Eastern Shore Community College is a member of the Virginia Community College System. The College serves the residents of Accomack County and Northampton County as a two-year institution of higher learning.

The Adult Education Specialist supports the coordination, data management, and daily operations of the college's Adult Education program. Position serves as the primary front-line customer service contact for individuals entering or calling the Adult Education office, providing information, assistance, and referrals in a professional and welcoming manner.

The Specialist has primary responsibility for data systems and reporting functions, including accurate entry, validation, maintenance, disaggregation, and reporting of data. The position independently compiles and prepares student, assessment, and performance data for state reporting, grant documentation, monitoring requirements, and internal program use, recognizing the direct impact of data accuracy on program funding and compliance.

ESCC is seeking applications for this full-time position that includes benefits. For additional details, qualifications, and the application process, visit <https://jobs.vccs.edu/postings/92565>

EOE

Help Wanted



TOWN MANAGER

The Town of Onancock, Virginia, is seeking an experienced, strategic, and community-oriented professional to serve as its next **Town Manager**. The Town Manager serves as the chief administrative officer responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Town, implementation of Town Council policy, financial and organizational leadership, and stewardship of the Town's historic, waterfront community.

Qualified candidates are encouraged to submit a cover letter, resume, salary expectations, and professional references to: The Berkley Group via email to libby.gooden@bgllc.net.

While the position is open until filled, review of the candidates will be around February 16, 2026; however, highly qualified candidates may be invited for an interview at any time. Inquiries related to this Town Manager position may be directed to Libby Gooden at libby.gooden@bgllc.net or at 757-846-3866.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/r56ryu9y> to see the full recruitment profile.

EXECUTIVE / HEAD CHEF

The Eastern Shore Yacht and Country Club is seeking an experienced and motivated **Executive Chef / Head Chef** to lead all culinary operations at our private country club. This is a hands-on leadership role ideal for a chef who values **member satisfaction, menu creativity, and team development** in a high-quality club environment.

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Executive Chef is responsible for overseeing daily kitchen operations, menu development, staff leadership, food quality, and cost control across all dining outlets, events, and special programming. The ideal candidate is creative yet disciplined, flexible with member preferences, and excited to elevate the club's culinary experience.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop and execute seasonal, diverse menus for casual dining, fine dining, banquets, pool service, and special events
- Rotate menus regularly while incorporating member feedback and club traditions
- Plan and execute themed dinners, family-friendly events, and special culinary programming
- Lead, train, schedule, and mentor kitchen staff while fostering a positive team culture
- Maintain consistent food quality, presentation, and service standards
- Manage food costs, inventory, purchasing, and vendor relationships
- Ensure compliance with all health, safety, and sanitation regulations

QUALIFICATIONS

- 5+ years of culinary experience, including leadership in a high-volume or upscale environment
- Prior experience as an Executive Chef, Head Chef, or Sous Chef ready to advance
- Strong leadership, organization, and communication skills
- Experience in a private club, resort, or fine-dining setting preferred
- Culinary degree and/or ServSafe certification a plus

TO APPLY

Applications can be completed online at esycc.com or picked up at the Eastern Shore Yacht and Country Club. For inquiries, contact us at contact@esycc.com.

FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER

The Eastern Shore Yacht and Country Club is seeking an experienced and service-driven **Food & Beverage Manager** to oversee all food and beverage operations at our private country club. This leadership role is ideal for a hospitality professional who excels in **member service, team leadership, and operational excellence** in a high-quality club environment.

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Food & Beverage Manager is responsible for managing day-to-day dining and beverage operations while ensuring an exceptional member experience. This role works closely with the Executive Chef and club leadership to deliver consistent service, successful events, and engaging dining programs.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Oversee daily food and beverage operations across all dining outlets and events
- Lead, train, schedule, and supervise front-of-house and beverage staff
- Ensure high standards of service, professionalism, and member satisfaction
- Collaborate with the Executive Chef on menus, events, and special programming
- Manage budgets, labor costs, inventory, and purchasing controls
- Plan and execute member events, banquets, and family-friendly programming
- Address member feedback promptly and professionally
- Ensure compliance with all health, safety, and alcohol service regulations

QUALIFICATIONS

- 3 – 5+ years of food and beverage management experience in a club, resort, hotel, or upscale dining environment
- Strong leadership, organizational, and communication skills
- Member-focused service mindset with attention to detail
- Experience with scheduling, budgeting, and cost control
- Alcohol service certification (TIPS, ABC, or equivalent) preferred

TO APPLY

Applications can be completed online at esycc.com or picked up at the Eastern Shore Yacht and Country Club. For inquiries, contact us at contact@esycc.com.

