

Tasley Volunteer Fire Company marks 100 years | pages 36-37



Eastern Shore Post

FEBRUARY 20, 2026

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

FREE OF CHARGE

‘Kindness like this matters. Inclusion matters.’

At Nandua Middle School winter formal, a surprise invitation defines decency

BY MARK MORING
Eastern Shore Post

Bree Phillips read a meme on social media that went something like this: A pretty face means nothing if you have an ugly heart.

Bree, a seventh grader at Nandua Middle School, has long been focused on her inner beauty, and she’s always been known for her kindness. But she did something recently that was the purest goodness one could imagine: She asked a boy with autism spectrum disorder to the school’s Winter Formal dance.

Coy Morgan, a seventh grader in the special education program at Nandua Middle School, has some verbal limitations.

So when Bree asked him — with an elaborate handmade poster that read, “It would be music to my ears if you would say yes” — Coy responded in the most emphatic way he knew how, with a deep bow.

It was not merely a nod of assent, but an actual bow, bent at the waist, a whole-body manifestation of an emphatic, “Yes!”

Bree, an honor student, had been pondering that meme lately, thinking of ways it might play out in her own life.

(Continued on page 38)



Coy Morgan poses with Bree Phillips on the evening of the Nandua Middle School winter formal

COURTESY PHOTO

NORTHAMPTON

Bridge-tunnel guardrails not rated for trucks

Man dies when semi plunges into Chesapeake

BY JIMMY SHOCKLEY
Eastern Shore Post

The guardrail system on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel is rated to withstand vehicles weighing up to 5,000 pounds, a bridge official said this week — far less than the 80,000-pound maximum allowable weight of a tractor-trailer truck on federal highways.

But Tom Anderson, the bridge-tunnel’s deputy executive director, said upgrading to a concrete guardrail system rated for vehicles weighing as much as the tractor-trailer truck that drove overboard Sunday, Feb. 15, would be impossible without upgrading the existing bridge deck and girders.

The current structure “would not support the added weight of the concrete barrier in addition to the existing traffic loads,” he said in an email. The bridge-tunnel’s safety for tractor-trailer trucks was drawn into public focus after a North Carolina man lost control of his truck before dawn, careened through the guardrail, and plunged into the frigid Chesapeake Bay. Ronnie Andrews, 61, of Robersonville, N.C., was headed south on the

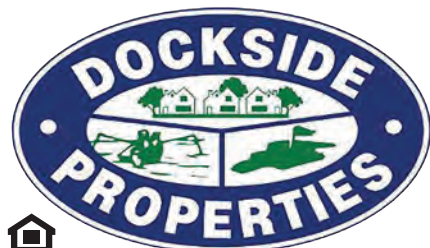
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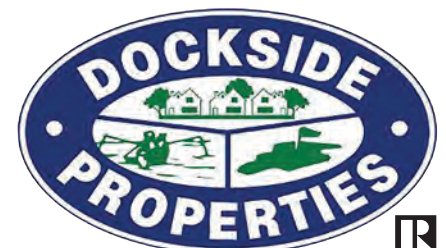
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Painter man charged in 2023 slaying

An Accomack County man was arrested Feb. 17 and charged in the 2023 shooting death of a woman.

Daevon Tyrique Stines, 25, of Painter, faces charges of second-degree murder and the use of a firearm in commission of a felony, said Accomack County Sheriff Todd Wessells.

He is incarcerated without bond in the Accomack County Jail, Wessells said.

He is charged in the shooting death of Aaliyah Antonatte Shakuria Collick, 24, also of Painter.

Police responded Dec. 4, 2023, to a report of a shooting in the 31000 block of Keller Pond Road, Painter.

Collick was found dead at the scene, Wessells said.

Authorities are continuing their investigation and encourage anyone with information related to this incident or other criminal activity in Accomack County to contact the Sheriff's Office at (757) 787-1131 or (757) 824-5666.

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Walker to deliver keynote at Prayer Breakfast

Jamar K. Walker, a U.S. district judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, will be the



Jamar Walker

keynote speaker for the annual Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, March 19, at 8 a.m. at the Exmore Moose Lodge in Belle Haven. The event is sponsored by the Eastern Shore Christian Businessmen's Association to promote unity among elected leaders

and the highest ethical standards in our community.

Local officials, law enforcement officers, and pastors will be in attendance.

Vocal entertainment will be provided by Ginny McMath, an Eastern Shore native who has acted on TV shows and performed at cabaret shows and off-Broad-

way in New York City, as well being featured in cruise ship entertainment.

Nonmembers can attend for \$15 per person. Seating is limited; RSVP by emailing or texting ESCBA president Rhudy Naylor at rlnaylor@gmail.com or 757-710-9638. Payment can be made at the door.

Walker was raised in Melfa and is a 2004 graduate of Nandua High School. At Nandua, Walker was president of his class for all four years, president of the BETA Club, state runner-up and captain of the Nandua High School forensic team, and a member of the baseball team. He was also a recipient of the Eastern Shore News leadership scholarship given annually on the Shore.

Walker earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Virginia and his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. At UVA, he was a key member of the university's mock trial

team that defeated Harvard to win the national championship in 2006. The team then won a second national title in 2007.

Following graduation, he began his legal career by serving as a law clerk to the Honorable Raymond A. Jackson, U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Upon completion of his clerkship, Walker became a litigation associate in the Washington, D.C., office of Covington & Burling LLP, where his practice focused primarily on products liability and insurance litigation. In 2015 Walker joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia and was assigned to the Alexandria Division's Financial Crimes and Public Corruption Unit. He subsequently served as the unit's deputy chief and acting chief. While at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Walker sat on the officewide Diversity Committee, co-founded the Committee

on Race, Policing, and Prosecution, and worked as the Alexandria Division's Hate Crimes Coordinator.

During his time as a prosecutor, Walker received five FBI Service Awards for work in public corruption, wire fraud, and bank fraud cases. In 2020 he was among the National LGBT+ Bar Association's 40 Under 40 and the National Association of Black Lawyers' 40 Under 40.

Walker is the 2023 recipient of the University of Virginia School of Law Lambda Law Alliance's Alvarez-Coughlin Award, which recognizes extraordinary efforts on behalf of the LGBTQ community. Walker is the first openly LGBTQ+ federal judge in Virginia and the second openly gay Black male Article III judge in the United States.

Walker is the son of Brenda and the Rev. Willie L. White Sr.




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ESCC Winter Arts Festival is Saturday, February 28th with Added Attractions!

Saturday, February 28th is the latest edition of the Eastern Shore Community College Winter Arts Festival, from 10am-2pm, in the college's Academic Building on campus in Melfa. In exciting news, this year's event will host the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Mobile Exhibit from Richmond, which will debut its latest theme on the Shore, entitled "Virginia as America: Navigating Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness".

In 1953, VMFA became one of the first museums in the world to have an Artmobile. For four decades, as many as four Artmobiles toured 59 exhibitions and served more than 2.5 million Virginians. Due to conservation concerns and the fragility of traveling works of art, VMFA replaced the program in the early 1990s with a Statewide Partners program to deepen partnerships with schools, community centers, and museums around the state.

Renamed VMFA on the Road, the traveling museum relaunched in October 2018 as a state-of-the-art, climate-controlled trailer equipped with Wi-Fi and



The February ESCC Winter Arts Fest will include the VMFA Mobile Exhibit (left) and local artists like ESCC student Ma'Lique Gray (right).

interactive components that meet 21st-century expectations. In the fall of 2023, the museum acquired a new trailer with even more space for art and visitors.

This year's new exhibit that will debut at ESCC on February 28th, explores the American ideal that was first expressed in the Declaration of Independence. The evocative phrase "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness" founded a nation on a promise of "inalienable" rights, a promise that has endured for 250 years.

From the collection at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 14 works of art-paintings, prints, and decorative objects- provide an alternative lens by which to understand our past, encouraging us to consider the hopes and challenges of those founding principles and their persistent relevance for realizing a "more perfect union."

Organized by VMFA, this exhibition is in recognition of VA250, the Commonwealth of Virginia's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the Independence of the United States. The exhibition is curated by Dr. Susan J. Rawles, VMFA's Elizabeth Locke Associate Curator of American Decorative Arts.

The unit will be located at the entrance of the ESCC Academic Building on campus in Melfa, where both floors will be featuring a wide variety of local and regional artists and crafters displaying their work. In addition, a special room has been designated to host displaced artists from the Historic Onancock School Community and Cultural Center, where a fire caused damage in January. An information station will be available on how to support their repair efforts at the school.

The event will feature live music in the ESCC Student Lounge with talented local vocalist Jackie Faison and her band, along with food, baked goods and refreshments on sale by the ESCC Phi Theta Kappa Chapter, and local favorite Kookie Momster.

There is no admission fee for the ESCC Winter Arts Festival, and it is presented to the public with support by the ESCC Foundation. This is a rain or shine event.

Saturday, February 28th, 10am-2pm

ESCC

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In 2022, Williams DeLoatche acquired Mapp, Mapp & Klein with a clear mission—preserve the firm's long-standing tradition of service while bringing expanded resources and experience to clients across the state. The Eastern Shore office now operates as part of a unified firm that combines local insight with the strength of a larger practice serving all of Virginia.

Eastern Shore native T. Wayne Williams, who grew up in the area, is a standout in this transition. "I grew up here, I know the people, and I understand the community," Williams says. "Our goal is simple: we want to provide the same personal attention our clients expect, while giving them access to a broader network of expertise and support."

Clients say that personal attention makes all the difference. One recent Google review highlights the firm's supportive approach after a serious injury:

"I contacted the Williams DeLoatche practice after being involved in a car accident, and I couldn't be more grateful for the care I received. They handled everything during my recovery, allowing me to focus on healing without any added stress."

Another client praised the firm's determination and advocacy:

"Best Law Firm in the area! Mr. Barbosa... stuck by me and fought until I got what I deserved!"

Despite the name change, much remains familiar on the Eastern Shore. The same trusted attorneys and staff continue their work, offering continuity for longtime clients and neighbors. What has evolved is the firm's ability to serve even more effectively. With additional offices in Hampton Roads and Roanoke, Williams DeLoatche blends local perspective with broader legal resources to meet diverse client needs.

The firm's expanded reach means clients benefit from personalized attention and experienced advocacy. Through every case, the firm strives to uphold the values that have defined it for more than a century—integrity, compassion, and results.

For the people of the Eastern Shore, that means the **same dedication, the same trusted faces, and the same commitment to serving the community**—backed by a stronger, more connected firm ready to face the challenges of tomorrow.

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Right whale found dead on barrier island

A critically endangered North Atlantic right whale was found dead on a barrier island last week, less than two weeks after another deceased whale was discovered in the Atlantic.

The Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center alerted the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the whale on Tuesday, Feb. 10. It was originally discovered by Nature Conservancy biologists.

The whale was identified as a 3-year-old female, which was the calf of a right whale called Porcia.

Porcia has had two other known calves, both of which previously died. The cause of this death is not yet known.

The whale's carcass is in a remote area, but officials are working to examine, document, and perform a necropsy



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOAA

A 3-year-old whale washed up on a barrier island off the coast of Virginia's Eastern Shore.

on the whale.

This is the second confirmed death of a North Atlantic right whale this year. Last month, a North Atlantic right whale named Division was found dead off the coast of North Carolina.

NOAA determined the whale died due to injuries from its entanglement in fishing gear. Entanglement in fishing gear and vessel strikes continue to be the two biggest threats to the survival of this species.

There are only around 380 of these critically endangered whales left in the world, including around 70 breeding females.

"This is an endless tug of war between hope and despair for North Atlantic right whales, and today, despair is winning," said Nora Ives, a marine scientist with Oceana. "Another whale is gone, a young female that could have helped contribute to the future of a population already on the brink of extinction. We can and we must do better. Stronger protections and proven solutions are needed, but both depend on adequate funding and staffing at NOAA. They also require full implementation of bedrock laws like the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act that help secure a future for these creatures."

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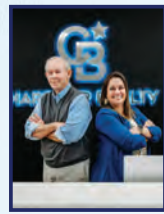
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THE PAPER'S POSITION

Redistricting referendum puts issue in voters' hands

With Democrats holding the governorship and both General Assembly chambers, the party has pushed through a Tuesday, April 21, referendum on a redistricting plan that would create 10 statewide congressional districts that lean Democratic while leaving only one Republican-leaning district. Right now, Democrats hold six of the 11 Virginia House seats.

The 2nd District, which includes the Eastern Shore of Virginia and is represented by U.S. Rep. Jen Kiggans, is almost unchanged in the redistricting proposal.

It has been reported that the number of minority voters in the 2nd District will increase 1 percentage point if the referendum passes. That's a very small change in a very competitive district.

If you bemoan the process, you're not alone. Control of the U.S. House of Representatives in this year's November elections has become paramount for Republicans and Democrats. Redistricting plans in California and Texas already have been allowed by the U.S. Supreme Court. It is probably safe to say many Virginians do not want to be associated with the fringe political culture at play in either California or Texas.

At least the referendum puts the issue in the hands of the voters. Make sure you exercise your right to vote.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

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

The author was misidentified on a guest column entitled "With AI, the Eastern Shore has a role in writing the future," that was printed in the Feb. 13 edition. The article was written by W. Alex Foxworthy, who lives in Onancock and is the science program chair at Eastern Shore Community College. The column has been reprinted with the correct author's name on pages 14 and 15.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Virginia, Maryland should protect bay after Potomac sewage spill

To the editor:

I read with horror and dread of the massive amounts of raw sewage flowing into the Potomac River from a sewer line collapse in Maryland that began nearly a month ago and continued to flow unimpeded for almost a week.

The gush of contaminated water includes "elevated levels of E. coli and Staphylococcus aureus, the bacteria that causes Staph infections, as well as antibiotic-resistant MRSA, prompting concern about the impact on boating, fishing, and other recreational activities that have been flourishing in recent years," according to a recent news report.

Though this fetid flow has

been diverted to a treatment facility, there have been spills as recently as Feb. 10 as workers struggle to contain the spill.

While state of Maryland and federal officials point blame at each other, I wonder if any agency or environmental group is monitoring the health of the Chesapeake Bay, into which the Potomac flows.

Menhaden, which are an incredibly important fish species, usually migrate into the Chesapeake in early March and are especially sensitive to degraded water quality.

Ospreys and other birds of prey rely on menhaden as a source of high-quality food, and blue crabs feed on freshly dead menhaden as well as scraps of the fish that fall to the bay's floor after other predators have fed on the fish.

How will the Eastern Shore of Virginia's Chesapeake

aquafarms fare? The farms in Northampton County alone are responsible for historically producing tens of millions of dollars worth of cultured clams each year.

As of late 2025 and early 2026, Virginia's bivalve aquaculture industry (clams and oysters combined) reached a record value of \$81 million, a significant source of economic resiliency for the Commonwealth.

I call on Gov. Spanberger to exercise all haste in giving our water protectors in the Commonwealth all assistance needed to monitor the Chesapeake's water quality and to pressure the appropriate federal and state of Maryland agencies to do more and to do it faster to protect the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, a national treasure.

Sherry Dudas
Machipongo

Eastern Shore Post

HOPE, EMPOWERMENT, AND DIGNITY FOR ALL

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IN MEMORIAM

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Servicemen killed on Eastern Shore interred at Arlington

BY TED SHOCKLEY

Eastern Shore Post

When I think of military fatalities, I think of battlefields far away from the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

But during the month of February, active-duty servicemen have died here in Northampton and Accomack counties while serving our country.

The remains of two U.S. military servicemen who died in February airplane crashes on the Eastern Shore of Virginia while on active duty are interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

In addition, the body of a U.S. Navy pilot whose airplane crashed in the Atlantic Ocean and washed ashore on Assateague Island, also is interred at Arlington.

Over the years there have been a number of U.S. military fatalities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia from aircraft crashes.

There also have been military airplanes that took off from the Eastern Shore but crashed, killing pilots and crew members.

■ On Feb. 2, 1951, U.S. Navy Lt. Jack Ellis Whillans, 27, took off in a military aircraft from the Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station before crashing 10 miles north of Ocean City, Md., according to a report in the Peninsula Enterprise newspaper.

“While in the area the plane apparently developed engine trouble and caught on fire,” the newspaper reported.

The pilot parachuted from the airplane and was rescued near Bethany Beach, Del., but died later.

Whillans had been stationed at Naval Air Station Atlantic City and was flying routine operations from the Chincoteague base at Wallops when the crash took place.

Whillans’ body is interred in the Springfield National Cemetery in Missouri. Whillans was survived by a wife, who gave birth to their daughter 39 days after his death.

■ On Feb. 19, 1953, U.S. Navy Lt. Emeryk Lichnerowicz was fatally injured when his single-engine fighter airplane crashed at Messongo, near Hallwood.

Lichnerowicz, 30, of Chicago, was stationed at the Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station at the time of his death.

According to an account in the Feb. 26, 1953, edition of the Peninsula Enterprise, “his plane was seen as it fell” by several witnesses.

Lichnerowicz’s remains are interred in Arlington National Cemetery.

Lichnerowicz and his wife were living in New Church at the time of his death.

■ On Feb. 23, 1956, U.S. Navy Lt. (j.g.) Louis C. Niederlander Jr., a pilot stationed at the Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station, was fatally injured when his jet crashed in two feet of water at the mouth of the Choptank River on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Niederlander, 25, was a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He was born in Ohio and his parents lived in Pennsylvania at the time of the crash, according to the Peninsula Enterprise.

“According to press reports the plane and pilot were apparently blown to bits by the impact of the crash,” the newspaper reported.

“The plane narrowly missed striking an oyster boat when it plunged into the creek,” it reported.

His remains are interred in the Oakland Cemetery, Warren County, Penn.

■ On Feb. 20, 1957, U.S. Navy Lt. (j.g.) Michael Bond Crouch, a pilot stationed at the Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station, was fatally injured after his parachute malfunctioned after he ejected from a doomed airplane.

According to the Peninsula Enterprise, Crouch died when his body hit the pavement on U.S. Route 13 near the Whispering Pines motel in Tasley. His airplane crashed two miles

away.

“Lt. Crouch evidently stayed with his plane until it began to lose altitude and piloted it to the woods away from a populated area,” the newspaper reported.

Crouch, a native of Baltimore, was survived by a wife and daughter who lived on Chincoteague Island.

His remains are interred in Arlington National Cemetery

10 killed off Assateague; Navy airplane never found

On Feb. 4, 1947, a U.S. Navy transport airplane en route from New Hampshire to Norfolk disappeared, touching off a regional search and a mystery that apparently still has not been solved.

The Associated Press reported that the aircraft, which had 10 servicemen aboard, was last heard from when the Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station picked up a weak signal from the pilot, who said he was flying in stormy conditions and was turning west in search of better weather.

Searches for the DC-3 airplane spanned Virginia and four other states — and took place as far west as central Virginia, where previously junked airplanes on the ground raised the hope that the missing Navy plane had been found.

When the body of the pilot washed ashore on Assateague Island Feb. 24, investigators had their confirmation that the airplane had crashed in the Atlantic Ocean.

The body was identified as that of U.S. Navy chief aviation pilot Chester A. Urban Jr., a California native and World War II veteran living in Norfolk at the time of his death.

According to the Associated Press, “Naval officers identified the decapitated body through laundry marks on clothing” as Urban.

“The airman’s wife, Ms. Ruth Evelyn Urban, of Norfolk, identified a wedding ring found on his finger.”

Urban’s remains are interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

Soon afterward, the body of U.S. Navy aviation radioman third class William R. Weeks washed ashore on the Virginia part of Assateague Island.

The body of Weeks, 23, a North Carolina native, was interred at a cemetery in his native city of Rocky Mount.

I have tried unsuccessfully to find more about the other eight servicemen on board.

Apparently, some of the information about them truly has been lost to history.

The remaining eight servicemen on the doomed flight whose bodies were never recovered are:

■ Robert Stanley Bodimer, 25, a Navy chief electrician’s mate, of Huntington, W.Va.

■ Edward Norman Hoff, no age available, a Navy chief machinist’s mate, of Poulsbo, Wash.

■ William Martin Landt, no age available, a Navy chief ship’s fitter, of Woodbridge, N.Y.

■ Francis Joseph Farrerty, 28, a Navy aviation chief boatswain’s mate, of Kulpmont, Pa.

■ Sydney Cecil Shadoin, 26, a Navy chief boatswain’s mate, of Norfolk

■ John Sylvester Celepka, 21, a U.S. Marine Corps sergeant, of Coral, Pa.

■ Billy Williamson Schofield, no age given, a Navy lieutenant junior grade and co-pilot, of Crumpler, W.Va.

■ James M. Dawdy, no age available, a Navy aviation machinist’s mate second class, of La Crescenta, Calif.

A Feb. 23, 1947, article in The Raleigh Register, a newspaper in West Virginia, about Bodimer’s death reported that the aircraft left Norfolk “with a load of prisoners for the naval prison at Portsmouth, N.H.,” and returned the next day.

“At 6:17 p.m., the plane radioed a message that it was lost and encountering storms.”

Bloxom details crab pot, paraquat, and redistricting issues

There were a lot of bills in the General Assembly that I was trying to adjust or kill last week, which took a lot of time and effort.

The first was a bill to require turtle excluders on all crab pots.

I was successful in getting the patron to adjust the bill to require turtle excluders on recreational crab pots only.



Delegate
Rob Bloxom

I am still opposed to this bill and will continue to be.