PART-TIME CUSTODIAN

The Northampton County Department of Public Works is accepting applications for a part-time custodian. The primary duty of this position will be to clean and maintain County-owned facilities.

Pay rate for this position is \$15/hr or more, depending on experience. Applicants must be 18 years or older. Requires high school diploma, GED or vocational training, and a valid Virginia Driver's license.

Please refer to Northampton County's website for a complete job description, requirements, and application form at <https://tinyurl.com/46cc4bf5> or an application can be obtained through the Human Resources office.

Please submit completed county application form online or to Human Resources, PO Box 66, Eastville, VA 23347, or in person to 16404 Courthouse Road. Position is open until filled. Northampton County is an EOE.

The deadline for placing obituaries and ads is noon on Wednesday.

Accomack County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for the following positions: **Full-Time Certified Law Enforcement Officer and Full-Time Correctional Officer and Full-Time Dispatcher**. Applications may be obtained from the Accomack County Sheriff's Office or online at www.accomackcountysheriffsoffice.org Open until filled. Accomack County Sheriff's Office is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PART-TIME GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORKER

The Northampton County Department of Public Works is accepting applications for a part-time grounds maintenance worker. The primary duty of this position will be to maintain the lawns of various County-owned facilities. Other general facilities maintenance duties may also be required. This is a year-round part-time position with up to 35 hours per week during the lawn care season and up to 20 hours per week during the off-season. Experience operating zero-turn lawn mowers and towing trailers is a plus. A valid Virginia Driver's license is required.

Please refer to Northampton County's website for a complete job description, requirements, and application form.

Please submit completed county application form to Human Resources, PO Box 66, Eastville, VA 23347, or in person to 16404 Courthouse Road. **Position open until filled.** Northampton County is an EOE.

Help Wanted

LABORER - Builder needs serious, steady laborer. 1 yr. commitment. \$18/hr. Cape Charles. Call after 6 p.m. 540-846-1152.

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Legal Ads

NOTICE OF OYSTER PLANTING GROUND APPLICATION

RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER OYSTERS LLC (2025064) has applied for approximately 32.93 acres of oyster planting ground in Watts Bay situated in Accomack County. The application is located at Lat/Long: N37-54.4674 / W75-28.482

To view a map of the application, or to provide public comments, use this web link to search the application by number (2025064): https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/oystergrounds/search_applications.php or contact the VMRC Shellfish Management Division at 757-247-2262.

Send written comments or concerns to: Marine Resources Commission, Shellfish Management Division 380 Fenwick Road, Fort Monroe, VA 23651-1064.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ACCOMACK COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

The Accomack County School Board will hold a Public Hearing on carry-forward funds, federal programs, and state grants and incentives from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM on Tuesday, February 17, at Metompink Elementary School, located at 24501 Parksley Road, Parksley, VA 23421.

Legal Ads

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ACCOMACK COUNTY

THE COUNTY OF ACCOMACK, VIRGINIA
Plaintiff
vs.
CIVIL CASE NO. 26-98

The heirs of KARNES TAYLOR, et als.
Defendants

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Plaintiff for delinquent real estate taxes on tax map number 028B00400000100.

It is ORDERED that this Order be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Eastern Shore Post and that T. Fleming, Wanda Taylor, if living, or if deceased, the heirs of Wanda Taylor and the heirs of Karnes Taylor appear at the above-named court and protect their interests on or before April 3, 2026.

Enter this 4th day of February, 2026.

Brandy Childress, Deputy Clerk

I ask for this:

James W. Elliott
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 1410
Yorktown, VA 23692
757-898-7000

TOWN OF ONLEY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Town of Onley, Virginia, is seeking proposals of qualifications and experience from qualified architects and architectural firms for design, bidding, and construction management services related to the construction of a new Town Office facility to be located at 25571 E. Main Street, Onley, VA.