The bill requires the Vir-

ginia Marine Resources Commission and Virginia Institute of Marine Science to establish turtle protection areas.

This assumes there is a problem with catching turtles in all crab pots. A study from 2009 to 2011 employing 16 commercial watermen with 5,475 pulls caught three turtles.

The excluders also reduced the crab catch by half in the watermen's test.

These plastic devices cost about \$6 apiece and will be excellent barnacle catchers, thus another headache for our watermen that they do not need.

This bill is headed for the state Senate and I will ask several of my friends in the other chamber to help kill it.

The next bill I had to spend a lot of effort on was a bill to outlaw paraquat in Virginia. This is a vital herbicide in a farmer's toolbox in the continuous no-till program.

A person must take classes beyond the standard applicator training to be licensed to handle paraquat.

Paraquat can only be mixed, transported, or applied by a person who holds this license. The patron was trying to outlaw it due to studies saying it causes Parkinson's disease. It is also manufactured in China, which was another point of contention.

However, from my calls to the farming community on the Eastern Shore, I found that Virginia Tech and the Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Painter has completed extensive testing on it.

They reported that it has a very short, active life span and it becomes inert when it comes in contact with

clay. There was no direct link that could be associated with Parkinson's.

My main problem is the patron would not meet with any of the opponents of the bill, including Farm Bureau.

In the end, the bill was carried over to next year, which effectively kills it for the current year.

The last topic of my report will be the proposed mid-decade redistricting that the Democrats have proposed.

The referendum will be April 21 to temporarily change the Constitution of Virginia to allow them to redraw the congressional districts.

Virginians just adopted a bipartisan/nonpartisan commission to draw the districts in both congressional and state legislative districts in the state constitution with an overwhelming endorsement from the voters.

The new maps that were drawn would have 10 Democrat majority districts and only one majority Republican district.

Currently Virginia is represented by six Democratic congressmen and five Republican congressmen, which is representative of how Virginians typically vote.

If one studies the maps that have

been proposed, an individual could drive 11 miles through Fairfax and be driving through five congressional districts. I call this the "Fairfaxing of Virginia."

The Democrats say this is what we must do to combat President Trump's presidency, but I disagree.

I have reminded everyone that all presidents and governors whom I have seen always stretch their authority as far as they can until the judicial branch and/or the legislative branch checks their overreach. One is able to see that happening now.

Plus all heads of the government at the state or federal level time out. In this highly charged political environment, we need to take a step back, take a deep breath, and really take a hard look at changing our state constitution on a temporary basis.

I hope you will come to the same conclusion that I have and strongly oppose this amendment. Please do not "Fairfax Virginia."

As always, I welcome any questions or concerns at my district office at 757-824-3456, Richmond office at 804-698-1000 or email me at delrbloxom@house.virginia.gov.

DeSteph critical of General Assembly's 'progressive tax hikes'

As the 2026 General Assembly session reaches its midpoint, I want to provide a brief update on key developments from the past couple of weeks and how they may affect Virginia families, workers, and small businesses.

Several measures advanced this session are expected to increase costs for Virginians, including proposals creating new payroll obligations under a Paid Family Medical Leave program, expanding collective bargaining requirements for public employees, and extending prevailing wage mandates on public construction projects.

Opponents warn these measures



State Senator
Bill DeSteph

to expand the standard deduction, did not advance this session. Discussions

could increase costs for local governments, potentially leading to higher taxes or fees.

At the same time, proposals to eliminate or reduce taxes on groceries, overtime pay, tips, and vehicle ownership, as well as efforts

also continue regarding proposals to expand sales taxes to additional services and authorize additional local-option sales tax increases.

Surprisingly, even the Washington Post editorial board called out the hypocrisy of these increased costs, noting that Gov. Abigail Spanberger campaigned as a moderate but is now backing progressive tax hikes that go farther than California.

"Jacking up taxes on high earners doesn't make life more affordable for others," it wrote — and the editorial board is right.

I know energy affordability remains a major concern, particularly

as many families report higher winter power bills.

Several Republican-led bills aimed at increasing energy generation options, improving utility bill transparency, and ensuring reliable energy sources were unsuccessful passing through the Democrat majority committees.

Debate continues over how best to balance energy reliability, cost, and long-term policy goals.

Legislation expanding collective bargaining authority for public employees continues to draw debate statewide.

(Continued on page 13)

The late Jesse Jackson and our area's brushes with fame

One of my few hobbies is tracking the Eastern Shore's random brushes with random visiting celebrities — some before they were actual celebrities.



Ted Shockley

In 1961, Joe DiMaggio, one of the most famous professional athletes of the 20th century, was the special guest at an Onancock dinner for regional sweet-potato growers.

In the 1950s, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

addressed the congregation at First Baptist Church in Capeville as a seminary student while visiting the area, long before he became the celebrated civil rights leader.

It is my peculiar Eastern Shore history interest. For example, I cannot tell you the name and owner of every historic home in our area. But I know that the late Flip Wilson, the comedian and television star, made sever-

al stops on the Eastern Shore in 1972 while driving through.

And in the summer of 1981, the Rev. Jessie Jackson, the civil rights leader who twice was a presidential candidate, spoke at Eastern Shore Community College at a rally in support of workers at the Perdue Farms Inc. processing plant in Accomac.

Jackson, 84, died Tuesday, Feb. 17. Once upon a time, he seemed to be everywhere. When King was assassinated in Memphis, Jackson was there. He gave the eulogy at the funeral of Jackie Robinson, who integrated Major League Baseball.

Back then it seemed he was always on television or delivering a speech — and his unique and eloquent oratorical style always drew my attention. He was a masterful speaker.

In June 1981, he brought his distinctive voice to the Eastern Shore of Virginia to advocate for Perdue workers seeking to organize.

"They accuse us of being lazy. We're not lazy," Jackson told the crowd, according to an Associated Press newspaper story.

"We work the hardest and the nastiest jobs and we get paid the least amount of money."

Jackson's appearance was intended to rally Perdue workers' support of unionization.

Jackson's appearance did not help. Two weeks later, workers overwhelming voted not to join the union.

A person interviewed in The Sun newspaper of Baltimore said it had been a mistake to invite Jackson to speak in Accomack County to Perdue employees.

"What do they think they gained by having Jesse Jackson?" asked Justine Nagata Thomas, a lifelong teacher.

"People of the Eastern Shore of Virginia are intelligent enough to make their own decisions, and they don't need a leader coming all the way from Chicago telling them how to run their communities," she told The Sun.

There is no indication Jackson ever returned to the Eastern Shore, although plenty of other national politicians have been among us.

Then-U.S. Sen. Lyndon Johnson was once seen at the Kiptopeke ferry terminal. Johnson later became the 36th U.S. president. Then-U.S. Rep. Gerald Ford, who attended a Chincoteague Pony Penning, later became the 38th U.S. president.

George H.W. Bush, later the 41st U.S. president, was stationed at the Chincoteague Naval Air Station during World War II. And U.S. Sen. John McCain, a 2008 presidential candidate, crashed a Navy jet in southern Northampton County in 1965.

At various times, the glamorous likes of Diana Ross, Elizabeth Taylor, and Barbara Streisand spent some well-documented time on the Eastern Shore.

In the summer of 1982, Michael Jordan — then a rising college sophomore — was one of several instructors at a basketball clinic at Arcadia High School. Erik Estrada (of the TV show "ChiPs") promoted a movie at a Cheriton church in 2013 and 2014.

The Eastern Shore's collection of famous visitors — there are many examples — makes for fun and fascinating reading. Seeing Jackson in person at the community college would have been amazing.

(But in my opinion, meeting the irrepressible Flip Wilson on the Eastern Shore would have been even better.)

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

DeSteph

(Continued from page 12)

Some local officials have expressed concerns about potential fiscal impacts on local budgets, schools, and public services, while supporters argue it strengthens worker representation.

One proposal that would have banned gas-powered leaf blowers was defeated, avoiding new equipment costs for landscapers, farmers, and small businesses across the commonwealth.

On redistricting, the Democrat majority ignored the nonpartisan process Virginians voted for in 2020 and instead released a partisan, back-

room-drawn map that disenfranchises huge swaths of Hampton Roads, Richmond suburbs, the Shenandoah Valley, and Southwest Virginia. It's a pure political power grab, plain and simple.

Fair Maps Virginia released a powerful new ad exposing (this) partisan gerrymandering attempt and power grab.

Despite Virginians voting overwhelmingly in 2020 (66% bipartisan support) to end partisan map-drawing via a nonpartisan commission, Democrats are undermining fair representation to rig districts for one-party dominance.

Important progress was made on legislation I introduced to strengthen protections for crime victims and their families.

Senate Bill 209 advanced from committee with strong bipartisan support. The bill clarifies which serious violent offenses prevent an incarcerated individual from seeking early release under Virginia's geriatric release provisions.

Victims and families testified about the emotional toll of repeated parole proceedings, and this legislation seeks to reduce that burden while reinforcing accountability and prioritizing public safety.

The bill now moves to the full Senate for consideration, and I will continue working with colleagues to strengthen it as it progresses.

Tuesday, Feb. 17, was the last day for bills to be acted upon in their chambers of origin, other than the

budget bills. Bills must have completed the "crossover" to the opposite chamber by Wednesday, Feb. 18.

As we move into the second half of session, budget negotiations and final legislative decisions will shape the outcome of many of these debates.

My focus remains on affordability, public safety, economic opportunity, and ensuring that policies adopted in Richmond reflect the needs of Coastal Virginia families and communities. As always, my office is here to help. If you have questions or need assistance with any state government matter, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

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

(Continued on page 15)

AI on the Shore

(Continued from page 14)

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 are seeing — and what they are 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.*

Run for Life is set for Nandua March 28

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life will be having a Run for Life 5K and 1K on Saturday, March 28, at Nandua High School.

Those participating will receive a race bib, post-race water and snacks, awards, and an event T-shirt for those who register by March 10.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/2t9j4nsf> to register.

Pocomoke chamber sets annual meeting

The Pocomoke Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its April general membership luncheon and 2025 awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 1, at the Delmarva Discovery Museum, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City.

The guest speaker will be Aubrey Campbell, a residential real estate consultant with Davis Strategic Development.

The lunch is being sponsored by East Point Energy so there is no cost for attendees. However, those interested in attending must register in advance by contacting 410-957-1919 or pocomokechamber@gmail.com.

Arcadia High School 1990s reunion slated

Arcadia High School will have a 1990s class reunion for all graduating classes from 1990 to 1999.

Registration is now open by emailing ahs90sreunion@gmail.com.

Benefit spaghetti dinner is planned in Onancock

Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church, Onancock is hosting a spaghetti dinner fundraiser to benefit No Limits Eastern Shore Brain Injury Services on Friday, Feb. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Donations will be accepted and takeouts will be available.



We take a closer look.

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Eastern Shore Post

Important people read it.

ENTERTAINMENT

Eastern Shore Post

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>

Best bets

■ **Friday, Feb. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m., NASA Solar System Ambassador Daniel McGill is leading an astronomy night at Robert Reed Waterfront Park in Chincoteague.**

■ **Saturday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m. Shore History is screening the documentary "Steamboats of the Chesapeake" at the Rose-land Theatre. Tickets are \$10.**

■ **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

■ **LINE DANCING:** 7 p.m., Cypress Roots Brewing Company, 148 Market St., Pocomoke City. The brewery is hosting country line dancing.

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. 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

■ **BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT:** Doors open 10:30 a.m., tournament noon to 4 p.m., Mary N. Smith Cultural Enrichment Center, 24577 Mary N. Smith Road, Accomac. The Keystone Club of the Boys and Girls Club of the Eastern Shore is hosting a three versus three basketball tournament for six through eighth graders. The cost is \$6 per team. Entrance is \$2 for spectators. Concessions will be available for purchase.

■ **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

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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 757-442-7707 or 800-764-4460.

Calendar

(Continued from page 16)

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>

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 7 p.m., Cypress Roots Brewing Company, 148 Market St., Pocomoke City. Neal Hooks performs live.

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 annu-

al 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, Chincoteague. Island Community House and Village Neighbors are hosting bingo. The cost is \$5 per card or \$20 for five cards. Cash only.

■ **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>

■ **FOOD DISTRIBUTION:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Northampton County Parks and Recreation Community Center, 7247 Young St., Machipongo. The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore is hosting a mobile pantry.

■ **INFORMATION SESSION:** 3 to 5 p.m., David Landsberger Family YMCA, 6395

Maddox Blvd., Chincoteague. The Y is hosting an information session about its new blood pressure self-monitoring program.

■ **RABIES CLINIC:** 4:30 to 6 p.m., Atlantic Volunteer Fire Company, Atlantic. A rabies clinic is being held. The cost is \$10 per pet, cash only. Dogs must be on a leash and cats must be in a carrier.

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

■ **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.

■ **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.

Wednesday, February 25

■ **FIELD TRIP:** 9 a.m., Mutton Hunk Fen Natural Area Preserve, 28583 Baker Road, Parksley. Birding Eastern Shore is hosting a field trip at the preserve. Maggie Long and Paul Anderson will

lead a leisurely walk through forests, fields, and seaside marsh looking for winter birds such as sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl. To register text Long at 610-500-9971.

■ **COFFEE TALK:** 9:30 to 11 a.m., Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust, 6 Crockett Ave., Onancock. The land trust is hosting a lecture about conservation easements and their benefits. Coffee, tea, and donuts will be provided. To RSVP email outreach@veslt.org

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

■ **FOOD DISTRIBUTION:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Exmore Town Park, 3305 Main St., Exmore. The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore is hosting a mobile pantry.

■ **FOOD DISTRIBUTION:** 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saxis Volunteer Fire Company, 8337 Free School Road, Saxis. The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore is hosting a mobile pantry.

■ **YOUTH CHESS:** 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Eastern Shore Family YMCA, Onley. The Y is

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Fairdale Farm

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"We're Not Just a Lawn Mower Shop"

Fairdale Farm and Equipment,
a growing small business is looking for a
PART TIME Office Assistant & Marketing Specialist
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FRI-SAT FEB 20-21 7 PM
SUN FEB 22 4 PM
TUE FEB 24 7 PM

"GOAT"
Sport/Comedy Rated PG

Calendar

(Continued from page 17)

hosting a youth chess club every Wednesday.

■ **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>

■ **BINGO:** Doors open 6 p.m., games start 7:30 p.m., Painter Volunteer Fire Company, 17116 Wayside Drive, Painter. The fire company hosts bingo every Wednesday.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 7 to 8 p.m., Local-ish Art, 22 Strawberry St., Cape Charles. Peg Volk performs live.

Thursday, February 26

■ **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.

■ **INFORMATION SESSION:** 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., David Landsberger Family YM-

CA, 6395 Maddox Blvd., Chincoteague. The Y is hosting an information session about its new blood pressure self-monitoring program.

■ **TEEN CREATIVE WRITING:** 5:30 p.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library, Parksley. Teens can learn real world writing techniques during this workshop. This month's focus will be pacing, tempo, and description.

■ **SPAGHETTI DINNER:** 5:30 p.m., Hartley Hall Nursing and Rehab, 1006 Market St., Pocomoke City. A carry out spaghetti dinner is being held at the center. The cost is \$5 and the menu includes spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, and garlic bread. There will also be a bake sale table.

■ **FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT:** 6 p.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library, Parksley. The library is hosting family movie night with free popcorn and a screening of "Abominable."

■ **BINGO:** 6 p.m., Northampton Fire and Rescue, 10239 Pine Ave., Nassawadox. The station is hosting bingo.

■ **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>

Friday, February 27

■ **DINNER SALE:** 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., The Table, 19444 Main St., Melfa. The church is hosting a dinner sale. Meals are \$20 each. The menu includes barbecue ribs, turkey wings, and baked chicken. Each meal comes with an entree and two sides. The sides are mac and cheese, green beans, fried cabbage, potato salad, baked beans, and turnip greens. Pick up and delivery are available. To order in advance call 757-694-8654.

■ **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.

■ **BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION:** 6 p.m., Giddens Do Drop Inn, 8204 Bayford Road, Weirwood. The Northampton County Branch of the NAACP is hosting a program called "Honoring Black History: Celebrating Moments in Time," presented by Gerald Boyd. There will also be music and light refreshments. Donations will be accepted.

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

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 6 to 9 p.m., Blarney Stone Pub, Onancock. Medium Wave Jay performs live.

■ **COMEDY SHOW:** 7 p.m. doors open, 8 p.m. show starts, Par 4 Bar and Grill, Temperanceville. Friday Night Laughs will feature comedians London Duran, Jamal Staton, Just Dev, and Jounte Ferguson. Tickets are \$15.

■ **PLAY:** 7 p.m., North Street Playhouse, Onancock. The playhouse presents "Kalamazoo," by Michelle Kholos Brooks and Kelly Younger. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at www.northstreetplayhouse.org/tickets

Saturday, February 28

■ **BIRDING FIELD TRIP:** 8:30 to 10:30, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge Bateman Visitors Center, 8231 Beach Road, Chincoteague. Late February is the ideal time to see snow geese and tundra swans at the refuge. The Eastern Shore Master Naturalists and Fish and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are hosting a bird walk to highlight the display. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. Binoculars and scopes will be provided.

■ **KIDS ART:** 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St., Chincoteague. Children between the ages of 2 and 10 can stop by the cultural alliance to make hand print cardinal art.

■ **PUZZLE RACE:** 10 a.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library, Parksley. Teams of four will compete to see who can put a puzzle together fastest. Single entrants will be added to a team. To register call the library at 757-787-3400.

■ **ART FESTIVAL:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Eastern Shore Community College, Melfa. ESCC's Winter Arts Festival will showcase local artists and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts will have its Art Mobile on site showcasing the exhibit "Virginia as America: Navigating Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

■ **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.

■ **FEBRUARY FREEZE:** Noon, Cape Charles Beach, Cape Charles. Habitat for Humanity Hosts its annual Freezin' for a Reason February Freeze. Brave souls will take a chilly dip in the bay to support a good cause. They will be led by celebrity dipper Pattie Brogan. Lunch will be available after the dip. Dippers can register online at <https://tinyurl.com/4ee46ryj> or on the day of the dip.

■ **AUTHOR TALK:** 1 to 3 p.m., Cape Charles Memorial Library, Cape Charles. Marina Pierce, author of "Today's Glimmer" will discuss her book.

■ **OYSTER ROAST:** 4 to 8 p.m., Exmore Town Park, 3398 Main St., Exmore. Shore Little League is hosting its 10th annual oyster roast. There will be music, a cash bar, a silent auction, and raffles. Advanced tickets are \$40 and day-of tickets are \$50. Tickets include clams, oysters, chowder, and barbecue. For tickets visit <https://tinyurl.com/37av844r>

■ **FUNDRAISER:** 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., Mallards at the Wharf, Onancock. The Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital Auxiliary is holding its Fire and Ice fundraiser. Tickets are \$80 and include hearty food, s'mores, a complimentary cocktail, and firepits to warm up by. A bourbon tasting is also available for

(Continued on page 19)




February 28 from 7-9 PM
Eastern Shore of Virginia's own
Ukulele Band the Sonic Ukes!

If you have not heard the Ukes before, prepare to be delighted. Some seating is available, but they feature popular songs that will have you up and dancing in no time!

TICKETS
 purchased in advance at
 the ESO Art's Center, on
www.esoartscenter.org
 or call 757-442-3226
\$15 in advance or
\$20 at the door

Beverages and some snacks will be available to purchase.

Upcoming Events
March 21st Forest Flynn (rock)
April 25th Margot and Company (blues, Motown)
15293 King Street | Belle Haven VA 23306

Calendar

(Continued from page 18)

a fee. To purchase tickets visit <https://tinyurl.com/5n7572hh>

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

■ **PLAY:** 7 p.m., North Street Playhouse, Onancock. The playhouse presents “Kalamazoo,” by Michelle Kholos Brooks and Kelly Younger. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at www.northstreetplayhouse.org/tickets

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 7 to 9 p.m., ESO Arts Center, 15293 King St., Belle Haven. The Sonic Ukes perform as part of the ESO Live series. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Food and drinks will be for sale.

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

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 7 p.m., Cypress Roots Brewing Company, 148 Market St., Pocomoke City. Crescent Moon Duo performs live.

Sunday, March 1

■ **MOVIE:** 2 p.m., Historic Palace Theater, Cape Charles. The Cape Charles Memoiral Library is hosting a free screening of “Johnny Tremaine,” which is the 2026 Town Wide Read.

■ **SPECIAL SERVICE:** 11 a.m., Painter Garrison’s Methodist Church, 17300 Main St., Painter. David McCaleb will be a guest speaker in the series “The Lord’s Prayer Through the Lens of Spiritual Welfare.”

■ **SPECIAL SERVICE:** 3 p.m., Anointed Word of Deliverance Ministries, 32170 Seaside Road, Melfa. The church is hosting a service to honor Pastor Samuel Smith and Lady Tiffany Smith. The guest speaker will be Pastor Sharon Williams of Calvary Pentecostal Church.

Tuesday, March 3

■ **BIKE RIDE:** Cyclists will meet beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Cape Charles Beachfront for a Full Moon Bike Ride. Riders will depart at 6 p.m. for a 5-mile bike ride around Cape Charles. Costumes and decorated bikes are encouraged.

■ **YARN CLUB:** 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library, Parkesley. Crafters can bring their knitting or

crochet projects and chat with other fiber artists while working.