Respondent shall be a licensed architect in the State of Virginia and shall present demonstrated evidence of ability, qualifications, and experience successfully completing similar projects for small local governments. In addition to a listing of similar projects completed and a contact person of reference for each project, each proposal shall also contain the credentials and hourly rates of all personnel expected to participate in the proposed project. More details in RFP, which may be obtained at the Onley Town Office.

Proposals should be received on or before 5:00 p.m., April 6, 2026, and addressed to: Town of Onley, P.O. Box 622, Onley, VA 23418, Attn: Town Office Project.

Sealed proposals shall be opened on April 6, 2026, at the town's regular monthly meeting. Interviews and competitive negotiation with selected firm(s) will be scheduled after that date.

The Town of Onley reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals.

REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR ROUTINE GRASS MOWING

The Eastern Shore Community Services Board is requesting quotes from licensed landscaping contractors for routine grass mowing of multiple properties. To receive bid requirements and property locations, prospective bidders should call 757-815-1102 or email mparker@escsb.org.

NOTICE OF OYSTER PLANTING GROUND APPLICATION

J.C. WALKER BROS., INC. (2025048) has applied for approximately 19.67 acres of oyster planting ground in Sandy Island Channel situated in Accomack County. The application is located at Lat/Long: N37-30.1824 / W75-42.27

To view a map of the application or to provide public comments, use this web link to search the application by number (2025048): https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/oystergrounds/search_applications.php or contact the VMRC Shellfish Management Division at 757-247-2262.

Send written comments or concerns to: Marine Resources Commission, Shellfish Management Division, 380 Fenwick Road, Fort Monroe, VA 23651-1064.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF ACCOMACK

RE: ESTATE OF ANNABELLE H. ROSS, deceased
COURT FILE NO. 202400175

SHOW CAUSE AGAINST DISTRIBUTION

It is ORDERED that the creditors of, and all other persons interested in, the above estate show cause, if any they can, on the 26th day of February, 2026, at 9:30 AM, before this Court, at its Courthouse, Accomack County Circuit Court Building, 23312 Courthouse Avenue, Accomac, Virginia 23301, against the payment and delivery of the estate to the distributees without requiring refunding bonds.

It appearing to the Court that reports of the accounts of Howard C. Wessells II, Executor of the above estate and of the debts and demands against the estate, have been filed in the Clerk's office and that six months have elapsed since qualification, and upon motion of the personal representative, it is further ORDERED that the caption, style, and first paragraph of the Order be published once a week for two successive weeks in the Eastern Shore Post, a newspaper of general circulation in Accomack County, Virginia.

Entered this 11th day of February, 2026

Lynwood W. Lewis,
Judge

I ask for this:

Howard C. Wessells II
Virginia State Bar No. 31171
23318 Courthouse Ave. P.O. Box 30
Accomac, VA 23301
Tel: (757) 787-1077
Fax: (757) 787-9294

NOTICE OF OYSTER PLANTING GROUND APPLICATION

Michael R. Haugh (2025062) has applied for approximately 23.23 acres of oyster planting ground in Shelly Bay situated in Accomack County. The application is located at Lat/Long: N37-55.9974 / W75-25.746

To view a map of the application or to provide public comments, use this web link to search the application by number (2025062): https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/oystergrounds/search_applications.php or contact the VMRC Shellfish Management Division at 757-247-2262.

Send written comments or concerns to: Marine Resources Commission, Shellfish Management Division 380 Fenwick Road, Fort Monroe, VA 23651-1064.

Legal Ads

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Norfolk District (VMRC #2025-2218) is requesting a permit from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to place approximately 75,000 cubic yards of dredged material, per dredge cycle, from the maintenance dredging of the outer portion of the Onancock Creek Federal Navigation Channel onto an overboard placement site 2.5 miles west of the mouth of Onancock Creek in Accomack County.

You may provide comments on this application (VMRC #2025-2218) at <https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/habitat/comments/>

We will accept comments by the USPS provided they are received within 15 days of this notice to: Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, 380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96, Hampton, VA 23651.

NOTICE JUDICIAL SALE OF REAL ESTATE

On March 16, 2026, proceedings will be commenced under authority of Section 58.1-3965 et seq. of the Code of Virginia to sell the following parcels located in the County of Accomack, Virginia for payment of delinquent taxes:

Ainsworth, Wendy I.
04200A0000059A0
Christian, Ollie C.
109A0A000004300
Dean, Katharine E.
085A21300D00000
Ellison, Richard
062A3A000000500
Mapp, Garry D. & Tammy Matthews
113B00100000700
Nedab, Rufus
094D0A0000015A0
Smith, Francis P. & Pruitt, Keith Allen
1110007000002A0
Strand, Harry Kennie
055A0A000011700
Young, William Jason & Grosh, Tammie
029A10100010900

The owner of any property listed may redeem it at any time before the date of sale by paying accumulated taxes, penalties, interest and costs thereon at the law office listed below. The pro rata costs of publication hereunder shall become a part of the tax and together with all other costs, including reasonable attorney's fees set by the court, shall be collected when payment is made whether or not court proceedings have been initiated.

JAMES A. LILLISTON, SR.
TREASURER
ACCOMACK COUNTY, VIRGINIA

JAMES W. ELLIOTT
Attorney at Law
7100 Route 17
Yorktown, VA 23692
(757) 898-7000
www.vataxsale.com

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

THE ACCOMACK COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS WILL HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 AT 10 A.M. IN THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS, ROOM 104, 23296 COURTHOUSE AVENUE, ACCOMACK, VIRGINIA TO AFFORD INTERESTED PERSONS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD OR TO PRESENT WRITTEN COMMENTS CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING:**

SUSE-000016-2026 — Tracey Dedicatoria — 12038 Atlantic Road, Atlantic

The applicant requests a Special Use Permit pursuant to Accomack County Code Section 106-53(22) for dwelling accessory on lots with a minimum area of 5 acres or on non-conforming lots with a minimum area of 60,000 square feet recorded in the land records as of June 28, 2006. The applicant intends to locate an accessory dwelling on the property. The approximately 30-acre site is located at 12038 Atlantic Road near Atlantic, approximately 179' northeast of its intersection with Wallops Island Road and is on Tax Map # 42-A-58C. The property is zoned Agricultural.

SUSE-000018-2026 — Tracey Dedicatoria — 12038 Atlantic Road, Atlantic

The applicant requests a Special Use Permit pursuant to Accomack County Code Section 106-53(14) for travel trailers located outside of travel trailer parks, which are to be occupied for habitation or storage of chattels. The applicant has located an RV on the property for temporary habitation while a home is constructed. The approximately 30-acre site is located at 12038 Atlantic Road near Atlantic, approximately 179' north east of its intersection with Wallops Island Road and is on Tax Map # 42-A-58C. The property is zoned Agricultural. This is an after-the-fact application.

SUSE-000017-2026 — Beracah Homes, Inc. On Behalf of Thomas and Jennifer Walter — 7400 Block of Wallops Millpond Road, New Church

The applicant requests a Special Use Permit pursuant

to Accomack County Code Section 106-403(7) for residential uses, including single family dwellings, not as an accessory to an approved use. The applicant intends to construct a single-family dwelling. The approximately 1.1-acre site is located at the 7400 Block of Wallops Millpond Road near New Church, approximately 950' southeast of its intersection with Wallops Island Road and is on Tax Map # 28B-2-1. The property is zoned part General Business and part Residential and is partially located in a Special Flood Hazard Area.

SUSE-000021-2026 — Jonathan Mudd — 21338 Taylor Road, Tasley

The applicant requests a Special Use Permit pursuant to Accomack County Code Section 106-403(7) for residential uses, including single family dwellings, not as an accessory to an approved use. The applicant intends to construct a single-family dwelling. The approximately .946-acre site is located at 21338 Taylor Road near Tasley, directly on the intersection with Coastal Boulevard and is on Tax Map # 94-A-1. The property is zoned General Business.