■ **WRITERS GROUP:** 6 to 7 p.m., Chincoteague Island Library, Chincoteague. The Chincoteague Island Writers Group will meet. Writers can share a piece based on the prompt, which can be found on the group’s Facebook, or read their other work. Readings are limited to five minutes. To register call 757-336-3460 or email twright@espl.org

■ **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.

Wednesday, March 4

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

■ **SUPPORT GROUP:** 11 a.m., Onley Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 25501 W. Main St., Onley. Accomack-Northampton Pregnancy Center is hosting Mom Connect, a group for all mothers on the Eastern Shore. This month’s topic will be “When to Take Your Children to the Doctor,” with Sarah Shotwell, a family nurse practitioner.

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

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

■ **OPEN MIC:** Sign up at 5:30 p.m., performances 6 to 8 p.m., Great Machipongo Clam Shack, Nassawadox. Musicians, poets, and comedians can share their work.

■ **BINGO:** Doors open 6 p.m., games start 7:30 p.m., Painter Volunteer Fire Company, 17116 Wayside Drive, Painter. The fire company hosts bingo every Wednesday.

■ **LECTURE:** 7 p.m., VIMS Seaside Hall, 36 Atlantic Ave., Wachapreague. VIMS is hosting a lecture titled “She Studies Seaweeds in the City by the Sea.” Stacey Krueger-Hadfield will discuss her new role as the director of the VIMS Eastern Shore Laboratory. She will also touch on what’s new at the lab and the ongoing work of the algal evolutionary ecology lab. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.



The Eastern Shore of Virginia Habitat for Humanity would like to invite you to participate in the **29th Annual February Freeze**. This year’s dip in the Bay will be on **Saturday, February 28, 2026**, at the Cape Charles beach. Teams and individuals sign up to take the dip and raise pledges to help us build strength, stability and self-reliance through safe & affordable housing for Eastern Shore families.

See our website www.easternshorehabitat.org for more information, or call the Habitat office at **757-442-4687** with any questions or to make a pledge over the phone.



This event is provided, in part, through a grant from Virginia Housing, investing in the power of home to help Virginia communities thrive.

Home Helps Everyone.

At Virginia Housing, we believe everyone deserves a quality, affordable place to call home.

That’s why we offer affordable home loans, down payment assistance grants, grants to make homes more accessible and free education for first-time homebuyers and renters.

Learn more at VirginiaHousing.com.



OBITUARIES

Eastern Shore Post

Judith Miles

Mrs. Judith Ellen Miles, 82, a resident of Mears, formerly of Massachusetts, passed away at her home on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026.

Born Oct. 22, 1943, in Washington,



Mrs. Miles

D.C., and raised in Westchester, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Louis Morton Bernstein and Silvia Livingston Bernstein.

After graduating from high school, Judith earned her undergraduate degree from Sarah Lawrence College before receiving her Juris Doctor from Western New England Law School, where she graduated second in her class, summa cum laude.

She devoted her professional life to public service as an appellate attorney with the Springfield, Mass., District Court, earning the respect of colleagues through her intellect, diligence, and unwavering commitment to justice.

Judith's deepest joys were rooted in her faith, her music, and her beloved Mini Lop rabbits. She was a devoted Episcopalian, most recently serving as a faithful member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Onancock.

She began playing the violin at the age of five, and through years of discipline and determination, she rose to become first-chair violinist of the New York State All-State Orchestra. This prestigious role, also known as concertmaster, ranks just below the conductor and serves as the leader of the entire orchestra. It was one of the proudest accomplishments her life.

Judith also had a special affection for rabbits, especially the gentle and spirited Mini Lop. For many years, she found happiness in breeding and training these lively companions for open

show competition, a pastime that reflected both her patience and her joyful spirit.

She is survived by her children, Gary Miles and his wife, Jena, of California, and Sarah Miles and her husband, Robert Blanchard, of Massachusetts; her brother, Kenneth "Ken" Bernstein and his wife, Jurretta, of Pennsylvania; and her grandchildren, Kayla and Christina Miles.

A memorial service was held at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Onancock on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 1 p.m., with the Rev. Linda Scholer officiating.

Contributions in Judith's memory may be made to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 348, Onancock, VA 23417.

Memory tributes may be shared at www.williamsfuneralhomes.com

Arrangements were by the Williams-Onancock Funeral Home.

Claudia Webb

Mrs. Claudia Savage Webb, 75, of Exmore, was welcomed home by her Lord and Savior on Friday, Feb. 13, 2026.

Born Sept. 23, 1950, in Nassawadox, she was the daughter of the late Ina P.



Mrs. Webb

Brown and Donald O. Brown and the late John Robert "Bob" Savage.

Claudia graduated from Onancock High School in 1968 and went on to graduate from Pan-American Business School in Richmond.

She later returned to the Eastern Shore and began working for Dr. Elam W. "Tom" Bosworth II, and although bookkeeping was her main role, she wore many hats during her 28 years. After Dr. Bosworth's retirement, Claudia turned her focus to managing the family farm business, as well as many other ventures she and her husband, Tommy, took on over the years.

A devoted and longtime member of Bethel United Methodist Church, Claudia's heart for service extended far beyond the church walls, especially when it came to animals. She had a boundless love for them all, from horses and dogs to pigs and chickens. Claudia stopped at nothing to rescue any animal in need, even if that meant knocking on a door as an 'unofficial' animal control officer or stopping traffic to save a turtle crossing the road.

She also looked forward to cruising in the Corvette and on the back of the motorcycle, sharing countless adventures with Tommy over the years.

Claudia's infinite love for her family, friends, and all God's creations was a true blessing to those who were fortunate enough to have crossed paths with her. She may have always been running a little late, but she always showed up.

She leaves to cherish her memory her devoted husband of 54 years, G. Thomas "Tommy" Webb; her sister, Cynthia "Cindy" Bradford and her husband, Bill, of Nassawadox; her sister-in-law, Gena Savage; her nieces and nephews, Cory Savage (Jackie), Christopher Savage (Andrea), April Caison (Chris), Rachel Savage, Kristina Savage, Melody Bradford (Geoff), and Jessica Fitchett (RJ), along with their children; and last but certainly not least, her beloved black Lab, "Doc," who was truly her baby.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her dear brother, Robert "Glynn" Savage.

Claudia's family extends heartfelt gratitude to Brenda Robinson, Leslie Walker, Donna Wallace, Myriam Downing, and Pat Williams for their unwavering dedication to her care and well-being over the past several years.

Funeral services were conducted from the chapel of the Williams-Onancock Funeral Home on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m., with the Rev. Paul Oh officiating. The family greeted friends one hour prior to the service. Private interment was held at the Belle Haven Cemetery.

Contributions in Claudia's memory

may be made to Bethel United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 224, Jamesville, VA 23398 or to any local animal rescue shelter.

Memory tributes may be shared at www.williamsfuneralhomes.com

Arrangements were by the Williams-Onancock Funeral Home.

Charlotte Parks

Mrs. Charlotte Pruitt Parks, 83, of Tangier Island, passed away Monday, Feb. 9, 2026, at TidalHealth Peninsula Regional in Salisbury, Md.

She was born on Tangier Island on



Mrs. Parks

Feb. 24, 1942, and was a daughter of the late Henry Smith Pruitt and Amy "Viola" Parks Pruitt.

A graduate of Tangier High School, class of 1960, she was a homemaker and worked over the years in the seafood industry on Tangier. She also worked many years at her brother's sandwich shop "Double Six."

Charlotte was a member of New Testament Church and was a former member of Swain Memorial Church. She was devoted in many capacities, including singing in the choir and teaching Sunday School.

She was very knowledgeable and loved reading and studying the Bible. She also enjoyed sewing and cooking. Most of all, she loved her family and taking care of her husband.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Ed Parks, of Tangier; her three children, Beth Thomas, of Tangier, Edward Parks Jr. and his wife, Bev, of Tangier, and William Parks III, of Harrington, Del.; her seven grandchildren, Rudy "Tripp" Thomas III and his wife, Alicia, of Tangier, Courtney Ward and her husband, Keith, of Crisfield, Md., Brett Thomas and his wife, Elana, of

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Obituaries

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Tangier, Lindsay Photakos and her husband, Steve, of Moseley, Drew Parks, of Moseley, Lance Parks, of Moseley, and Schyler Parks, of Nassawadox; her seven great-grandchildren, Lukas Thomas, Nelson Thomas, Nate Thomas, Kash Ward, Natalie Thomas, Mason Photakos, and Camden Photakos; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son-in-law, Rudy Thomas Jr.; her sister and brother-in-law, Eldora and Donnie Crockett; her brothers and sisters-in-law, Charlie A. and Jerry Pruitt and Larry and Janet Pruitt; and her sister-in-law, Gloria Howard and her husband, Jimmie Lee Howard.

A visitation and time of sharing was held Monday, Feb. 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. at New Testament Church on Tangier. Funeral services were held Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 1 p.m. at New Testament Church on Tangier. Elder Duane Crockett officiated. Interment followed the service Tuesday at Sunnyridge Memorial Park in Crisfield, Md.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to New Testament Church or Tangier Volunteer Fire Department, both Tangier, VA 23440.

Arrangements are in the care of Bradshaw & Sons Funeral Home in Crisfield, Md. To send condolences, please visit www.bradshawandsonsfuneralhome.com

Jessica Fitchett

Ms. Jessica Renee Fitchett, born Aug. 2, 1989, of Albuquerque, N.M., formerly of Onancock, passed away on Jan. 10, 2026.

Jessica was a true free spirit who never knew an enemy and loved everyone she met. Her heart was open, her kindness was effortless, and her family and friends were the most important part of her life. She built friendships that stretched from Maine to New Mexico, touching countless lives along the way. To know Jessica was to know love.

She had a special place in her heart for her beloved dogs, Bella and Duchess. In a bittersweet blessing, Duchess gave birth to five puppies on the day Jessica passed away — a gentle reminder of life

continuing and love enduring.

Jessica was welcomed into heaven by her cherished grandparents, Jim and Pat Castronova, of Onancock, and Earl



Ms. Fitchett

and Jodi Bridges, of New Mexico (formerly of Onancock); her sister, Shannon Edwards (Ambrose), of New Mexico; and her brother, Richard Bridges (Vanessa), of New Mexico. She is also survived by her nephews, Austin and Skyler, of Virginia, and Jay, of New Mexico; her niece, Italy, of New Mexico; her cousins, Mark Parker (Leslie) and Chrissy (Bert); her aunt, Sandy Appleton, of Massachusetts; her uncle Read (Jayanne), of Virginia, and her uncle Jimmy Castronova (Donna); and many extended cousins, family members, and dear friends who will forever carry her memory in their hearts.

Jessica will be loved and missed beyond measure. Though her loved ones' hearts are broken, they find comfort knowing her spirit lives on in every memory, laugh, and act of kindness she inspired.

Sleep well, our beautiful girl, until we see you again. All our love — your family.

Moggie Marsh

Mrs. Mary Margaret Edwards Marsh, known to friends and family as “Moggie,” age 79, of Belle Haven, passed away peacefully at her home on Feb. 13, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

Born on Nov. 4, 1946, Moggie lived a life deeply rooted in faith, service, and unwavering devotion to her family and community.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Barry Byrd Marsh, her lifelong partner and best friend. Together, they built a beautiful life and shared 60 years of marriage filled with love, commitment, and devotion. She is also survived by her two children, Robert Sean Marsh and Kimberly Marsh McClaren.

Moggie was a proud and loving grandmother to five grandchildren:

Keith and Albertene Bridges, of Onley. She was also reunited with her precious niece, baby Anaya, and her aunt Teri Evans.

She leaves behind her loving parents, Keith

Miranda McClaren Hewitt, Jon Austin McClaren, Garrett Benson Marsh, Sean Patrick Marsh, and Madelyn Makenzie McClaren. She was also blessed with two great-grandchildren, Harrison Ray Hewitt and Waylon Byrd Hewitt.



Mrs. Marsh

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rose Boole Edwards Johnson and William Robert Edwards; her stepfather, Connie Abel Colonna Johnson; her sister, Joan Edwards Harmon; and her great-granddaughter, Millie Wryn Hewitt.

Moggie loved her family fiercely and was deeply devoted to them. Her faith guided her life and her actions. She participated in three mission trips to Russian orphanages, explaining her calling simply and sincerely — that she felt God pulling her to give love to children who had little or none.

Professionally, Moggie dedicated more than 40 years to serving others as an employment officer and social worker, helping residents of Virginia's Eastern Shore and Virginia Beach build better lives. Her compassion and dedication left a lasting impact on countless individuals and families.

Moggie and her husband were longtime antique collectors and owners of Exmore Antique & Crafts Emporium. They later founded Country Way Mercantile, an old-fashioned general store that reflected their shared love of history, craftsmanship, and community.

Moggie truly never met a stranger. People were naturally drawn to her warmth, kindness, and genuine interest in others. Her presence brought comfort, laughter, and connection to everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Her legacy of faith, love, and service will live on through her family and the many lives she touched.

A celebration of life service will be conducted Saturday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m., at Doughty Funeral Home with Rob Kelly officiating. Family will join friends at the funeral home one hour prior to the service. Inurnment will be private in

Belle Haven Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Eastern Shore SPCA, Inc., P.O. Box 164, Onley, VA 23418.

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

Arrangements were 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

Robert Fears III

Mr. Robert Knox Fears III, 79, of Atlantic, husband of Teresa Lynne Fears, passed away on Feb. 14, 2026, in Newark, Del.

Born on Nov. 23, 1946, in Elkton, Md., he was the son of the late Robert Knox Fears Jr. and Mabel Ella Bryan.

Bob held numerous law enforcement roles over the years, including serving as a deputy sheriff in Northampton County, chief of Exmore police, and an arson and homicide investigator.

He also held a master captain's license and was a charter boat captain and dock builder.

Larger than life, Bob never met a stranger. He loved nothing more than smoking his cigarettes, sipping his coffee, and holding court at any of the many coffee club gatherings. He will be missed for his outgoing, gregarious

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Mr. Fears

Obituaries

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personality, his strong opinions, and his many friendships.

Other than his wife of 34 years, Robert is survived by his sons, Robert K. Fears IV and his wife, April Olivia Fears, and Creston Parker Fears and his wife, Tanya Phillips Fears; his grandchildren, Jenna Fears, Robbie Fears, and Brent Lilliston. He is also survived by Kathyanne P. Runniger, the mother of his children.

No services are planned at this time.

Arrangements are by the Thornton Funeral Home in Parksley, VA.

George Heinrichs

Mr. George Richard Heinrichs, born on Oct. 2, 1936, in New York, N.Y., passed away peacefully on Feb. 4, 2026, in Virginia Beach, at the remarkable age of 89. George was the son of Charlotte and George E. Heinrichs.



Mr. Heinrichs

George was a dedicated auditor for Perkins Elmer, where he worked diligently and earned

the respect of his colleagues. Known for his keen eye for detail and unwavering integrity, he was a cornerstone of the organization throughout his career.

A man of many passions, George found joy in traveling the world, listening to the timeless beauty of classical music, and spending serene days as a recreational boater. His adventures and cultural pursuits left an indelible mark on all who knew him, inspiring a love of life and discovery.

An active and devout member of the Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church in Onancock, George also contributed significantly to the Christian Businessmen's Association. His faith was a guiding light in his life, leading him to extend his generosity and kindness to others. George was well-known for his charitable efforts, helping those in need by assisting with taxes and donating countless hours to Habitat for Humanity. His

selfless dedication to his community will be remembered fondly by all who had the pleasure to work alongside him.

After graduating from Pelham High School in Pelham, N.Y., George went on to attend Rutgers University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering. Shortly after completing his college education, he proudly served in the U.S. Navy as a flag officer aboard the admiral's warship with the Sixth Fleet, spending several years stationed in Mediterranean waters. His education and military service laid a strong foundation for a life devoted to learning and service.

He is fondly remembered by his family, including his beloved sister, Charlotte Elizabeth Sell, who survives him.

He was preceded in death by his beloved sister, Marilyn Louise Lasch, and his first wife, Natasha Afanassieff.

George is survived by his beloved wife, Wilma Motley; and his cherished stepchildren, Annemarie Edgar (Shawn), of Onancock; Kathrine Hunt (Thomas), of Stockton, N.J.; and Joan Motley-Oren (William), of Virginia Beach. He leaves behind a proud legacy through his grandchildren, William P. Edgar (Angie), Johanna Burkart (Chris), Rebecca Hearn, Annaliese Hearn, Leah Hunt, and James Hunt; as well as his great-grandchildren: Carter Edgar, William S. Edgar, and Quinn Edgar.

His memory will also live on in the hearts of his nieces and nephews, David Sell, Gail Uphoff, Karen Jeanne Sheley, Mark Blasch, Lois Van Cura, Marjorie Muir, William Blasch, John Blasch, Barbara Rohloff, and Nancy Butler.

George will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, and unwavering commitment to bettering the lives of those around him. His spirit will continue to inspire all who knew him.

The family is planning to celebrate the life of George in the early spring and will announce dates at a later time.

Memorial donations can be made to the Mission Fund at Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 397, Onancock, VA, 23417.

Trish Bell

Mrs. Patricia Rae Bell, better known as Trish, 51, wife of Jay Bell and a resident of Cape Charles, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026, at



Mrs. Bell

Sentara Norfolk General Hospital in Norfolk.

Trish had such a sparkling personality that everyone who knew her loved her. She didn't know a stranger.

Trish worked as the safety officer at Coastal Precast in Cape Charles and devoted many years to Cape Charles Volunteer Fire Company as a secretary and firefighter.

In addition to her loving husband of 21 years, she is survived her children, Masen and Marissa; her parents, Julita and Ray Wood, of Cape Charles, and Wayne and Kim Sandlin, of Stuart; her sisters, Carrie Kulick and Danielle (Teddy) Herskovits; her sisters-in-law, Stacey Bell and Cathy Bell; her father-in-law, Jay Bell Sr.; her nephew, Matt (Shannon) Boggs and their children, Raelynn, Laycen, and Sawyer; her nieces, Kylee and Atlas Herskovits; numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins; and too many loving friends to mention.

She was predeceased by her mother-in-law, Debbie Bell; her brother-in-law, Steve Kulick; and her brother, Ryan Sandlin.

A celebration of life service will be held Saturday, Feb. 21, at 11 a.m., at Cape Charles Volunteer Fire Company, with Chaplain Barry Downing officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations to Cape Charles Volunteer Fire Company, P.O. Box 427, Cape Charles, VA 23310 are appreciated.

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

Arrangements were made by Doughty Funeral Home in Exmore.

Newspaper obituaries

The Eastern Shore Post accepts obituaries from all funeral homes. Costs of obituaries are determined by length. There is a \$25 additional charge for each head-and-shoulders photograph included. Ask your funeral home to send obituaries to the Post by emailing ryan@easternshorepost.com. Price quotes are available. Call 757-789-7678 with questions.

Margaret Baine

Mrs. Margaret Baine, 82 of Gulfport, Miss., went home to be with her Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, on Feb. 3, 2026.

Margaret was born on Sept. 7, 1943, to Joseph and Alice Elliott. She grew up in Onancock and spent most of her adult life on the Gulf Coast. Known to many as "Miss Meg," she was admired for her faith, kindness, strength, and chocolate pies.

A longtime member of the United Methodist Women's group and a devoted church choir member, her faith inspired many. She was known for her dedicated service to Mississippi City Methodist Church, her longtime nursing career, and her love for Mardi Gras. She had a unique ability to make every moment a lasting memory with anyone she met.

Miss Meg lived a full life, filled with close friends, prayer, song, and hot coffee. While Miss Meg proudly called herself a Southern Belle of the Gulf Coast, her heart always knew the Eastern Shore of Virginia as home. Between the snowy winters, family history, childhood friends, and the Cherrix family, she fondly recalled her love of life on the Shore.

She is survived by her loving children, Oscar and Shanna Baine; her cherished grandchildren, Dylan Francway, Ryan Francway, Logan Baine, and Emily Baine; her brother and sister-in-law, Joseph and Sue Elliott; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Alice Elliott; her husband, Wade Montgomery Baine; her sister, Elizabeth Susan Elliott; her grandparents, Larry and Lillian Disharoon; and her best friend — her "waterman" — Robert Wayne Cherrix.

Known as Miss Meg, Ma, Mimi, or Margaret — on the Coast or on the Shore — she will always be remembered as "the sweetest woman you've ever met." You can find her in zippy red cardinals and deep blue, springtime hydrangeas.

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Obituaries

(Continued from page 22)

A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 22, at Mississippi City United Methodist Church, 219 Courthouse Road, Gulfport, MS 39507.

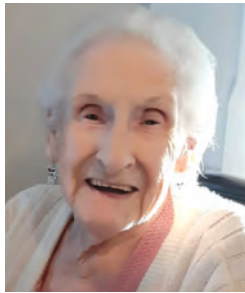
Please make any donations to Broadway Baptist Church, Onancock, (<https://www.broadwaybaptistesva.com/>) or Mississippi City United Methodist Church, Gulfport (mississippi-umc.org/).

Riemann Family Funeral Home, Long Beach is serving the family.

Margaret Bowden

Mrs. Margaret Rose Bowden, 90, of Chincoteague Island, passed away peacefully on Feb. 16, 2026.

Margaret was known as “The Queen” on the island with her royal wave. She was born Sept. 7, 1935, in Cheltenham, England, United Kingdom, to the late Arthur and Beatrice Phillips.



Mrs. Bowden

Margaret was a “work bride.” The story goes: One snowy wintry night, Margaret (who was 15 at the time) was at home when her stepbrother brought in a GI named Ed Bowden for a hot dinner. When Margaret looked up to see the GI in his Army uniform, she fell out of her chair and hit her head (she still had the bump). She thought he was the best-looking Yank she ever saw, and the rest was history for 64 years.

Margaret Bowden married the late Edward Bowden on Nov. 15, 1952.

Margaret is survived by her daughter, Sharon Ellis and her husband Grady Ellis; her granddaughter, Jan Merritt and her “husband” Paul Chamberland; two great-grandsons, Paul and Joshua; her sister-in-law whom she loved like a sister, Shirley (Bowden) Scarbrough; and her sister-in-law, Ethel Bowden.

From her “English family,” she still has two nieces and a nephew in England, a niece in Canada, and seven other nieces and nephews.

Special mentions to all of Margaret’s friends who brought food to her, took her for a ride, took her to the store, called to check on her, came for a visit, and sat with her at McDonald’s. The family would like to give you all a big thank-you.

Margaret was a loving mother, and her family was blessed to have her live 90 years. She was a best friend, a confidante, and a shopping buddy. Margaret’s mind was very sharp and she was her daughter’s memory bank. She and her daughter never argued; they saved that for Ed. They loved talking and laughing together, even though she didn’t hear half the time.

Margaret was a typical housewife, cooking, cleaning, and taking care of little Sharon.

She cleaned rooms at The Grandview Tourist Home on Chincoteague (which was long gone by the 1970s).

Margaret liked to do ceramics, crosswords, put puzzles together, read, and most of all, she loved her little flip phone that she used to talk to about 30 of her “Speed Dial Friends.”

Margaret also leaves behind her special little dog, Sparky. He was her ears, her protector, her everything. He is a good puppy (not!). She loved that little fellow.

Margaret will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Her loved ones are going to miss her smile, her pretty green eyes, her laugh, her hugs, her kisses, and most of all her saying, “I love you!”

Love you, Mom. Tell Dad, “Hi.”

There will be a funeral service at 2 p.m. with a viewing one hour prior on Friday, Feb. 20, at Salyer Funeral Home, Inc., on Chincoteague Island.

Condolences may be made online at www.salyerfh.com

Services were entrusted to Salyer Funeral Home, Inc., on Chincoteague Island, VA.

Obituarios en el Post

El Eastern Shore Post acepta obituarios de todas las funerarias. El costo de un obituario está determinado por la cantidad de palabras. Hay un costo adicional de \$25 para incluir una foto. Envíe obituarios a ryan@easternshorepost.com. Podemos darle un presupuesto. Llame a 757-789-7678 con preguntas.

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SPORTS

Eastern Shore Post

SWIMMING

Nandua shines at states

Sarah Bentley didn't get the gold medal she had hoped for, but the Nandua senior was thrilled with her showing at the VHSL Class 1-2 State Swimming Championships in Richmond on Wednesday.

Bentley was eyeing the prize in the 100 breaststroke, but even though she swam a personal best 1:10.20, it wasn't enough to beat Poquoson's Lillian Kaweck, who won in 1:07.32.

Bentley ended up finishing in the top three for three events — the 100 breast, the 200 IM (third place), and as a member of the second-place 200 medley relay team (with Chloe Bacchi, Molly Sams, and Sadie Reiter). Top-three finishers in each event are named to the all-state team.

"I am so happy with how I performed at states," said Bentley, who set school records in the 100 breast and 200 IM. "Of course I would have loved to get first (in the 100 breast), but I couldn't be happier. It was so rewarding to see all my hard work pay off."

Overall, Nandua's girls placed fourth in the team standings, their fifth straight year to finish in the top four. Bruton (Williamsburg) dominated the girls meet, finishing with 386 points, far ahead of second-place Radford (174). Nandua finished with 162 points.

"The team did amazing," Bentley said. "Each person showed up and left everything in the pool, and I am so proud of them."

So is her mom, KJ Bentley, the Warriors' head coach.

"The girls team continues to prove who they are at states," she said. "Year after year, they rise to the moment and make me proud to be their coach."

The Nandua boys team also proved their mettle, finishing tied for sixth



PHOTO COURTESY KJ BENTLEY

Nandua's boys and girls swim teams are all smiles after the state meet. At inset, Sarah Bentley poses with one of her medals.

place. Seniors Hayden Williams and Lucas Elliott paved the way, while two freshmen, Orion Lored and Lucas Stodghill, also excelled.

Assistant coach Carter Harmon, who oversees the boys team, said he thought this would be a rebuilding season after losing his top four swimmers to graduation last spring. But these young Warriors surprised him.

"The future for the team looks very promising," he said. "I can't wait to see what the future holds for us."

Glenvar (Salem) won the boys team title with 271 points. The Warriors finished with 107.

After her final high school competition, Sarah Bentley said she couldn't be happier with the way it all shook down.

"I've had so many highs and lows

over the five years I've been on this team," she said. "Walking away from this meet with so many memories and exciting races has made me realize how much of an impact this sport has had on my life."

"I will definitely miss being on that pool deck with all my friends, but I couldn't think of a better way to end my senior year."

A week earlier, on Thursday, Feb. 12, Nandua's boys team won two events while capturing its third straight Region 1A title. Lored won the 100 freestyle and was on the winning 200 free relay team with Stodghill, Williams, and Elliott.

Meanwhile, Nandua's girls team, paced by Campbell Bays' win in the 100 free, finished second at the Region 1A meet, just behind first-place Bruton.

Based on times recorded through-

out the season, including at regionals, Nandua's boys and girls teams qualified 12 individuals and all six relay teams for the state meet.

Boys qualifying for states were Elliott (200 IM, 100 butterfly), Lored (50 free, 100 free), Stodghill (100 free, 100 breast), Williams (200 free, 100 breast), and Alex Casteneda (500 free, 100 back), plus three relay teams that include Mason Payne, Alex Bundick, and Ben Nicholson.

Girls qualifying for states included Bentley (50 free, 100 breast), Bays (100 free), Bacchi (200 IM, 100 breast), Reiter (200 IM), Sams (100 butterfly, 100 back), Maddy Askew (200 IM, 500 free), and Ashlyn Ebenezer (200 free), plus three relay teams.

Top Nandua results at the Class

(Continued on page 25)

Roundup

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1-2 state meet (top 16 finishers earn team points; all distances in yards):

Boys individual: Alex Casteneda (13th, 500 free, 6:54.35), Lucas Elliott (14th, 200 IM, 2:43.12; 12th, 100 fly, 1:16.81), Orion Loreda (7th, 50 free, 25.06; 12th, 100 free, 57.71), Lucas Stodghill (15th, 100 breast, 1:21.09), Hayden Williams (9th, 100 breast, 1:14.29; 12th, 200 free, 2:26.37).

Boys relays: Stodghill-Williams-Elliott-Loreda (7th, 200 medley, 2:02.91), Williams-Stodghill-Elliott-Loreda (6th, 200 free, 1:45.77), Castaneda-Mason Payne-Ben Nicholson-Joshua Bundick (11th, 400 free, 4:21.70).

Girls individual: Maddy Askew (8th, 500 free, 6:43.87), Chloe Bacchi (10th, 200 IM, 2:40.95; 8th, 100 breast, 1:21.26; 10th, 200 IM, 2:40.95), Sarah Bentley (2nd, 100 breast, 1:10.20; 3rd, 200 IM, 2:18.48), Ashlyn Ebenezer (11th, 200 free, 2:32.06), Sadie Reiter (16th, 200 IM, 2:52.97), Molly Sams (5th, 100 fly, 1:10.50; 9th, 100 back, 1:15.52).

Girls relays: Bacchi-Bentley-Sams-Reiter (2nd, 200 medley, 2:07.31); Bacchi-Reiter-Ebenezer-Bentley (9th, 200 free, 1:56.47); Ebenezer-Askew-Campbell Bays-Sams (9th, 400 free relay, 4:44.03)

WRESTLING

Nandua sends six to states

On Saturday, Feb. 14, Nandua's Dylan Padgett and Arnold Destine won gold medals to lead the Warriors to a second-place finish at the Class 2A regional championships at Poquoson High School.

Padgett, who won the 126-pound weight class, and Destine, who won at 144, will lead a parade of Warriors to this weekend's Class 2 state championships in Salem. Padgett won the state title at 120 pounds last year, and Destine finished second in the state at 126.

Nandua's other state qualifiers are Chris Lopez-Perez (second



PHOTO COURTESY BROADWATER ACADEMY

Broadwater Academy's Steven Ye (center) won the gold medal in the shot put at the VISAA Indoor Track & Field Division II Championships on Thursday, Feb. 12, in Virginia Beach. Ye won the event with a throw of 48-11. He is flanked on the podium by (left) Maden Ponzar, of Immanuel Christian (41-7), and Elijah Hutchinson, of North Cross (44-2). Thomas Eno also represented the Vikings in the meet, finishing third in the pole vault at 9-0.

place, 113 pounds), Armando Meneses-Vazquez (third, 150), Roque Vicente-Gomez (third, 165), and Bruce Ineus (third, 106).

All nine of Nandua's competitors finished on the podium (top six) at the regionals. Caiden Hoffman finished fourth at 120 pounds and Amio Destine was fourth at 138, both earning "alternate" status for the state meet. And Nandua's Kevin Gutierrez-Hernandez placed sixth at 132.

Arcadia qualified one wrestler for the state championships — Alexander Taylor, who finished third at 175 pounds. The Firebirds had three others place in the top six — Ethan Sacks (6th, 126), Jesus Men-diola-Govea (5th, 120), and Jacob

Delgado (6th, 190).

In girls wrestling, Nandua had four competitors make the podium at the Zone 1 championships at Kellam High school. They were Vanessa Lopez-Morales (fifth, 100), Destiny Fitchett (fifth, 107), Estreita Vicente-Gomez (fifth, 126), and Keley Velasquez-Bravo (fifth, 152). Wrestlers had to finish in the top four to advance to the state meet.

"Our ladies put in an awesome performance," said Nandua coach Nathan Metzger. "While we had no state qualifiers, we had four of our nine ladies on the podium and placed seventh overall out of more than 60 teams.

"Each year, the girls program gets better and better, and the ded-

ication and love of the sport shows through when they are wrestling."

Arcadia also sent several girls to the regional meet, but none of them placed or qualified for states.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Arcadia rolls on

On Tuesday, Feb. 17, Arcadia wrapped up the regular season with its eighth straight victory, a 49-23 win over visiting Poquoson.

Leading the way for the Firebirds (18-4) were Megan "Boo" Montross (17 points), Amani Hope (10 points), Ashaureya Tankard (nine points, seven rebounds), and Payton Taylor (six points, six rebounds,

(Continued on page 26)

Roundup

(Continued from page 25)

nine assists, five steals).

On Monday, Feb. 16, Montross scored 18 points to lead the Firebirds to a 42-31 win at Windsor. Ryan Giddins added nine points and 14 rebounds.

On Thursday, Feb. 12, Hope's 21 points and five steals led Arcadia to a 49-39 triumph over visiting Nandua to cap off its second straight season going undefeated in the Eastern Shore District.

Tankard added 11 points and nine rebounds, while Taylor had 11 assists.

"Back-to-back undefeated district champs!" said Arcadia coach Casey Cordrey. "Hard work definitely pays off. So proud of our team. It was a magical regular season with a great group of young ladies.

"We are now going into the playoffs with the mindset that we are 0-0 and need to pull off an undefeated season. Can't wait to see what we have in store."

The Firebirds received a first-round bye in the Class 2A Regional playoffs and will host King William in the second round on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Nandua wins finale

On Friday, Feb. 13, Nandua topped Windsor, 54-32, in its season finale. The Warriors (5-10) did not report individual stats.

Jackets nip Devils

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, Northampton notched a 37-35 victory at Lancaster in its season finale. The Yellow Jackets (5-9) did not report individual stats.

Care farms offer hands-on learning experiences

Across Virginia, some farms are producing more than crops and livestock. They're cultivating confidence, nourishing independence, and building skills that help individuals thrive—all through everyday farm chores.

Vikings top Denbigh

On Thursday, Feb. 12, Neiley Guinan had 16 points, and Kacey Ford had 12 to lead Broadwater Academy to a 44-13 win in its season finale at Denbigh Baptist.

Adrianna Holloway added six points and eight rebounds, and Miranda Smith had six points, six boards, and four steals for the Vikings (11-7).

Broadwater was slated to host StoneBridge on Feb. 19 in the first round of the Metro Conference Tournament.

Ponies fall to 1-15

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, Chincoteague fell 37-13 to visiting Salisbury Christian. Rylee Giddings led the Ponies (1-15) with 10 points.

Eagles clinch first place tie

On Thursday, Feb. 11, Cate Sterling's 15 points and four assists paced Holly Grove Christian's 59-14 win over visiting Faith Baptist.

Other leaders for the Eagles (12-7, 5-1) were Mackenzie Muir (12 points, five steals) and Kamryn Salvas (11 points, five rebounds, four steals).

The win clinched a tie for first place in the Delaware Valley Christian Athletic Conference's South Division.

The Eagles were slated to host Seaside Christian Academy on Feb. 19 in the DVCAC tournament quarterfinals.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Firebirds romp over Nandua

On Thursday, Feb. 12, Jordan Cropper's 27 points, 11 rebounds, and seven steals led Arcadia to an 80-40 Eastern Shore District rout of visiting Nandua.

Care farming integrates agriculture with therapeutic and developmental practices. By using agriculture as a tool, these farms provide support, foster connections, and create opportunities for personal growth while delivering physical, mental, and social benefits.

In rural Augusta County, a Christmas tree farm offers young men a space to

Other leaders for the Firebirds (13-8, 5-1) were Shane Tull (18 points, seven rebounds), Kamren Harmon (10 points), and Ry'Shon Pettit (10 points, five steals).

Nandua (2-18, 1-5) did not report individual stats.

The Firebirds received a first-round bye in the Class 2A Regional playoffs and will travel to Armstrong (14-7) in the second round on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Adams leads Ponies

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, Austin Adams had 19 points and nine rebounds to lead the Ponies to a 64-13 win over visiting Salisbury Christian in the regular-season finale.

Camaury Davis added 10 points for Chincoteague (9-9).

Broadwater bested

On Thursday, Feb. 12, Broadwater Academy lost its season finale, 77-56, at Denbigh Baptist.

The Vikings (3-14) were led by Noah Pruitt's 22 points.

Broadwater was scheduled to play Thursday at Portsmouth Christian in the first round of the Metro Conference Tournament.

Holly Grove coasts

On Thursday, Feb. 12, every player on the roster scored for the Eagles in a 47-22 win over visiting Faith Baptist.

Leading the way for the Eagles were Oliver Mester-Toth and Drew Linton with seven points each, while Jack Ellis grabbed 16 rebounds. Lucas Creighton added five points, five boards, and six steals.

The Eagles, who tied for first place in the DVCAC South, will host Greenwood Mennonite on Feb. 24 in the DVCAC tournament semifinals.

grow through meaningful work. Since Joanne Tannehill left her 80-acre property to the Boys Home of Virginia in 1994, the farm has provided students with hands-on learning experiences.

Each year, small crews spend weekends tending thousands of fir trees, maintaining the land and building lifelong skills. Work begins in spring, when students map rows and calculate how

High School Sports Schedule Feb. 20 to Feb. 27

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.

MONDAY, 2/24

Boys Basketball

Arcadia at Armstrong, VHSL Class 2A Regionals, 7:30 p.m.
Greenwood Mennonite at Holly Grove, DVCAC semifinals, 4:30 p.m.

Girls Basketball

Greensville at Arcadia, VHSL Class 2A Regionals, 6 p.m.

Note: More basketball playoffs were determined after our deadline.

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

Sports Coverage

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/2s2nzfzf> to report scores and stats. Please report your results as soon as possible after your games – by 10 a.m. the next day or by midnight for games played on Tuesdays. If you have questions or suggestions for sports-related stories, contact Mark Moring at mark@easternshorepost.com.

many trees to plant.

Throughout the seasons, they relocate transplants, shear trees, groom fields, and clear brush. Along the way, they earn hourly wages, stay active, forge friendships, and develop teamwork, responsibility, and confidence.

Their efforts culminate each fall when the farm opens to the public after Thanksgiving.

Pruitt, Accomack DPS director, lauded by governor

Gov. Abigail Spanberger announced the recipients of the 2025 Governor’s Fire Service Awards. Accomack County Director of Public Safety Charles Ray Pruitt was the recipient of one of the awards.

These awards, established in 2002, recognize excellence in Virginia’s fire service and were presented during the annual Virginia Fire and Rescue Conference in Virginia Beach.

Pruitt won the Governor’s Fire Service Award for Excellence in Volunteer Fire Services.

The governor’s address read, “Pruitt’s dedication to the Eastern Shore community has been evident through his strong leadership and



Charles Ray Pruitt

incidents.

“Although the Eastern Shore is geographically separated from the commonwealth by the Chesapeake Bay, Pruitt has proven effective in assist-

ing localities throughout Virginia by educating firefighters as an adjunct instructor for the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.”

Spanberger continued, “These award recipients embody excellence, dedication, and leadership in the fire service. I am honored to recognize their commitment to protecting the lives and safety of our fellow Virginians.”

“We are grateful to these professionals for their unwavering dedication, bravery, and commitment to serving our commonwealth.”

“The commonwealth is incredibly grateful for the sacrifice of these fire service professionals,” said Secretary

of Public Safety and Homeland Security Stanley Meador. “Their bravery, commitment, and partnerships keep Virginia safe and we appreciate their dedication to protecting their communities.”

“I commend each of these departments and individuals for their outstanding service and dedication,” said Virginia Department of Fire Programs Executive Director Brad Creasy.

“Their tireless commitment to protecting our communities and bravery in the face of danger is inspiring. These recipients exemplify the very best of the fire service and it is my honor to recognize their contributions to the fire service.”



Pictured from left are Shirley Elstrodt, chapter historian; Accomack County Clerk of the Court Talia Taylor, Carol Vincent, chapter treasurer; Sarah Bingman, chapter regent; and Lynn Badger, chapter recording secretary.

COMMUNITY

DAR preserves Accomack court records

One of the missions of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is to promote historic preservation by preserving genealogical records, artifacts, and historical documents.

Since 1934, the Eastern Shore of Virginia Chapter has carried out this mission locally by donating funds that have restored 20 record books housed at the Accomack County Clerk’s Office.

Recently, the chapter presented Accomack County Circuit Court Clerk Talia Taylor a check for \$2,596 to help in these preservation efforts.

This donation will go towards restoring book number 21, Deed Book 16 circa 1817.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Master naturalists give back

BY ANN QUIGLEY

Special to the Eastern Shore Post

Established in 2007, the Eastern Shore Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists helps conserve and manage the Eastern Shore's natural resources and public lands.

In 2025, members spent over 10,000 hours in volunteer service and continuing education dedicated to this mission.

Chapter volunteers spent about:

- 3,000 hours doing citizen science, including identifying, counting, and reporting on birds, butterflies, ticks, and turtles, mapping tides, collecting seawater for quality monitoring, and reporting weather observations.

- 3,100 hours doing education and outreach, leading school groups, conducting educational presentations, staffing booths at community events, and assisting at the Chincoteague and Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge visitor centers.

- 2,500 hours doing stewardship at natural area preserves and other public sites, including picking up trash, removing invasive and planting native plants, repairing trails, and reporting issues needing attention.

This volunteer service, valued at over \$340,000, augments state, federal, and other organizations supporting the Shore.

"The Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge depends on dedicated volunteers to lead weekly Fisherman Island walking tours, cultivate thriving pollinator gardens, and work alongside our staff to keep our visitor center open," said Lydia Hansen, a park ranger and visitor services specialist with Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge. "Many of these volunteers are trained Eastern Shore Master Naturalists, whose expertise and commitment make these programs possible. Without the support of this exceptional chapter we could not provide the experiences and foster the community values we cherish."

State natural area preserves are an

important part of protecting land in the state, according to Shannon Alexander, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Natural Heritage Coastal regional steward.

"State Natural Area Preserves protect over 12,000 acres on the Shore," Alexander said. "While much of this acreage is islands and wetlands, about 1,400 acres are on the peninsula and almost half of those have been planted with native shrubs and trees. This effort to restore habitat is specifically focused on serving migratory birds, but, as always, conserving and protecting the Commonwealth's biodiversity is our mission."

Alexander is also the advisor for the Eastern Shore Master Naturalists.

"Without the hard work of hundreds of chapter members over the years, we would not have been able to accomplish those initial plantings of almost 20,000 shrubs and over 1,000 trees, nor meet our stewardship and education objectives," Alexander said. "And we are only one agency — their passion and expertise helps many organizations."

The master naturalists also play a key part in supporting the work of The Nature Conservancy.

"We rely on volunteer support to accomplish our local goals in marine habitat restoration, migratory bird conservation, and coastal resilience, and outreach, education, and community engagement," said Margaret Van Clief, education and outreach coordinator for The Nature Conservancy's Virginia Coast Reserve. "We are grateful for the support of the Eastern Shore Master Naturalists, without whom we would struggle mightily, for the over 700 hours of volunteer work contributed in 2025. We at the Nature Conservancy extend our deepest thanks for all they bring to our Eastern Shore communities — both human and natural."