SUSE-000024-2026 — Jonathan Mudd — 21338 Taylor Road, Tasley

The applicant requests a Special Use Permit pursuant to Accomack County Code Section 106-403(7) for residential uses, including single family dwellings, not as an accessory to an approved use. The applicant intends to live in an RV while a home is being constructed. The approximately .946-acre site is located at 21338 Taylor Road near Tasley, directly on the intersection with Coastal Boulevard and is on Tax Map # 94-A-1. The property is zoned General Business.

Public hearing related materials are available for review at the Office of the County Zoning Administrator at 23296 Courthouse Avenue – Room 105 – Accomack, Virginia or <http://www.boarddocs.com/va/coa/Board.nsf/Public> on the Friday prior to each meeting date.

Handicapped Assistance available, call: (757) 787-5726 or 824-5223.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Mr. Thomas Carricato (VMRC #2025-2617) is requesting a permit from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to install three (3) 100-foot oyster castle sills adjacent to property serving 12145 Blue Teal Lane situated along Hungars Creek in Northampton County.

You may provide comments on this application (VMRC #2025-2617) at <https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/habitat/comments/>

We will accept comments by the USPS provided they are received within 15 days of this notice to: Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, 380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96, Hampton, VA 23651.

NOTICE OF OYSTER PLANTING GROUND APPLICATION

Major Bond Jones (2026001) has applied for approximately 24.44 acres of oyster planting ground in Church Creek situated in Northampton County. The application is located at Lat/Long: N37-27.711 / W75-55.74

To view a map of the application, or to provide public comments, use this web link to search the application by number (2026001): https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/oystergrounds/search_applications.php or contact the VMRC Shellfish Management Division at 757-247-2262.

Send written comments or concerns to: Marine Resources Commission, Shellfish Management Division 380 Fenwick Road, Fort Monroe, VA 23651-1064.