For more information about the Eastern Shore Master Naturalists visit <https://www.esmn.org>

■ *The author is president of the Eastern Shore Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists.*

Report potholes to VDOT

Virginia Department of Transportation crews are actively working to locate and repair potholes as the time of year known for seeing more cracks and crumbles on the roads approaches.

Motorists can do their part in keeping the roads safe by reporting potholes and in keeping workers safe by moving over to give them room to work.

Potholes can form year round, but after freezing temperatures, heavy snow, and rain — like what Virginia has seen so far this winter season — more can be

expected. Potholes form when moisture seeps into pavement, freezes, expands, and thaws.

Motorists can use VDOT's web-based form to report potholes and other road problems at my.vdot.virginia.gov or call 800-367-7623 24 hours a day to reach VDOT's Customer Service Center to report road hazards or ask questions.

VDOT repairs potholes on state-maintained roads only, which include interstate highways and most primary and secondary roads.

COMMUNITY

Art league scholarship open

The Eastern Shore Art League announced that it is accepting applications for the Becky Rootes Memorial Art Scholarships.

The scholarship honors Becky Rootes, past president of the art league.

The scholarships will be awarded to two graduating high school students residing on the Eastern Shore of Virginia who are attending an advanced education institution such as a community college, college, or

university, and who are planning to pursue a field of study inclusive of the visual arts.

Two \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded in 2-D visual art, and or 3-D visual art.

Applications must be postmarked by April 10.

Details on the application process are available at <https://www.esartleague.org/>

Information will also be provided to local high schools.

EVENT

Black history program planned

The Boys and Girls Club of the Eastern Shore is hosting a Black History "Living" Museum on Wednesday, Feb. 25, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the club.

Club members have researched and learned about figures who have contributed to African American culture and paved the way for those who will come after them for generations.

Tours will be offered so visitors see what the club looks like in dai-

ly operations and how it focuses on the core values of character and leadership development, health and life skills, the arts, sports and fitness, and education and career.

For questions, contact 757-302-0323.

The Boys and Girls Club of the Eastern Shore is located inside Mary N. Smith Cultural Center at 24577 Mary N. Smith Road, Accomac.

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A JOINT PETITION BY AMERICAN WATER WORKS COMPANY, INC.,
ALPHA MERGER SUB, INC., ESSENTIAL UTILITIES, INC., AND AQUA VIRGINIA, INC.,
FOR APPROVAL OF AN ACQUISITION OF CONTROL OF A PUBLIC UTILITY PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 5 OF TITLE 56 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA
CASE NO. PUR-2025-00229**

On December 22, 2025, American Water Works Company, Inc. ("American Water"), Alpha Merger Sub, Inc. ("Merger Sub"), Essential Utilities, Inc. ("Essential"), and Aqua Virginia, Inc. ("Aqua VA") (collectively, the "Joint Petitioners"), filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") a joint petition ("Joint Petition") for approval of the indirect acquisition of control of Aqua VA by American Water, to be effected by the merger ("Merger") of Merger Sub with and into Essential, with Essential as the surviving corporation becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of American Water. The Joint Petitioners seek approval pursuant to the Utility Transfers Act, Chapter 5 of Title 56 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), which provides, in part, that "[n]o person . . . shall, directly or indirectly, acquire or dispose of control of . . . [a] public utility within the meaning of this chapter, or all of the assets thereof, without the prior approval of the Commission."

The Joint Petitioners represent that Aqua VA is a public service corporation that provides water and wastewater service to over 35,000 connections, or approximately 100,000 people, within its certificated service territories throughout Virginia. The Joint Petition further reflects that: (a) Aqua VA is a wholly owned subsidiary of Essential; (b) Essential is a publicly traded public utility holding company incorporated and headquartered in Pennsylvania, providing water, wastewater, and natural gas service to approximately 5.5 million people through subsidiaries in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, Illinois, Kentucky, Texas and Virginia; (c) American Water is a public utility holding company organized and existing under the laws of Delaware and headquartered in New Jersey, providing water and wastewater services to approximately 14 million people with regulated operations in 14 states and on 18 military installations; (d) American Water's subsidiary Virginia-American Water Company ("VAWC") currently provides water and wastewater services to over 84,000 customer connections, or over 350,000 people in Virginia; and (e) Merger Sub is a Pennsylvania corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water that was formed for the sole purpose of effecting the Merger.

According to the Joint Petitioners, on October 26, 2025, American Water, Merger Sub, and Essential entered into a Merger Agreement providing that, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement, Merger Sub would merge with and into Essential, with Essential surviving the Merger as a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water. Following consummation of the Merger, Aqua VA would become an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of American Water and American Water would remain the ultimate corporate parent of VAWC. The Joint Petition states that the Merger would be an allequity transaction, with Essential shareholders receiving 0.305 shares of American Water common stock for each share of Essential common stock that they hold.

The Joint Petitioners assert that following the Merger, Aqua VA's utility business would remain unchanged and day-to-day operations of Aqua VA would continue to be locally managed by dedicated local employees. Joint Petitioners state that they are not seeking a change of rates in this proceeding and that Aqua VA's Commission-approved rates and tariffs in effect at the close of the Merger would remain unchanged as a result of the Merger. Additionally, Joint Petitioners commit that Aqua VA would not seek recovery in rates of any transaction costs incurred in connection with the Merger or any acquisition adjustment (i.e., goodwill) associated with the Merger. Joint Petitioners assert that the Merger would enable Joint Petitioners to achieve efficiencies in the future, the benefits of which would accrue to Aqua VA and ultimately flow to customers in future rate cases. According to the Joint Petition, those economies would help offset future increases in the costs of providing regulated water and wastewater service and are expected to give rise, over time, to lower rates than otherwise would be the case. In support of the Merger, the Joint Petitioners assert that the combined expertise, experience, and resources of American Water and Essential would permit the sharing of best practices and lead to operational efficiency and a long-term capital investment profile to support continued investment in critical infrastructure and solutions to infrastructure challenges across the combined company's expanded footprint, including in the territories served by Aqua VA in the Commonwealth.

Additional details are set forth in the Joint Petition. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Joint Petition and supporting exhibits.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Joint Petitioners to provide notice of their Joint Petition and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment or request a hearing on the Joint Petition.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission will, among other things, direct that all pleadings, briefs, or other documents required to be served in this matter be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* ("Rules of Practice"). Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive Information shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, *Confidential information*, of the Rules of Practice. At this time, any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk's Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange delivery.

Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission directs that service on parties and the Commission Staff ("Staff") in this matter shall be accomplished by electronic means. Concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information, the parties and Staff are instructed to work together to agree upon the manner in which documents containing such information shall be served upon one another, to the extent practicable, in an electronically protected manner, even if such information is unable to be filed in the Office of the Clerk, so that no party or the Staff is impeded from preparing its case.

Electronic copies of the public version of the Joint Petition and the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for Joint Petitioners: Timothy E. Biller, Esq., Andrea D. Gardner, Esq., Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, Riverfront Plaza, East Tower, 951 East Byrd Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, tbiller@hunton.com, agardner@hunton.com and John K. Byrum, Jr., Esq., Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, 901 E. Byrd Street, Suite 1600, Richmond, Virginia 23219, john.byrum@woodsrogers.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information.

On or before March 24, 2026, any interested person may file comments on the Joint Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments or by filing such comments with the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00229.

On or before March 24, 2026, any interested person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at the address above or at: scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or governmental body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by Rule 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00229.

On or before March 24, 2026, any interested person or entity may file with the Clerk of the Commission at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling a request that the Commission convene a hearing on the Joint Petition. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file the hearing request electronically may file such hearing request by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Requests for a hearing shall include: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00229.

Copies of any notices of participation and requests for hearing shall be served electronically on counsel for Joint Petitioners, Staff and any respondents.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice.

The public version of the Joint Petition, the Commission's Rules of Practice, and the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment may be viewed at the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information.

**AMERICAN WATER WORKS COMPANY, INC.,
ALPHA MERGER SUB, INC., ESSENTIAL UTILITIES, INC.,
AND AQUA VIRGINIA, INC.**

Alumni family honors a legacy rooted in farming and Virginia Tech

BY MARYA BARLOW
Virginia Tech

Phil Hickman, class of 1974, loved three things with uncommon intensity: farming, his family, and Virginia Tech. Friends and relatives say those passions were evident in everything he did — from building Dublin Farms into one of the largest potato growers on the East Coast to spending time with his children and grandchildren to piloting the bright orange boat he proudly named “The Hokie High.”

That devotion lives on through a family gift to the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. With the creation of the E. Phillip “Phil” Hickman Graduate Fellowship, Phil’s family hopes to honor the place and people that meant so much to him.

Phil, who passed away in 2024, was a fourth-generation potato farmer, a respected agricultural leader, and a proud Hokie. His life’s work — growing Dublin Farms, mentoring young people, and championing agriculture — now continues through his family, including his son, E. Phillip “Phillip” Hickman III (2001), and his grandson Logan, who both followed his path into agricultural and applied economics at Virginia Tech.

Building a potato powerhouse

Phil’s connection to the university began long before he arrived in Blacksburg in 1971.

“Phil was set on Virginia Tech from childhood, walking down the potato rows with his father,” said his wife of 52 years, Sandra “Sandy” Hickman. “He knew that if he wanted to keep farming, he needed to learn the business side of agriculture. Virginia Tech



PHOTO COURTESY DUBLIN FARMS

Alumni founders and owners of Dublin Farms, from left, Mark Hickman, who graduated from Virginia Tech in 2007, David Hickman, Matt Hickman ('04), Phil Hickman ('74), and Phillip Hickman ('01) gather in front of the farm’s sign in Horntown in this undated photo.

made that possible.”

The Hickman family has grown potatoes on the Eastern Shore since 1876, and growing up, Phil and his brother, David, planned to continue that tradition. When they were in high school, their father passed away suddenly, bringing the family’s long-running farm operation to a halt. Equipment was sold, land was rented out, and the future of the farm was uncertain.

Determined to rebuild, the brothers went off to college to learn the skills they would need. Phil went on to Virginia Tech to study agricultural and applied economics. David, two years younger, headed to North Carolina State University to complete a two-

year agricultural degree so they would both finish school at the same time and return home to farm together.

“They didn’t have much at the beginning, but they worked hard, learned constantly, and little by little they grew,” Sandy said.

Over five decades, Phil and David expanded Dublin Farms into a major operation serving markets from Montreal to Miami and providing Virginia-grown potatoes to Walmart and Food Lion stores across the East Coast.

Phil also volunteered his time to advocate for agriculture, serving for decades on the Virginia State Seed Potato Board and the Accomack County Planning Commission. In 2019 he be-

came the first Virginian to chair Potatoes USA, the national marketing and promotion board for the U.S. potato industry. Phil and David also worked closely with Virginia Tech’s Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center, contributing to agricultural innovation and education throughout the region.

Through it all, Phil’s connection to Virginia Tech remained strong. Whether driving his maroon pickup, tailgating at Lane Stadium in his maroon Sprinter van, or fishing with grandchildren in “The Hokie High,” he proudly celebrated his Hokie roots. Over the years, the Hickmans supported students and programs

(Continued on page 31)

Dublin Farms

(Continued from page 30)

across the university, including the Beyond Boundaries Scholars program, the Hokie Scholarship Fund, the CALS Annual Fund, and the university's indoor football practice facility.

"I never met anyone who loved Virginia Tech more than Phil did," Sandy said. "The college saved him and gave him the opportunity to obtain his dream — to be an Eastern Shore potato farmer and be very good at it. Not everyone gets to do their dream job, but he did."

Three generations of Hokies

When it was time to go to college, Phillip Hickman, Phil's son, chose to study agricultural and applied economics for the same reason his father had: He wanted to understand the business forces shaping agriculture and bring that knowledge home to the farm.

Phillip had already spent countless hours at his father's side, riding along

in his truck, helping plant and harvest, and learning the steady work ethic that defined Dublin Farms.

"Dad was always right there beside us, hands-on with everything until the day he died," Phillip said. "Farmers can get stuck in our own world, but age econ forces you to see the bigger picture. That's critical if you're going to compete in the modern ag industry. Dad saw that 40 years ago, and it rings even louder today."

Today, as president of Dublin Farms, Phillip runs the farm with his cousins, Matt and Mark, who are also alumni of Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Matt Hickman graduated in 2004 with a degree in agricultural economics, while Mark is a 2007 graduate of the agricultural technology program.

The farm is entering a new phase of growth, including a packing-house expansion with a new wash-and-pack line that will increase efficiency and broaden its footprint in the consumer-pack market. The family continues to invest in technology, automation, and modernization to meet buyer expectations and remain competitive.

Phillip's son — Phil's grandson — Logan Hickman hopes to continue that trajectory. Now a junior studying agricultural and applied economics, Logan represents the third straight generation in the family to pursue the major.

"My grandfather was like a second father to me," Logan said. "He was one of the smartest people I've ever known, and he had an infectious laugh that could make anyone smile. After growing up as a farmer and a Hokie, I knew Virginia Tech was where I wanted to be."

Logan aims to complete a master's degree before returning home to work at Dublin Farms, bringing new ideas and innovation to the operation he hopes to help run one day.

A legacy carried forward

The Hickman family's gift establishing a graduate fellowship reflects Phil's belief in supporting the next generations of agricultural leaders.

"Supporting students who love agriculture the way he did feels like the perfect way to honor him," Sandy said. "If a person gets an agricultural de-

gree and wants to learn more at a higher level, then they love what they do. Phil would be so proud to help them continue that path."

In recognition of the family's gift and Phil's lasting contributions to agriculture and Virginia Tech, a conference room in Hutcheson Hall now bears his name as the E. Phillip "Phil" Hickman Conference Room. It was dedicated in a ceremony in November, with dozens of family members, friends, faculty, and staff in attendance.

The Hickman family hopes the conference room will be a place where students, faculty, and partners come together to learn, collaborate, and carry agriculture forward.

For Logan, the honor carries a personal weight that goes beyond the name on the door.

"Knowing there's a place on campus where I can go and feel connected to him really means a lot," he said. "I know it would mean the world to him. To be represented in such a permanent way at a place he loved so much — he would think it was incredible."



Welcome TO OUR TEAM!

sarah Rivas
REALTOR ~ Sales Associate

COASTAL SHORE REAL ESTATE

Sarah Rivas
Cell: 757.710.2871 | Office: 757.331.2500
Email: Sarah@CoastalShoreSales.com

Please help us welcome **Sarah Rivas** to our team!

Raised on Virginia's beautiful Eastern Shore, Sarah proudly serves clients from the Maryland line to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. As a lifelong local and multi million dollar producer, she brings expert market knowledge, strong negotiation skills, and a true passion for helping buyers and sellers succeed.

Sarah has also served on our local REALTOR board and stays active in community outreach because giving back to the Shore she loves matters to her.

When she is not working hard for her clients, she enjoys time with her two boys, cooking, fishing, and life on the boat here on the Eastern Shore.

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Supervisors seek a penny more in real estate tax rate

BY TED SHOCKLEY
Eastern Shore Post

Accomack County is proposing a \$79.4 million operating budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 that includes a tax increase of slightly more than a penny per assessed \$100 in real estate taxes.

Building and zoning fees will increase by 10% and landfill tipping fees will increase to \$85, up \$5, if the budget is passed.

“This was an extremely challenging budget to balance,” said County Administrator Mike Mason at the Accomack Board of Supervisors meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 18.

A 5:30 p.m. public hearing will be held on the budget on March 30 at Metompkin Elementary School in Parksley.

The new fiscal year begins July 1. The draft budget includes an in-

crease of \$632,460 to the Accomack County School Board. The increase would raise the county’s funding to its school system to \$23.96 million next year.

Supervisor Donald Hart Jr. said county budgets statewide are strapped and Accomack is faring well by not having to make budget cuts like other municipalities.

“Quite a few of the localities are actually cutting budgets by 5% or more,” he said.

Accomack County’s budget includes two service reductions — it would observe all county holidays at its solid waste convenience centers, reducing labor costs, and end its translator television service effective Jan. 1, 2027.

The translator system enables televisions with antennas to receive some Hampton Roads stations that normally would have been out of viewing

range.

The draft budget uses \$2 million to fix an imbalance in its emergency medical service tax fund, warding off a tax increase for three years until a more permanent solution to fix the EMS fund structure is found. The \$2 million comes from leftover school funding from recent years that reverted back to the county.

Beth Onley, the Accomack School Board’s director of operations, said declining student population and increasing composite index figures are reducing state funding for schools by \$678,982 next year.

She said the school board’s proposed \$76 million operating budget for next year has a shortage of \$1.2 million.

Among new school board budget items are three full-time athletic directors — one each at Chincoteague, Nandua, and Arcadia high schools —

and an increase for legal fees in several departments of \$105,000.

Onley said Accomack County is one of the few school systems in the state without full-time athletic directors.

Accomack County is using the state’s enrollment prediction of 4,279 students for next year, down from 5,100 students a decade ago.

She said declining enrollment is “not specific to Accomack County.”

“We are hearing that this is a statewide trend,” she said.

The fair market value of Accomack County properties is projected to increase 13.4%. By state law, Accomack County must decrease its real estate tax rate to compensate for higher property assessments.

It then proposes to raise the rate 1.3 cents to balance the budget, which would cost the owner of a property at \$300,000 an extra \$39 annually.



The Eastern Shore Area Agency on Aging/CAA proudly celebrated **Sweethearts on Parade** on **Thursday, February 12, 2026**. Our older adults came dressed in their Sunday best, showcasing wonderful impersonations and impressive dance moves that made the day truly special.

A heartfelt thank you to **Par 4 Bar and Grill** for graciously hosting this memorable event. We also extend our sincere appreciation to **Sheriff David Doughty** and the **Northampton County Sheriff’s Department** for their support.

We were honored to welcome **Ms. Vanessa Johnson**, who delivered an inspiring message, and **Rev. Calvin Washington** representing the Accomack County Board of Supervisors. Thank you, **Mr. Alvin Bailey**, for being such an amazing line dancing instructor, we truly appreciate your time, energy, and patience. Special thanks to the **NJROTC of Accomack County** under the leadership of **NNDCC Instructor Phyliss Smith** for their outstanding participation and strong show of support.

Finally, we express our deepest gratitude to **CEO Donna Smith** and the dedicated staff of **ESAAA/CAA** for their hard work and commitment in making this celebration a tremendous success.



Planners will consider Market Street rezoning

BY TED SHOCKLEY

Eastern Shore Post

A developer is asking to rezone 55 acres of land on two parcels on Market Street, Onancock, to village development for 224 housing units.

The Accomack County Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, Feb. 18, referred the request to the county's planning commission for study and a recommendation.

The property currently has business and agriculture zonings.

The applicant for the rezoning is Atlantic Group and Associates Inc. and Chris Carbaugh. The property owner is the Odachowski Group Inc., according to information provided at the supervisors' meeting.

The proposal would include 140 townhouses and 84 single-family lots, according to the application.

One of the parcels the applicant seeks to rezone is just west of the Onley Town Center building. It would include a large pond, a community center with a park and pool, and a road connecting with Carbaugh's previously approved Coastal Square and Residences development.

The second parcel up for rezoning is a field that once housed an airstrip near the intersection of Market Street and Fairgrounds Road. It would include a landscaped berm along Market Street, three ponds, and two commercial pads along Market Street, the application shows.

Disabled vet gets back taxes

Veterans with a 100% permanent and total military-service disability can qualify for full exemptions on their real estate taxes in Virginia.

Accomack County resident Gary S. Hall bought his home April 24, 2013, but apparently was not aware of the

exemption.

According to a letter by Accomack County Commissioner of the Revenue Kimberly A. Satterwhite, Hall "just found out" about the benefit and applied Jan. 9 for the exemption.

The "exemption is retroactive to the purchase date of the property," Satterwhite wrote in the Jan. 21 letter.

On Wednesday, Feb. 18, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors approved the refund of \$7,390.63 to Hall for real estate taxes he unnecessarily paid for the past 13 years.

People who want more information on the exemption program can call Satterwhite's office at 757-787-5747.

Accomack seeks oyster disaster status

The board of supervisors asked the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to seek a federal fishery disaster declaration for the state's commercial oyster industry.

"Recent severe weather and shifting market dynamics have created an unprecedented economic crisis," wrote Mike Mason, Accomack County administrator, in a letter to Acting VMRC Commissioner Joe Grist.

Northampton County recently made the same request of the VMRC. A federal declaration would provide disaster relief for watermen.

"As you are aware, the watermen are unable to sell the oysters they are catching due to a lack of buyers," Mason said in his letter, adding, "Our watermen are resilient, but they cannot weather this market failure alone."

According to information given to the board of supervisors at the meeting, "No trucks are showing up to purchase oysters at any price, possibly due to Louisiana flooding the market. The watermen won't have income until April when crabbing season starts."



Memory screenings are now available!

If you're age 65 or older – or have worries about your memory at any age – it's a good idea to get screened to help you stay healthy and independent. Ask your primary care provider at your next appointment, or call a center directly, to schedule a memory screening with one of our behavioral health providers.



esrh.org

Bill would create coastal policy amid rising sea level

BY PAIGE FREY

Capital News Service

There could soon be a statewide committee of 10 science, environmental, industry, and government experts to review existing coastal habitat policies and recommend improvements.

Del. Alex Askew, D-Norfolk, introduced House Bill 390 forming the proposed committee. The bill unanimously passed the House of Delegates and would establish a Habitat Policy Oversight Committee within the Virginia Marine Resources Commission if approved by the Senate.

Virginia's sea levels are rising more rapidly than the global rate, in part due to melting glaciers and sinking land, according to the state's first ever comprehensive climate report released last November by George Mason University. The combination accelerates regional flooding, which threatens infrastructure, ecosystems, and coastal communities.

Initially, members of the new committee would serve two- and four-year terms that are staggered, before the permanent appointment term of four years. Members will not receive compensation for their services but will be reimbursed for committee expenses.

The bill absorbed a previous bill sponsored by Del. Rob Bloxom, R-Ac-

comack, which proposed the Virginia Marine Resources Commission have a panel of advisers to help inform their votes.

The way the current system operates, the representatives responsible for establishing procedures may lack awareness of the issues shaping marine policy, Bloxom said. With a board of advisors from across the industry, the VMRC could better use Virginia's resources "to try to make these programs actually function."

Kelly Hengler, a citizen who opposed the bill during an Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources committee meeting on Feb. 2, said that historically, the VMRC has a specific focus on fishery management. Hengler also argued that the term habitat as stated in the bill is not defined in Virginia law.

Bloxom disagreed. The VMRC controls any ocean ground that is not owned by the "upland owner," or owner of land that is adjacent to submerged land, he said.

The VMRC manages fishing regulations, oyster farming, surveying marshes, and overall habitat management, among other things, Bloxom said.

Numerous marine conservation organizations attended the meeting in support of the bill, including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, American Rivers, the Virginia Conserva-

tion Network, the Virginia League of Conservation Voters, the Environmental Defense Fund, and Wetlands Watch.

Jay Ford, Virginia policy manager at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, expressed urgency for the bill's implementation.

"The state is facing tremendous flooding and sea level rise issues," Ford testified. "The habitat committee could play a vital role in helping the commission work through some of the novel technologies for mitigating flood risks that are coming up as well [as] balancing natural resource considerations and mitigation when we're putting these novel practices on the ground."

The rates of sea level rise in the lower Chesapeake Bay and Tidewater region of Virginia are among the highest on the Atlantic Coast, according to the GMU 2025 climate report.

Brent McKenzie, director of legislative affairs for Virginia Beach, said the city is a perfect example of how the committee would be beneficial, particularly regarding the challenges and issues they have faced getting permits for flooding-related projects.

Sea level rise will accelerate across Virginia coasts, and impact ecosystems, shorelines, habitat conversion, groundwater salinization, and erosion, according to future projections by GMU.

The bill will use an existing committee in a formal way to tackle "changing environmental conditions with new and innovative solutions," testified Emily Steinholzer, a representative of the Environmental Defense Fund.

Some of these innovative solutions have already been adopted in other states, according to Steinholzer. The Habitat Policy Oversight Committee will keep Virginia ahead of the game "as we adapt to climate change," she said.

The Chesapeake Climate Action Network is an organization that works to counter impacts of global warming in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington. It alleged in a 2020 article that, "there has never been uniform, statewide guidance for how to respond to sea level rise."

The VMRC would retain ultimate regulatory authority, but give due weight to the committee's recommendations in decision-making processes. The bill was referred to the Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources committee, which meets on Tuesdays.

■ *Capital News Service is a program of Virginia Commonwealth University's Richard T. Robertson School of Communication. Students in the program provide state government coverage for a variety of media outlets in Virginia.*

House bill looks to establish an objective dress code in correctional facilities

BY STEF ANDERSON

Capital News Service

House lawmakers advanced a bill to create a clear, statewide dress code for visitors to state correctional facilities to help reduce confusion and denied visits.

Del. Holly Seibold, D-Fairfax County, introduced House Bill 296 because she said she noticed a decline in visits due to visitors being denied access over clothing. The intent of the bill is to create transparency and consistent guide-

lines for visitors so they have more time with their loved ones, the delegate said.

"Many people drive far to go see their loved ones in prison," Seibold said. "They have children with them, so we want to do whatever we can to make sure that they have access to their loved one."

Current Virginia Department of Corrections guidelines prohibit certain items, including wearable technology such as watches or Google smart glasses. Clothing must cover the neck to the knee-

caps, according to the VDOC website.

The bill requires the VDOC to establish an "objective dress code" and post the policy in the lobby of every state correctional facility and on its website.

VDOC's new policy can set limitations on attire, undergarments, shoes, nail polish, makeup, jewelry, and hair. Specifically, VDOC can limit colors or materials of attire, nail polish, or makeup. It can state specific, measurable lengths on clothing and require certain body parts be covered, as well

as prohibit specific types of jewelry, makeup, or shoes. Religious dress that meets the code's requirements cannot be prohibited.

The bill creates a process for visitation denial at the facility, which must be reviewed by an on-site administrative duty officer and approved by a regional administrator or superior. VDOC will be required to submit an annual report to the General Assembly and the governor with information regarding the number of visitors denied.

Bridge-tunnel

(Continued from page 1)

17.6-mile span when his truck ran off the elevated approach over North Channel.

Andrews' body and the truck and trailer were recovered Sunday evening, Anderson said. The truck, which hit the water about 200 yards from Fisherman Island, was easily visible by bridge travelers Sunday.

Andrews was a driver for Perdue Farms Inc., which released a statement saying that the driver "had been a valued member of our team, and his loss will be deeply felt across our organization."

"The cause is undetermined at this time and the investigation is still ongoing," Anderson said.

Since the bridge's opening in 1964, 15 tractor-trailers have ended up in the Chesapeake Bay after smashing through the guardrail, and there have been 85 fatalities from vehicular crashes on the bridge, Anderson said.

The rate of deaths slowed down dramatically once the second span was finished in 1999, making the two-lane bridge into a four-lane highway.

Since 1999, the bridge has seen 13 fatalities, less than half the national average per 100 million miles traveled, with the injury rate from accidents being less than one-eighth of the

national average, Anderson said.

The strength of the guardrails is measured by the American Association of State Highways and Transportation Officials, which developed a guiding manual in 2016, Anderson said.

The manual shows that Test Level 3 barriers are equivalent to what the bridge-tunnel uses now, even though the bridge's guardrails were developed prior to the manual's release.

Level 3 barriers are designed to withstand passenger cars and light trucks, weighed at 2,420 pounds and 5,000 pounds, respectively.

Test Level 5 barriers would be needed to withstand impacts from commercial trucks like box trucks or tractor-trailers, weighing 22,000 pounds and 79,300 pounds, respectively, Anderson said.

Anderson said the bridge-tunnel previously has studied whether Level 5 barriers could be fitted to the bridge. However, the beefier barriers require a 42-inch tall concrete barrier weighing 600 pounds per foot, which the bridge could not support without extensive work to strengthen it.

"Of course, there are no guarantees even with a TL5 rating," Anderson said in an email.

The guardrail damaged by Sunday's accident is estimated to be fully repaired next week, he said.

Financial freedom class set for chamber in Melfa

The Center for Community and Family Development Inc. will hold a seminar called "It's My Money: A Simple Path to Financial Freedom," on Saturday, March 7, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce in Melfa.

The interactive discussion is intended to help adults better understand their finances and take practical tips toward reaching their life goals.

Participants will learn simple, effective techniques to help money work for them, gain clarity about spending, and build confidence in managing financial decisions.

Small-group discussion will encourage open conversation, shared learning, and practical insights.

Registration is required. For more information or to register, text 757-993-0266.

Jazz concert planned for Cape Charles

The LemonTree Gallery in Cape Charles will host "Unforgettable Jazz" with Karla D. Robinson on Saturday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m., at the gallery.

Robinson will be accompanied by her jazz combo. The cost is \$25.

For more information, visit the site www.artsentercapecharles.org or call 757-331-4327.



INTRODUCTION TO EDUCATION CAREERS

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Men are encouraged to apply.

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Class Schedule

Mondays & Wednesdays

April 13 – June 10

10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

How to Register

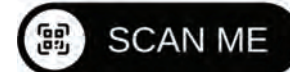
Scan the **QR code** on our flyers (*preferred*); or Contact **ESCC Adult Education** for assistance:

757-789-1794; Monday–Thursday | 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

To enroll, students **must attend the Registration Drive**, where placement testing will be completed.

Mandatory Registration Drive & Placement Testing

Tuesday, March 17 | 10:00 – 12:30



<https://forms.gle/DfDobNKYwGYPNpTy8>

Tasley Volunteer Fire Company celebrates 100 years

BY TED SHOCKLEY

Eastern Shore Post

In the beginning, there were three volunteer fire companies on the Eastern Shore. Cape Charles' was incorporated in 1921. Chincoteague's was organized in 1924. And on Feb. 1, 1926, a group met at West and Wessells Store in Tasley and pledged money to buy a hand-drawn piece of fire equipment and elected officers of the Tasley Volunteer Fire Company.

John Rew was elected the first fire chief and Thomas T. McJilton was elected first president. The hand-drawn, soda-acid chemical cart was stored in a one-room wooden building, constructed from lumber donated by A.J. Lilliston. A fire at Lilliston's sawmill a week before prompted the meeting that organized the company.

The company's articles of organization were written on the back of a National Biscuit Company order form, said Don Amadeo, who has served many fire company roles, including as its unofficial historian.

Rew, McJilton, and Lilliston never could have foreseen that their efforts would still be in bloom a century later. Today, the one-room wooden building has been upgraded to a modern \$1 million fire hall that opened in 2020 "after many years of planning, hard work, and fundraising," said Amadeo.

Then, as now, it was the volunteers who kept the company going — and according to Amadeo, recruiting them is often the hardest part of the fire service.

"It's a challenge — and every station on the Shore is facing this challenge," said Amadeo, who joined the Tasley company when he was 16 years old.

"I enjoy it," he said.

This year, the Tasley Volunteer Fire Company is planning a number of events to celebrate the centennial anniversary:

■ Tasley is the host company of the 91st annual Del-Mar-Va Volunteer



COURTESY PHOTO

Tasley Volunteer Fire Company members stand with the company's first motorized engine in front of the firehouse in 1932. Pictured are, front row standing from left, Tom Mears, T.T. McJilton, Oscar Hopkins, Rob Hargis, and Treve Watson. Pictured on the engine from left are Harry Payne, Tommy Mason, George Cherrix (driver), Nathan Davis, Lynwood Scott, Otis Rainey, Bobby Davis, James Walls, Reese Howard, and Wilson Payne.

Fireman's Association Convention from April 24 to 25. Companies and personnel from all over the Delmarva Peninsula will attend and the banquet is being held at the Parksley Volunteer Fire Company station. Tasley is a charter member of the association, which was organized in 1929.

■ The company will hold a 100th anniversary open house on Saturday, May 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at its station, located at 23395 Tasley Road. There will be displays, food, kids' activities, and the annual Charles "Sonny" Moore Memorial Car, Truck, and

Tractor Show also will be held.

■ The company will hold its 100th anniversary fundraiser dinner and auction Nov. 7 at the Onancock Elks Lodge in Accomac.

Amadeo also asks anyone with artifacts from Tasley's fire company history — memorabilia, photos, or other items — to contact him at 757-710-1996. He would like to ask if they can be displayed at the centennial open house.

A century after its opening, Tasley's volunteer firefighters respond to more than 300 calls annually with

a fleet of five modern emergency vehicles.

The company has been served by 13 presidents, starting with McJilton and continuing today with Clay Morgan.

The company has been served by 15 fire chiefs, starting with Rew and continuing today with Bill Ferguson.

It's a fire company where the past is always close at hand — the hand-drawn, soda-acid chemical cart that was its first piece of fire equipment has a place of honor near the entry at the new fire hall.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tasley’s first motorized engine, a 1927 Deluge Master Firefighter, was manufactured by the Prospect Fire Engine Company in Prospect, Ohio. Mounted on a Biederman truck chassis, this engine was capable of reaching 65 miles per hour and featured a 450 gpm bronze fire pump, 100 feet of “gum and wax treated” 2 1/2” fire hose, twin 35-gallon chemical tanks, and 400 feet of chemical hose. Fire Chief John Rew is in the white coat. The engine is hooked up to one of the three fire hydrants in Tasley at the time, which were fed by the two massive railroad water tanks.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured on the running board are Tasley Volunteer Fire Company Chief Fred Scott, Ladies Auxiliary President Liz Gladding, and a truckload of children at the Onancock Firemen’s Carnival parade in 1953.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tom Mears, left, and T.T. McJilton pose with the Tasley Volunteer Fire Company’s first firehouse with its original equipment purchased in February 1926 with money donated by townspeople. The \$312 pledged by the citizens was used to purchase a 35-gallon hand-drawn, soda-acid cart and four extinguishers.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tasley Volunteer Fire Company’s 1939 fire engine and a crew of responders fight a fire at Edward J. O’Donovan’s home on U.S. Route 13 between Tasley and Onley on Jan. 21, 1949.

'When Bree asked if she could invite Coy, it was so heartwarming. For me, as a parent of a child with special needs, it made me realize there's still good in the world.'

Laura Morgan, of Quinby, after her son — who has autism spectrum disorder — was invited to Nandua Middle School's winter formal

Winter formal

(Continued from page 1)

"Some people at school aren't nice to Coy," she said. "So when I was thinking about our winter formal, I was like, 'I'm going to ask somebody who wouldn't usually get asked.' I told my mom I wanted to ask Coy."

Bree's mom, Heather Phillips, knew Coy and his family. She asked her daughter what she thought was a natural question.

"I said, 'Why Coy?' And she said, 'Why not Coy?'"

Heather texted Laura Morgan, who is both Coy's mom and a special education teacher at Nandua Middle, to ask if Bree's idea was OK.

"I was like, 'Is it OK? Of course it's OK,'" Morgan said.

Morgan explained her happiness at the invitation:

"Coy doesn't get asked to many things like this," she said. "He gets left out a lot. With my older son, we had typical expectations: He'll get a driver's license, he'll go to prom, he'll be included in things. I don't have those expectations with Coy. I just want him to be happy and do the things he wants to do."

"So when Bree asked if she could invite Coy, it was so heartwarming. For me as a parent of a child with special needs, it made me realize there's still good in the world."

Creating a poster

Once the plan was hatched, Bree went right to work creating a poster with the big ask — a common practice for teenagers these days.

She knew that a child with autism, like Coy, liked sensory things, so she put bows, garland, and bright colors all over the poster.

She also bought a gold-colored bal-



COURTESY PHOTO

Coy Morgan receives his invitation poster to the Nandua Middle School winter formal from Bree Phillips.

loon shaped like a "C," for Coy.

"I had said, 'All you have to do is write on the poster,'" Bree's mother said. "She said, 'No, Mom, you don't understand. He likes shiny and pretty things.'"

Bree made the ask in the school cafeteria, with other students looking on. She didn't care what anybody else

thought — she was just nervous about whether Coy would say yes.

Coy's mother was there to record the moment. On the video, Coy appears a bit confused at first, not sure of what is going on.

He turned to his mom, who said, "She wants to know if you want to go to the dance with her. Do you want to

go to the dance with Bree?"

Coy then turned back to Bree and took that deep bow.

His mom clarified, "Yes?" And then Coy piped up: "Yes!"

Bree smiled with joy. So did Coy.

'Will never forget'

The dance was held Friday, Feb. 13, after several postponements due to bad weather. The wait was agonizing — Coy woke up every morning saying, "Coy's going to the dance with Bree."

Both moms reported that the kids had a grand time.

Coy was especially thrilled when the DJ played his favorite song, "Your Love" by The Outfield.

Bree said the evening "was a lot of fun, and Coy was an absolute gentleman — an all-around good time."

There also were all-around good vibes for both families — Morgan, who lives in Quinby with husband Charles and sons Charlie, 22, and Coy, and Phillips, who lives in Greenbush with husband Chris, twin daughters Allison and Alyssa, 22, son Caison, 9, and Bree.

"Laura has one of the purest hearts I know," said Heather Phillips. "It made me happy that I could give her joy without even doing anything, because my daughter chose Coy. I wish I could bottle up the joy in our house and give it to everybody."

Laura Morgan felt the same. When she posted the video of Bree asking Coy to the dance, she included these words:

"Today my heart grew about ten sizes," she wrote. "Kindness like this matters. Inclusion matters. And moments like these remind me that there are truly wonderful kids being raised in this world."

"Thank you, Bree, for seeing my son, for including him, and for showing what compassion looks like. This is something we will never forget."

Advisory to boil water in town lifted Tuesday, Feb. 17

BY JIMMY SHOCKLEY
Eastern Shore Post

The town of Exmore recently issued a boil water notice for its municipal system that was in effect for parts of five days because of conditions around the site of a water leak.

The notice forced businesses to either change operations or close completely on Valentine’s Day weekend. The McDonald’s restaurant on Lankford Highway, unable to use town water, issued canned sodas.

“There’s been a lot of breaks,” said Taylor Dukes, a licensed waterworks operator who works as a contractor for the town. He was formerly Exmore’s town manager.

The boil water advisory was issued after backflow from the ground en-

tered the broken pipe, he said.

Dukes said the abnormally cold weather this winter has caused pipe breaks — not because of frozen pipes, but because of cold water.

The ground temperature at the underground water pipes’ depth remains relatively constant at 55 to 60 degrees, regardless of the season.

The temperature of the water flowing through those pipes, however, does change, depending on outside temperature.

The temperature difference — the shock of very cold water through the pipes — breaks the pipes, Dukes said.

The cast iron pipes that deliver water through most of the town’s system can’t expand and contract fast enough with the changing temperatures of the water.

It is a problem that has plagued Exmore and other Eastern Shore towns hard this winter, Dukes said.

Residents were notified of the advisory via the town’s website, Facebook page, and more, but they were not contacted directly.

Exmore does not have an emergency cellphone notification system.

Dukes and Town Manager Pam Ward said problems like frequently changing phone numbers, use of residents’ phone minutes, and not having the phone numbers of renters makes emergency cellphone notification systems ineffective in the town.

During a difficult season for businesses, some in the Exmore area had to close or reduce operations for four straight days as the problem was

resolved.

The notice was in effect from Feb. 13 to the afternoon of Feb. 17.

Ward said she issued on social media two solutions to decontaminate the water — either boiling it or mixing in a small amount of household bleach. She said it was up to the town’s businesses to decide whether or not they wanted to remain open while the notice was in effect.

While many of Exmore’s water pipes are made of cast iron, one was replaced in 1990 with a plastic pipe.

Dukes estimated that to replace the rest of the pipes in town, it would cost at least \$1.5 million per mile of pipe, and there are 10 miles of pipe.

“It’s difficult,” he said of the situation.

Literacy Council to host reading info session in Cape Charles

The Eastern Shore Literacy Council, in partnership with The Impact Center, invites adults seeking to improve their reading, writing, or English skills, parents of young children, and community partners who serve local families to attend a free informational session on Thursday, March 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Impact Center in Cape Charles.

The session will provide information about:

- Free one-on-one adult tutoring in reading, writing, and basic education
- English as a Second Language support
- Enrollment in Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
- Opportunities to become a trained volunteer literacy tutor

Attendees will be able to speak directly with literacy staff, ask confidential questions, and learn how to enroll.

“This session is a perfect first step for any adult who has ever felt limited by reading, writing, or language barriers, or for community partners who want to learn how to refer those adults”, said Patty McMahon, literacy

council board president.

“We want our community to know that help is available — and it’s free.”

Light refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to adults, families, and community partners across the Eastern Shore. RSVP or for additional information, call 757-789-1761.



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2026 Decals for Vehicles, Golf Carts & Utility Trailers
on sale at Town Hall, now through April 22, 2026
every Mon-Wed, 9-5 and Sat. March 21st & 28th 9-1

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](https://govdeals.com) and search for “Northampton County”.

Business finally reopens after town sewer pipe debacle

BY SARAH BARBAN

Eastern Shore Post

The year is fewer than two months old, but it's already been a rough one for the Onancock Taphouse.

A sewer issue led to the restaurant being closed intermittently starting on Friday, Jan. 9, as its owner, Will Morgan, battled backups, conflicting information about the location of pipes, and a lot of digging.

The taphouse was able to reopen on Friday, Jan. 30, but the relief of re-opening was quickly overshadowed by tragedy. Teresa Milliken, who opened 3 Knots Taphouse in the same space on New Year's 2019, passed away the same day.

In October 2023 Morgan purchased the 3 Knots Taphouse assets and property from Milliken and later gave it a new name.

"If it wasn't for (Teresa), I wouldn't be able to do what I'm doing right now," Morgan said. "It is sad and she had a lot of friends here."

A private celebration of life was held for Milliken at the taphouse on Monday, Feb. 9. It was organized by Theresa "Mama Goose" Fahy, who worked at 3 Knots and still works at the Onancock Taphouse.

The room was packed with those celebrating Milliken's life, but it was a bittersweet reminder that the taphouse has not been without its struggles.

Sewer headache

The sewer headache began for Morgan on Friday, Jan. 9, with a backup in one of the restrooms. At 7 p.m. they had to close for the night.

Morgan began calling plumbers across the region and couldn't find anyone to come out over the weekend, so the restaurant remained closed.

The following Monday morning a plumber came for the first time but certainly not the last. The sewer line was checked and cleaned out.

As far as Morgan knew, everything was back to working order and the tap-



COURTESY PHOTO

A trench had to be dug behind businesses on North Street in Onancock to run a new sewer line after prolonged sewer issues at the Onancock Taphouse.

house was able to open on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of that week.

It was short-lived. On Wednesday the backups started again. A plumber came out to resolve the issue, but Thursday night the backups returned. The closure would be much longer this time.