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Seaside
Bayside

		Friday Feb. 13		Saturday Feb. 14		Sunday Feb. 15		Monday Feb. 16		Tuesday Feb. 17		Wednesday Feb. 18		Thursday Feb. 19
Assateague Beach	H L	5:07 p.m. 11:42 a.m.	H L	5:55 p.m. 12:27 p.m.	H L	6:40 p.m. 1:07 p.m.	H L	7:13 a.m. 1:45 p.m.	H L	7:54 a.m. 2:22 p.m.	H L	8:34 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	H L	9:14 a.m. 3:38 p.m.
Chinco. Channel	H L	5:10 p.m. 11:31 a.m.	H L	5:58 p.m. 12:18 p.m.	H L	6:44 p.m. 1:00 p.m.	H L	7:14 a.m. 1:39 p.m.	H L	7:54 a.m. 2:15 p.m.	H L	8:34 a.m. 2:51 p.m.	H L	9:13 a.m. 3:26 p.m.
Gargatha Neck	H L	6:03 p.m. 12:21 p.m.	H L	6:51 p.m. 1:06 p.m.	H L	7:28 a.m. 1:46 p.m.	H L	8:09 a.m. 2:24 p.m.	H L	8:50 a.m. 3:01 p.m.	H L	9:30 a.m. 3:39 p.m.	H L	10:10 a.m. 4:17 p.m.
Folly Creek	H L	5:56 p.m. 12:06 p.m.	H L	6:44 p.m. 12:51 p.m.	H L	7:21 a.m. 1:31 p.m.	H L	8:02 a.m. 2:09 p.m.	H L	8:43 a.m. 2:46 p.m.	H L	9:23 a.m. 3:24 p.m.	H L	10:03 a.m. 4:02 p.m.
Wachapreague	H L	5:24 p.m. 11:27 a.m.	H L	6:14 p.m. 12:16 p.m.	H L	6:56 a.m. 1:02 p.m.	H L	7:41 a.m. 1:45 p.m.	H L	8:24 a.m. 2:26 p.m.	H L	9:05 a.m. 3:04 p.m.	H L	9:45 a.m. 3:41 p.m.
Quinby Inlet	H L	5:07 p.m. 11:21 a.m.	H L	5:55 p.m. 12:06 p.m.	H L	6:40 p.m. 12:46 p.m.	H L	7:13 a.m. 1:24 p.m.	H L	7:54 a.m. 2:01 p.m.	H L	8:34 a.m. 2:39 p.m.	H L	9:14 a.m. 3:17 p.m.
Machipongo	H L	5:37 p.m. 11:50 a.m.	H L	6:25 p.m. 12:35 p.m.	H L	7:02 a.m. 1:15 p.m.	H L	7:43 a.m. 1:53 p.m.	H L	8:24 a.m. 2:30 p.m.	H L	9:04 a.m. 3:08 p.m.	H L	9:44 a.m. 3:46 p.m.
Tangier Sound Light	H L	9:05 a.m. 3:45 p.m.	H L	9:50 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	H L	10:32 a.m. 5:09 p.m.	H L	11:10 a.m. 5:45 p.m.	H L	11:47 a.m. 6:20 p.m.	H L	12:25 p.m. 6:54 p.m.	H L	1:05 p.m. 7:04 a.m.
Muddy Creek	H L	9:32 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	H L	10:20 a.m. 5:14 p.m.	H L	11:03 a.m. 5:53 p.m.	H L	11:43 a.m. 6:29 p.m.	H L	12:20 p.m. 6:33 a.m.	H L	12:57 p.m. 7:13 a.m.	H L	1:35 p.m. 7:54 a.m.
Guard Shore	H L	9:24 a.m. 4:26 p.m.	H L	10:12 a.m. 5:10 p.m.	H L	10:55 a.m. 5:49 p.m.	H L	11:35 a.m. 6:25 p.m.	H L	12:12 p.m. 6:59 p.m.	H L	12:49 p.m. 7:09 a.m.	H L	1:27 p.m. 7:50 a.m.
Chescon. Creek	H L	8:59 a.m. 3:38 p.m.	H L	9:47 a.m. 4:22 p.m.	H L	10:30 a.m. 5:01 p.m.	H L	11:10 a.m. 5:37 p.m.	H L	11:47 a.m. 6:11 p.m.	H L	12:24 p.m. 6:46 p.m.	H L	1:02 p.m. 7:02 a.m.
Onancock Creek	H L	9:13 a.m. 3:58 p.m.	H L	10:01 a.m. 4:42 p.m.	H L	10:44 a.m. 5:21 p.m.	H L	11:24 a.m. 5:57 p.m.	H L	12:01 p.m. 6:31 p.m.	H L	12:38 p.m. 6:41 a.m.	H L	1:16 p.m. 7:22 a.m.
Pungoteague Creek	H L	8:29 a.m. 3:12 p.m.	H L	9:17 a.m. 3:56 p.m.	H L	10:00 a.m. 4:35 p.m.	H L	10:40 a.m. 5:11 p.m.	H L	11:17 a.m. 5:45 p.m.	H L	11:54 a.m. 6:20 p.m.	H L	12:32 p.m. 6:56 p.m.
Nassawadox	H L	7:03 a.m. 1:27 p.m.	H L	7:51 a.m. 2:12 p.m.	H L	8:35 a.m. 2:53 p.m.	H L	9:15 a.m. 3:31 p.m.	H L	9:54 a.m. 4:07 p.m.	H L	10:33 a.m. 4:42 p.m.	H L	11:13 a.m. 5:19 p.m.
Occhohan. Creek	H L	7:37 a.m. 2:33 p.m.	H L	8:25 a.m. 3:18 p.m.	H L	9:06 a.m. 3:58 p.m.	H L	9:44 a.m. 4:32 p.m.	H L	10:22 a.m. 5:04 p.m.	H L	11:02 a.m. 5:36 p.m.	H L	11:44 a.m. 6:09 p.m.
Cape Charles	H L	6:14 p.m. 12:42 p.m.	H L	6:51 a.m. 1:26 p.m.	H L	7:34 a.m. 2:05 p.m.	H L	8:14 a.m. 2:41 p.m.	H L	8:51 a.m. 3:15 p.m.	H L	9:28 a.m. 3:50 p.m.	H L	10:06 a.m. 4:26 p.m.
Kiptopeke Beach	H L	5:54 p.m. 12:06 p.m.	H L	6:39 p.m. 12:51 p.m.	H L	7:07 a.m. 1:31 p.m.	H L	7:45 a.m. 2:07 p.m.	H L	8:23 a.m. 2:40 p.m.	H L	9:00 a.m. 3:13 p.m.	H L	9:39 a.m. 3:48 p.m.

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