Morgan started by hiring a plumber to come out with a camera that could find the issue in the sewer line.

He was then given a quote of \$4,000 to dig up a concrete slab behind the former location of the Dogwood Branch, under which the affected pipe was believed to run.

Local resident John Mills came out over the weekend to help Morgan dig behind the building to see if they could find the pipe themselves. They began digging where it should have been, but it was nowhere to be found.

No maps of sewer lines

This isn't the first time that the exact location of water and sewer pipes in Onancock has been an issue.

Last January, an old cast iron water line under the Ames Street Bridge that wasn't supposed to have water in it broke and began slowly draining the water tower, causing a water outage and boil water advisory.

Mills began digging closer to the back of the taphouse building and managed to find the clean out line for the building's sewer. It was buried two feet underground. They continued digging to determine which direction the pipe ran.

"No one had maps of where the sewer lines were," Morgan said. "That was the biggest issue."

On Jan. 20, Morgan procured his own camera and was able to find the blockage, which seemed to be in the middle of the driveway that runs behind the businesses on the east side of North Street. The issue was finally uncovered.

"Our line dropped down into a terra cotta sewer line," Morgan said. "We found out that all they did was cut a hole in the terra cotta and drop the pipe in and they didn't seal it."

There was also a crack farther up the line, so a two-foot section of the pipe was cut out. One of the surprising discoveries in that pipe was a live oyster, Morgan said.

Morgan also discovered other holes in the terra cotta and the camera was eventually blocked by what seemed to be a total collapse of the line underneath the concrete slab of The Blarney Stone.

"During all this time everybody is trying to figure out who is responsible," Morgan said.

The Town of Onancock is only responsible for what is within 10 feet of the sewer main, Morgan said.

Accidentally hits water line

He discovered on Tuesday, Jan. 27, that the only option was to run a new line to connect to the town sewer main, but first it had to be located.

The maps that Hampton Roads Sanitation District had weren't accurate and the Accomack County Health Department didn't have site plans for any of the surrounding properties, so the town had to try and find the line.

"They had a general idea of where the connection was but not an exact location," Morgan said.

Morgan credited the town for prioritizing connecting him to the main because they knew his business had been closed for an extended period. They came out early the morning of Wednesday, Jan. 28, and began digging, Morgan said.

The following day digging continued and the connection had almost been reached when town workers hit the main water line because it wasn't where it was supposed to be, Morgan said.

"The town has been and continues to identify the exact location of water and sewer lines," said Interim Town Manager Bill Porter.

"Old lines are difficult to find and identify until something happens that calls attention to them."

The town has purchased a GIS tool
(Continued on page 41)

Onancock

(Continued from page 40)

that will help the town map where the water meters and valves are in town.

Morgan rented an excavator in order to dig a trench to run the new line and connect to the main on his end, but the heavy equipment had to be returned and the last eight feet were dug by hand.

That turned out to be fortuitous — when digging around the concrete slab of the Blarney Stone, more mysterious pipes were uncovered.

“We found multiple water lines, a water pipe valve, Blarney’s sewer line ... and we found the line we were connected to, which was the lowest point under that trench. If we’d used an excavator, we would have popped all of that all at once because they were so close together.”

Finally reopens

The Onancock Taphouse was finally able to reopen on Friday, Jan. 30, after restoring the sewer connection. In total, the Onancock Taphouse had to be

closed for three of the five weekends in January.

The Driftwood and Moss store was also impacted by the outage. Its restroom was unusable until Morgan ran a new sewer line that connected to the old terra cotta pipe.

“I was down to the cash in my pockets,” Morgan said.

Being able to reopen was a relief and the community came out to show support for the taphouse, Morgan said.

“The first night we were open, even with a two-hour delay, everybody piled into the restaurant and they did that pretty much all weekend, even with the brutal weather,” he said.

Currently Morgan is working with his insurance to see what out-of-pocket costs and lost income he can recoup.

Despite all the challenges, Morgan is looking toward the future of Onancock Taphouse.

“Since we launched pizzas after Memorial Day the taphouse made a huge uptick,” he said. “We have our own niche. We’re different from everyone else in town and that has worked to our benefit.”



Women’s Health is made up of many moments — first visits, family planning, childbirth, midlife care and more. **Riverside OB/GYN Specialists Shore** offers comprehensive health care and support for women of all ages.



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Fun contests, concert tickets, big prizes!

Family Immigration Emergency Preparedness Plan

Child Care Plan

Designate Trusted Caregivers: Identify adults who can care for your children in your absence. Update school/daycare emergency contacts with their information.

Prepare Medical Info: Document your child's medical conditions, medications, doctor contacts, and health insurance details. Share this with schools and caregivers.

Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit: Use this form to authorize a caregiver to make decisions for your child. It does not transfer custody.

Legal and immigration preparedness

Understand Your Immigration Options:

■ Green card holders: Check if you can apply for U.S. citizenship.

■ Visa holders: Explore paths to a green card.

■ Undocumented: Consult a licensed immigration attorney for eligibility.

■ Avoid fraud: Work only with licensed attorneys or accredited representatives. Never sign blank forms or pay for "special connections."

Know your rights

If ICE Visits Your Home:

■ Do not open the door without a signed warrant from a judge.

■ Verify the warrant by asking ICE to slide it under the door.

During ICE Interactions:

■ Stay calm and silent. Do not answer questions or sign anything.

■ Request a lawyer and a hearing before an immigration judge.

■ Carry Essentials: A valid ID (if applicable), a Know Your Rights card, and your attorney's phone number.

Store copies of the following in a secure but accessible location:

■ Passports, birth certificates, and health insurance information.

■ Immigration documents (e.g., green card, work permit, A-number).

■ Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit and emergency contact lists.

Emergency resources

■ Sin Barreras: Legal and immigration aid, www.sinbarrerascville.org and 434-531-0104.

■ Just Neighbors: Immigration legal services, www.justneighbors.org and 703-979-1240.

Plan Familiar de Preparación para Emergencias de Inmigración

Plan de Cuidado Infantil

Designe cuidadores de confianza: Identifique a los adultos que puedan cuidar a sus hijos en su ausencia. Actualice los contactos de emergencia de la escuela/guardería con su información.

Prepare información médica: Documente las condiciones médicas, los medicamentos, los contactos con el médico y las detalles del seguro médico de su hijo. Comparta esto con las escuelas y los cuidadores.

Declaración jurada de autorización del cuidador: Use este formulario para autorizar a un cuidador a tomar decisiones por su hijo. No transfiere la custodia.

Preparación legal y de inmigración

Entienda sus opciones de inmigración:

■ Titulares de la tarjeta verde: Verifique si puede solicitar la ciudadanía estadounidense.

■ Titulares de visas: Explora los caminos para obtener una tarjeta verde.

■ Indocumentado: Consulte a un abogado de inmigración con licencia para conocer la elegibilidad.

■ Evite el fraude: Trabaje solo con abogados autorizados o representantes acreditados. Nunca firme formularios en blanco ni pague por "conexiones especiales."

Conozca sus derechos

Si ICE visita su casa:

■ No abra la puerta sin una orden firmada por un juez.

■ Verifique la orden pidiéndole a ICE que la deslice por debajo de la puerta.

Durante las interacciones con ICE:

■ Mantén la calma y el silencio. No responda a preguntas ni firme nada.

■ Solicitar un abogado y una audiencia ante un juez.

■ Lleve consigo lo esencial: Una identificación válida (si corresponde), una tarjeta de Conozca sus derechos y el número de teléfono de su abogado.

Guarde copias de lo siguiente en un lugar seguro pero accesible:

■ Pasaportes, actas de nacimiento, e información sobre seguros de salud.

■ Documentos de inmigración (por ejemplo, tarjeta verde, permiso de trabajo, número A).

■ Declaración jurada de autorización del cuidador y listas de contactos de emergencia.

Recursos de emergencia

■ Sin Barreras: Servicios legales de inmigración www.sinbarrerascville.org y 434-531-0104.

■ Solo Vecinos: Servicios legales de inmigración, www.justneighbors.org y 703-979-1240.

Plan Preparasyon Imigrasyon Pou Ljans Pou Ljans Fanmi

Plan Swen Timoun

Deziyen moun k ap bay Swen ou fè konfyans: Idantifye granmoaj ki ka pran swen pitit ou yo nan absans ou. Mizajou lekol/gadri kontak avèk enfòmasyon yo.

Prepare Enfòmasyon Medikal: Dokimante kondisyon medikal pitit ou, medikaman, kontak doktè, ak detay asirans sante. Pataje sa a ak lekòl ak moun kap bay swen.

Afidavi Otorizasyon Moun kap bay swen an: Itilize fòm sa a pou otorize yon moun k ap bay swen an pou pran desizyon pou pitit ou a. Li pa transfere titèl.

Preparasyon Legal ak Imigrasyon

Konprann Opsyon Imigrasyon ou:

■ Moun ki gen kat vèt: Tcheke si ou ka aplike pou sitwayènète Ameriken.

■ Detantè Visa: Eksplòre chemen nan yon kat vèt.

■ San pape: Konsilte yon avoka imigrasyon ki gen lisans pou kalifikasyon.

■ Evite fwod: Travay sèlman ak avoka ki gen lisans oswa reprezantan ki akredite yo. Pa janm siyen fòm vid oswa peye pou "koneksyon espesyal."

Konnen Dwa Ou yo

Si ICE Vizite kay ou:

■ Pa louvri pòt la san yon mandyan siyen nan men yon jij.

■ Verifye garanti a pa mande ICE glise li anba pòt la.

Pandan entèraksyon ICE:

■ Rete kalm ak silans. Pa reponn kesyon oswa siyen anyen.

■ Mande yon avoka ak yon odyans devan yon jij imigrasyon.

■ Pote Esansyèl: Yon ID valab (si sa aplikab), yon kat Dwa Ou genyen, ak nimewo telefòn avoka w la.

Kopi magazen sa ki an sekirite men aksesib:

■ Paspò, batistè, ak enfòmasyon asirans sante.

■ Dokiman imigrasyon (pa twòp, kat vèt, pèmi travay, A-nimewo).

■ Afidavitasyon Otorizasyon Swen an ak lis kontak ijans yo.

Resous ijans

■ Peche Barreras (San barye): Èd legal ak imigrasyon, www.sinbarrerascville.org ak 434-531-0104.

■ Jis vwazen yo: Èd legal ak imigrasyon, www.justneighbors.org ak 703-979-1240.

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Eastern Shore Post

WEEKLY MARKETPLACE

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Announcements

THANK YOU

I want to thank Doughty Funeral Home in Exmore for all they have done. I want to thank all those who called, sent flowers and text messages, and dropped off food. I want to thank everyone for all the thoughts and prayers that went out for my mom, Hazel Smack. In addition, thanks to those who came to visit us. Thank you to our pastor, Eric Levesque, and Zion Apostolic Church for your unwavering support and love for our family. We love this community and consider ourselves blessed to be a part of it.

We greatly appreciate you all,
Max and Diann Bendix
Clayton Parks



THANK YOU

I would like to say thank you to everyone who attended and helped make my "Hats Off To 70" surprise birthday party so special. Your thoughtfulness, presence, and kindness mean more to me than words can express and will be cherished for a lifetime.

Love,
Karen Burton

Help Wanted

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.

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

Want to be part of a Caring, Professional, Innovative, Inclusive company?

Join the ESCSB! Offering a 32-hour work week with full-time pay and benefits.

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

\$1,000 Sign-On Bonus:

Driver

Accounting Manager

Developmental Services Case Manager

Developmental Disabilities Aide

(\$13.00-\$15.00/hour-\$2.50/hr night & wkend differential)

Clinician

For more information or to apply, please visit the ESCSB's website at www.escsb.org



*"We passionately believe
in the potential of all."*

Innovative, Inclusive, Caring, Professional



NORTHAMPTON CO. DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES HUMAN SERVICES ASSISTANT II

JOB REQUISITION: Human Services Assistant II - 5416

SALARY RANGE: \$30,000 – \$35,000

Background & DMV check conducted.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 6, 2026

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

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.



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26463 Metompin Road
Parksley, VA 23421
757-665-5848
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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.



STEWARDSHIP MANAGER

The Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust (VES Land Trust) seeks a full-time Stewardship Manager to implement its stewardship program on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

The position will require field and office work, mapping using ArcGIS and other software/technology services, and digital photography, detailed note taking, reporting, and recordkeeping. It requires good communication skills and knowledge and understanding of traditional and current land use, agriculture, conservation, and land preservation practices. The Stewardship Manager will also help lead outreach and education programs, plan and coordinate the annual fundraiser, and perform administration and other tasks as needed.

A bachelor's degree and a minimum of two years working experience in a related field is preferred. Equivalent education and experience will be considered in place of a degree. Must have a valid driver's license. This is a full-time position with benefits. Compensation is commensurate with experience.

Please visit www.veslt.org for full job description, requirements, and how to apply. This position is open until filled. 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

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/5n6epayy>

Open until filled.

Apply in person at the Eastern Shore Regional Jail

Northampton County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT TECHNICIAN

START DATE: July 1, 2026

OVERVIEW:

Northampton County Public Schools is seeking a Technology Support Technician to provide technical support, maintenance, and repair for computers, printers, phones, copiers, and other networked devices. Experience with hardware, software, and networking (LAN, WAN, wireless) is preferred.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- A+ Certification — Hardware/software support preferred or at least one year of experience
- N+ Certification — Network support preferred or at least one year of experience

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provide technical support at assigned sites
- Set up, image, and maintain computers and devices
- Assist with network setup, troubleshooting, and infrastructure projects
- Support 1:1 student devices and interactive classroom technology
- Collaborate on technology planning, staff training, and budgeting

TERMS:

- 12-month position, non-exempt
- Salary range: \$44,404 - \$67,699

For a full job description and to apply, visit <https://www.ncpsk12.com/>

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

Help Wanted

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 offseason. 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.

Rentals - Houses

NUEVA Casa- 3 Recamaras, 2 Banos Solo \$500 Deposito - Llame para los requisitos: 302-846-9100.

NEW 3BR, 2BA \$500 DEPOSIT CALL FOR DETAILS: 302-846-9100.

JAMESVILLE - 1BR house. Full bath. Upstairs loft. Large deck. A/C. Washer hookup. Large yard. \$600/mo. + sec. dep. Call David, 757-387-0570.

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WE BUY LAND!!! Call Clayton Homes for more information. 302-846-9100.

WE BUY USED HOMES AND OFFER TRADE-IN VALUE AT NO EXTRA CHARGE! For more info call 302-846-9100.

Mobile Homes

READY TO MOVE INTO!!! 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Partially Furnished. Call for more details 302-846-9100.

Farm & Lawn Equipment

1953 ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE 600 FORD TRACTOR - \$3,500. 442-7507.

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HORSE HAY for sale and **STRAW** for sale. Call 757-824-3930 or call 757-894-1339 (cell).

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WANT TO PLACE AN AD? Contact Ryan at the Post. A 5-line ad like this one costs only \$15. Call 757-789-7678. ryan@easternshorepost.com

Anuncie

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DIVORCE uncontested \$525 + \$86 costs. Contested divorces also handled. **WILLS** \$295. Hablo español. Hilton Oliver, Attorney. 757-490-0126. hiltonoliverattorneyva.com

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BRAND NEW ELECTRIC PEDEGO GIRL'S E BIKE - Pink. Valued at \$1,700. Will sell for \$1,000 firm. Contact Mike at 757-678-6630 or Lisa at 443-235-0448.

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SALVAGE:
2016 MERCEDES BENZ E350
4 MATIC, 4D SDN, black, 82k miles, fully loaded.
DAMAGE: Right front fender and passenger side of vehicle. \$3,000 OBO.
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2018 FORD F150 SUPERCREW CAB XLT
V8 5.0, 4WD, 10-speed Auto LOADED. Blue exterior with gray interior. 149,690 miles. FX4 off-road package. 20" wheels. Bed cover and liner & many extras. Meticulously kept inside and out. ALL service records available.
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Cars, Trucks, ATVs (cont.)



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The new Hoist-A-Cart™ Gen 2 from Lange Originals® makes it possible for one person to remove, lower, and store their top on the cart, and wheel their top and doors anywhere for storage. Rugged construction, a strong steel frame, heavy-duty swivel casters, and a geared winch, lifts, lowers, and stores your top. The cart footprint is small enough to fit in the corner of either a garage, a storage shed, or a carport. The base includes 1 set of built-in door hangers. Foam and rubber coatings keep your top and doors in pristine condition. The Hoist-A-Cart™ Gen 2 makes going topless easier than ever. Fully assembled but never used.

\$475

Email
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2021 BLACK SILVERADO RST CUSTOM 4X4 INCLUDES CAP 43,800 MILES \$31,800 CALL 757-442-3609



2009 SUBURBAN Z71
Leather interior; 3 rows of seats; 1 owner.
\$8,995
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Boats, Etc.

LOADMASTER BOAT TRAILER - New and used. 757-588-1950. No calls after 7 p.m.

21' SAN JUAN SAILBOAT - From 1970s. Comes with sails & motor. FREE. Contact Sophie at 304-421-2374 or sschwar3@gmail.com

35' FIBERGLASS VA DREDGE BOAT - 3208 Cat diesel. New trailer. Complete hydraulic rig, ready to work. Comes w/ VA dredging license. \$30K. Contact 757-894-0974 or 410-202-6153.



ELECTRIC CANOE

14' mahogany, cypress, white cedar custom by master boat builder Douglas Little. Perfect for exploring your creek in total silence, no paddling! Chincoteague Island. To see, call Paul, 914-589-5015. Like new. **\$4,500.**



Godfrey Sweetwater 20 ft pontoon boat w/ Mercury motor
Boat & motor have 61 hrs. Paid \$32,000 in 2017. Has 2 axle trailer. **\$20,000 OBO.**
Call Mike 717-554-2603.



2016 LUND SSV16 W/ GALVANIZED TRAILER, DEPTH FINDER, NEW 40HP SUZUKI (UNDER 20 HRS)
\$11,700
CALL 757-442-3609

Boats (cont.)



55' ALL ALUMINUM EX USN BOAT

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\$75K AS IS

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1984 20' Wellcraft w/trailer, 175 Evinrude motor
Comes with:
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It's time to sell your car



\$40 til sold \$55 w/ photo

Call Ryan 757-789-7678

Misc. For Sale



SHERATON STYLE WALNUT HUNTBOARD

Gallery back with star inlay. Satinwood banding and escutcheon on drawer. One long drawer and two side drawers. Arched apron and tapered and reeded legs. Circa 1820.

Length: 55 1/2"; Depth: 21"; Height: 49 1/2"

This antique huntboard was part of the Althea and Bootie Shelton estate.

It was appraised by a professional antique appraiser for **\$15,000.**

I will accept any reasonable offer. Delivery is not available. It will need to be picked up upon arrangements.

Would the gentleman that made me an offer on this huntboard please call me? I have misplaced your phone number. Thank you! Gina

Call 757-434-2255

Legal Ads

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Town of Exmore is seeking proposals for Right of Way Herbicide Services through December 2026 to include:

- Crape myrtle bases on Rt. 13 Business and Willis Wharf Road
- All sidewalks and curbing within town limits
- In Town Park, spray around tree bases, playground equipment, and gravel parking lot
- Town office building perimeter and parking lot seams
- Use of caution-labeled, industry-approved chemicals only

Current VA Category 6 Certification and Insurance are required with proposal.

Coordination with the Town Manager is required.

Proposals will be accepted at the Exmore Town Office, 3305 Main St., Exmore, VA 23350. Proposal deadline is noon on Monday, March 9, 2026. The Town has the right to reject any and all proposals.

For more information, please contact Pam Ward at 757-442-3114 ext. 1000 or via email at ward@exmore.org.

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.

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, Accomack, 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
Accomack, VA 23301
Tel: (757) 787-1077
Fax: (757) 787-9294

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF MUNICIPAL SPECIAL ELECTION POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND

The Municipal Election that was to be held for District 1 and District 2 in Pocomoke City, MD 21851, on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, has been canceled.

The candidate for District 1 is Michael N. Hall. The candidate for District 2 is Diane Downing. Both candidates are unopposed.

In accordance with Section C-36 of the Charter, the Board of Elections has canceled the election.

Board of Elections Supervisors,
Pocomoke City

Legal Ads

VIRGINIA:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ACCOMACK COUNTY
THE COUNTY OF ACCOMACK, VIRGINIA
Plaintiff
CIVIL CASE NO. 25-763

vs.

MARY E. DRUMMOND CUSTIS, 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 087B00301001300.

It is ORDERED that this Order be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Eastern Shore Post and that Mary E. Drummond Custis and Herbert Lee Custis, if living, or if deceased, the heirs of Mary E. Drummond Custis and Herbert Lee Custis appear at the above-named court and protect their interests on or before April 13, 2026.

Enter this 13th 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

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 A PUBLIC HEARING

THE ACCOMACK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS, ROOM 104, 23296 COURTHOUSE AVENUE, ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA, TO AFFORD INTERESTED PERSONS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD OR TO PRESENT WRITTEN COMMENTS CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING:

A. Certain proposed amendments to Chapter 106 of the Accomack County Code, entitled "Zoning," Article X, to delete Section 106-235 therefrom, and Article XVI, Sections 106-377, 106-383, 106-384, 106-385, 106-388, and 106-389 thereof, and adding Section 106-386.1, 106-390, and 106-391 thereto, to revise provisions regulating the Chesapeake/Atlantic Preservation Overlay District to incorporate state law resiliency regulations.

Public hearing related materials are available for review at the Accomack County Planning Department, 23296 Courthouse Avenue – Room 105 – Accomac, Virginia, and on the County's website at <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 (757) 824-5223.

VIRGINIA:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ACCOMACK COUNTY
THE COUNTY OF ACCOMACK, VIRGINIA
Plaintiff
CIVIL CASE NO. 26-98

vs.

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

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.

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.

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 ACCOMACK COUNTY
THE COUNTY OF ACCOMACK, VIRGINIA
Plaintiff
CIVIL CASE NO. 26-52

vs.

The heirs and devisees of DANIEL LEE SIMMONS, et als, etc.
Defendants

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Plaintiff for delinquent taxes against certain real estate described as tax map number 029A10300021000.

It is ORDERED that this Order be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Eastern Shore Post and that the heirs of Daniel Lee Simmons, Jason Lee Simmons, and Linda M. Simmons appear on or before April 17, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in the above-named Court and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this suit.

Enter this 17th 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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Northampton County will receive sealed Proposals for the Collection and Transportation of Solid Waste generated in Northampton County. Contractors interested in providing these services are requested to submit proposals to the Northampton County Administrator's Office, P.O. Box 66, 16404 Courthouse Road, Eastville, Virginia 23347, on or before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

Northampton County reserves the right to accept and reject in total, or in part, any and all proposals received in the interest of Northampton County.

Northampton County is an EEO Employer.

Legal Ads

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, ACCOMAC, 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 – Accomac, 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

The Northampton County Board of Supervisors will meet and conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Chambers located at 16404 Courthouse Road in Eastville, Virginia, on the following matter:

Minor SUP 2026-01: THS Family Limited Partnership (property owner) & Buoy 38 LLC, represented by Dan Brown (applicant), are applying for a minor special use permit for a Single-Wide Mobile Home, a use requiring a special use permit in the ECC/R (Existing Cottage Community/Residential) zoning district. The property is located at 15749 Smith Beach Road in Eastville, VA, and is further described as Tax Maps 56-A-99A (land parcel) & 56-A-15749 (building only).

The application file may be viewed in the Planning, Permitting, and Enforcement Office in the County Administration Building, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., or viewed electronically at <https://co-northampton-va.community.diligentoneplatform.com/Portal/>

Anyone wishing to comment on the above items is invited to attend the meeting and make their comments known. Written comments can be submitted to the County Administration Office, P.O. Box 66, Eastville, VA 23347, and via email to jwilliams@co.northampton.va.us.

Persons needing assistance attending the meeting or viewing the files may contact the County at (757) 678-0440, ext. 516.

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.

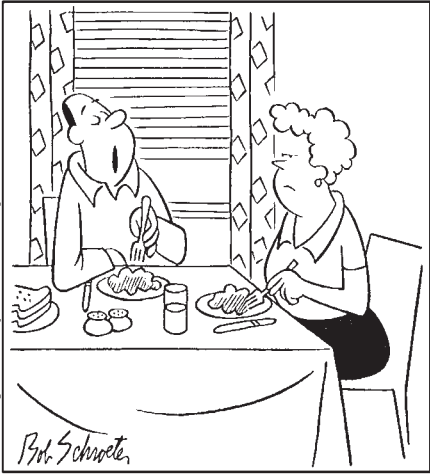
Respondent shall be a licensed architect in the State of Virginia and shall present demonstrated evidence of ability, qualifications, and experience successfully completing similar projects for small local governments. In addition to a listing of similar projects completed and a contact person of reference 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.

**The Post has a marketing
solution for every budget.
757-789-7678**



"This is delicious — I must really be
_____!"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Fly
TEAVIA _____

Notebook
RIBEND _____

Walk
REDITS _____

Press
NAKED _____

TODAY'S WORD

ANSWERS: AVIATE, BINDER, STRIDE, KNEAD, HIRING, STARVED

Legal Ads

TRUSTEE'S SALE 19187 BADGER LANE, ONANCOCK, VA 23417

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated September 13, 2021, in the original principal amount of \$236,363.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Accomack County, Virginia as Instrument No. 210004844, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Accomack County, 23316 Courthouse Ave., Accomack, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on March 17, 2026, at 1:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: PARCEL 1: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND FRONTING FOR A DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED FEET (100 FT.) ON VIRGINIA STATE ROUTE 638 AND RUNNING BACK BETWEEN PARALLEL LINES A DISTANCE OF TWO HUNDRED FEET (200 FT.), DESIGNATED AS LOT NO. 14 ON A CERTAIN PLOT PLAN ENTITLED "BLAKE DEVELOPMENT NEAR ONANCOCK, VA." RECORDED ALONG WITH A DEED FROM FRANK W. BLAKE AND WIFE TO JOHN K. RUSSELL AND WIFE DATED APRIL 27, 1973 RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 330, PAGE 238, SAID PLAT BEING RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 330, PAGE 240 IN SAID CLERK'S OFFICE, SAID LOT BEING BOUNDED GENERALLY AS FOLLOWS: ON THE NORTHEAST FOR A DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED FEET (100 FT.) BY LOT NO. 15, AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT; ON THE SOUTHEAST FOR A DISTANCE OF TWO HUNDRED FEET (200 FT.) BY PARCEL 2 HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED; ON THE SOUTHWEST FOR A DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED FEET (100 FT.) BY VIRGINIA STATE ROUTE 638, THE PUBLIC ROAD LEADING FROM VIRGINIA STATE ROUTE 718 (THE ONANCOCK-PUNGOTEAGUE ROAD) TO THE TOWN OF ONLEY, AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT; AND ON THE NORTHWEST FOR A DISTANCE OF TWO HUNDRED FEET (200 FT.) BY LOT NO. 12, AS SHOWN ON SAID PLOT PLAN. THE WESTERNMOST CORNER OF SAID LOT MARKING THE INTERSECTION OF THE LOT WITH THE SOUTHERNMOST CORNER OF LOT NO. 12 AT THE EDGE OF VIRGINIA STATE ROUTE 638 IS LOCATED TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE FEET (263 FT.) IN A SOUTHEASTERLY DIRECTION FROM THE MARKER, AS SHOWN ON SAID PLOT PLAN, MARKING THE INTERSECTION OF VIRGINIA STATE ROUTE 718 AND VIRGINIA STATE ROUTE 638. PARCEL 2: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE AS AFORESAID BEING AS SHOWN ON A PLAT ENTITLED "PLAT OF SURVEY THIS PARCEL OF LAND WAS CONVEYED AT THE REQUEST OF FRANK W. BLAKE, II LOCATED ONANCOCK, LEE DISTRICT ACCOMACK COUNTY VIRGINIA" MADE BY GRANVILLE

F. HOGG, C.L.S., DATED SEPTEMBER 5, 1983, WHICH PLAT IS ATTACHED TO AND RECORDED AS A PART OF A DEED FROM F M A CORP., A VIRGINIA CORPORATION, TO LEROY J. NELSON DATED JANUARY 23, 1984 AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 472, PAGE 88, IN SAID CLERK'S OFFICE, AND IS ALL AND THE SAME LAND CONVEYED IN SAID DEED. SAID LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND IS BOUNDED GENERALLY ON THE NORTHWEST BY PARCEL 1 HEREINBEFORE DESCRIBED, BEING LOT 14 ON SAID PLAT FOR A DISTANCE OF TWO HUNDRED FEET (200 FT.); ON THE NORTHEAST BY LOT NO. 15 ON SAID PLAT FOR A DISTANCE OF FOUR FEET (4 FT.); ON THE SOUTHEAST BY NELSON DRIVE AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT FOR A DISTANCE OF TWO HUNDRED FEET (200 FT.); AND ON THE SOUTHWEST BY VIRGINIA STATE ROUTE 638, THE PUBLIC ROAD LEADING FROM VIRGINIA STATE ROUTE 718 (THE ONANCOCK-PUNGOTEAGUE ROAD) TO THE TOWN OF ONLEY, FOR A DISTANCE OF FOUR FEET (4 FT.). LESS AND EXCEPT ALL THAT PARCEL OF LAND CONVEYED TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA FOR ROUTE 638 IN A CERTAIN DEED DATED MARCH 10, 1995 AND RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ACCOMACK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 686, PAGE 531.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation.

Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com

This is a
weekly newspaper

CROSSROADS OF CIVILIZATION

Armory of fearless truth against whispering rumor

Mirror of the community's joys and discomforts

**Receiver and deliverer
of critical information**

Refuge of the arts

From these pages words fly, not to perish
in digital waves, but fixed in time, with permanence

**not corrupted by hurrying hand, but verified in proof:
these pages are sacred ground**

On these pages, impassioned
viewpoints are shared with civility

ON THESE PAGES, BUSINESSES, GROUPS, AND PEOPLE
GET RESULTS AND DRAW CROWDS
FROM THEIR ADVERTISEMENTS

On these pages, we all create community,
together, all the time

*The Eastern Shore is a special place.
This is the Eastern Shore's newspaper.*

All are welcome.

Eastern Shore Post

Important people read it.

STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS

AVOID SWINGING ON THE VOLLEY

One of the most common
volley mistakes is to take the
racket too far back as you
prepare to hit. This will cause mishits
and make your volley less consistent.



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Remember, when
hitting most volleys,
except high ones, take
a short backswing and
a compact punch
forward. The racket
head should seldom go
behind your shoulders.

Legal Ads

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE 29074 NELSONIA ROAD, BLOXOM, VA 23308

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated May 20, 2008, and recorded at May 26, 2008, in Instrument Number 200802817 and a Loan Modification recorded on October 25, 2023, in Instrument Number 230004135 in the Clerk's Office for the Accomack County Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally \$129,808.00, the appointed SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC, will offer for sale at public auction at the main entrance of the Accomack County Circuit Court, located at 23316 Courthouse Avenue, Accomack, VA 23301.

March 20, 2026, at 12:00 PM

improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit:

The following described real estate, to-wit: All that certain lot or parcel of land situate at Modest Town, in Metompink Magisterial District, Accomack County, Virginia, containing Eight-Tenths of an acre (8/10 A.). More or less, being known as the "Floyd Lewis Homestead" and bounded as follows: On the Northeast, by Modest Town to the Village of Nelsonia; On the Southeast by State Route No. 679, known as the Seaside Road; On the Southwest, by the land of Holland T. Bell, Sr., for a distance of 176.97 feet; And on the Northwest, by the land of Holland T. Bell, Sr., for a distance of 218.19 feet. For a more particular description of the lot herein conveyed reference is hereby made to a certain plat of survey captioned "THIS PARCEL OR LAND WAS SURVEYED AT THE REQUEST OF HOLLAND T. BELL, SR." made by Granville F. Hogg dated February 7, 1983, said plat being attached to and made a part of a certain deed from Audrey S. Scott to Holland T. Bell, Sr., dated February 15, 1983, and of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Accomack County in Deed Book 457, at Page 575, said Plat being of record in Deed Book 457, at Page 579, and reference to same is hereby expressly made for a more

particular description of the lot herein conveyed.

AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of \$20,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date said funds are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee. All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Purchaser agrees to pay the seller's attorneys at settlement, a fee of \$470.00 for review of the settlement documents.

Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale and the successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
(Attorney for the Secured Party)
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-907-8000
www.rosenberg-assoc.com

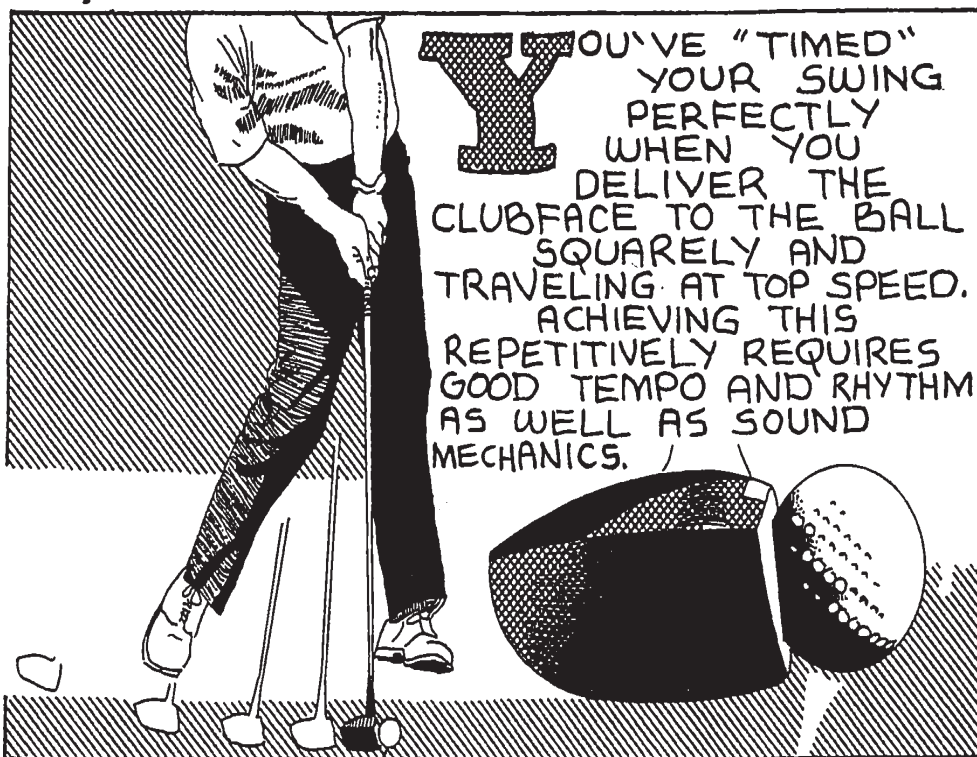
Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

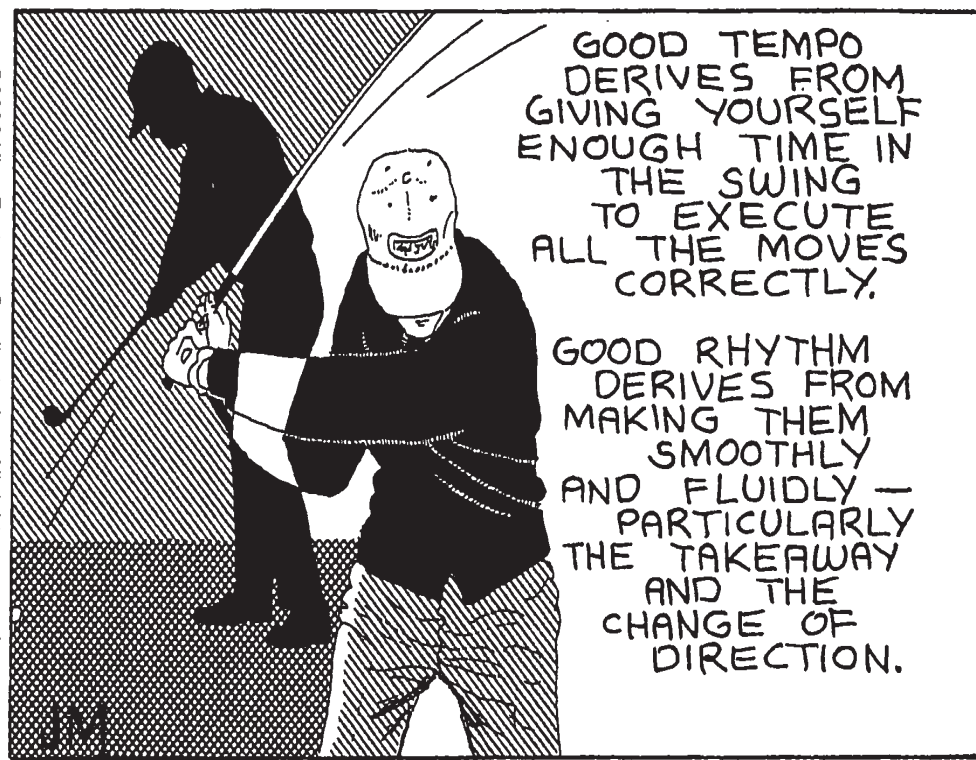
- * Ackwards is an old English dialect word for a creature lying on its back that can't get up.
- * During World War II, Charles Richard Drew, a Black physician, developed blood banks for military personnel. However, when he discovered that the military was separating blood donations according to race, he quit working for the Red Cross.
- * If you have a daily routine, some scientists believe that your dog can tell when you're coming home by the amount of your scent that's left in the house.
- * According to a poll of 11,000 Americans, 84% of vegetarians and vegans return to eating meat.
- * Some beaches in the Maldives glow in the dark.
- * A newborn blue whale gains about 200 pounds a day during its first year.

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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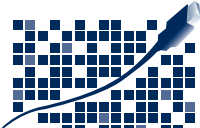
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PUBLIC RECORDS

Eastern Shore Post

Northampton Property Transfers

- From Jacqueline Rae Dennis and George Albert Dennis, trustees
To Kimbelle Croson and Kenneth Michael Croson
Lots 16 and 17, the Highlands of Kings Creek
For \$10,000
- From the Broadwater Land Company LLC
To Shirley Mason Randall
Lot A, Broadwater Office Park, Exmore
For \$325,000
- From Deborah Davis Wharton and Gerald Wharton Sr.
To Elton L. Wyatt Jr.
Lot 7 near Jamesville
For \$70,000
- From Montalvos Homes LLC
To Courtney Elizabeth Whittemore
Lot 55, Nottingham Estates, Cheapside
For \$325,000
- From the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
To Grace Tankard and William Sexauer
Lot 3-B, Wellington Neck, Franktown
For \$450,350
- From Chrisanta Reynoso
To Erica Lyn Hernandez and Nery Perez Torres
Lot 19, Exmore
For \$16,460
- From Brian Jones
To Jillian Focht and Matthew Focht, trustees
Two parcels at Wilsonia Neck, Machipongo
For \$2.4 million
- From Sarah Stewart Cross and Karl Stiegelbauer
To Donica Haley Cool and Ryan Cool, trustees
Three parcels in Church Neck, Machipongo
For \$725,500

Accomack Property Transfers

- From DVM Real Estate Holdings of Virginia LLC
To Gregory Sommers
27202 Pine Ridge Drive, Melfa
For \$45,000
- From Caroline Massey
To Roxana Mack and Steven Mack
39030 State Line Road, Greenbackville
For \$350,000

- From Anna Stubbs and Reginald Edward Stubbs
To Kellie Joseph and Susan Stout
Lot 61, Collins Street, Chincoteague
For \$110,000
- From Heather A. Kreh, Sean Kreh, and Heather Stamper
To McJed LLC
7482 East Side Road, No. 22, Chincoteague
For \$335,000
- From David Altobelli
To Rebecca Sergi
7207 Bunting Road, Chincoteague
For \$287,500
- From Andrew Hudzinski
To Jessica Lauren Lewis
33371 Holly Lane, Wallops Island
For \$245,000
- From Severance Hall LLC
To Lindsay Vonbank and Andrew Vonbank
Captains Cove, Lot 705, section 1, Greenbackville
For \$15,000
- From Jerry L. Green
To Minor Forest Stone
Trail's End, Lot 433, unit 2, sheet 2, Horntown
For \$68,850
- From Deborah Berry, Charles Burtnett, and James W. Elliott
To Chappel S. Property Management
36003 Pompano Court, New Church
For \$22,000
- From Global Family Properties LLC
To Deric J. Tuthill
28109 Alicato Road, Parksley
For \$220,000
- From Island Motels LLC
To Vonda Ross and Mark Ross
Lot 7, Deep Hole Road, Chincoteague
For \$105,000
- From Archie Mears Bennett Jr. and Frank Bennett
To Stephanie Selckmann and James Selckmann
.22 acres on Hacks Neck Road, Hacksneck
For \$60,000
- From Sign Post LLC
To Ageela Nasir and Ahmad Nasir
33405 Sign Post Road, New Church
For \$925,000
- From Jane Rogers Berge, Jean Elizabeth Talbert, and Susan Mears Talbert
To Joseph Dudis
56.01 acres on Gospel Temple Road, Keller
For \$264,000
- From Thomas B. Dix Jr., trustee
To Nidia Elizabeth Algerian
24273 Callen St., Parksley
For \$80,000

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TIDE TABLE

Seaside

Bayside

		Friday Feb. 20		Saturday Feb. 21		Sunday Feb. 22		Monday Feb. 23		Tuesday Feb. 24		Wednesday Feb. 25		Thursday Feb. 26
Assateague Beach	H L	9:55 a.m. 4:19 p.m.	H L	10:38 a.m. 5:02 p.m.	H L	11:24 a.m. 5:50 p.m.	H L	12:15 p.m. 6:43 p.m.	H L	1:15 p.m. 7:44 a.m.	H L	2:23 p.m. 8:52 a.m.	H L	3:34 p.m. 10:03 a.m.
Chinco. Channel	H L	9:54 a.m. 4:03 p.m.	H L	10:37 a.m. 4:44 p.m.	H L	11:25 a.m. 5:31 p.m.	H L	12:19 p.m. 6:28 p.m.	H L	1:22 p.m. 7:43 a.m.	H L	2:29 p.m. 8:50 a.m.	H L	3:37 p.m. 9:56 a.m.
Gargatha Neck	H L	10:51 a.m. 4:58 p.m.	H L	11:34 a.m. 5:41 p.m.	H L	12:20 p.m. 6:29 p.m.	H L	1:11 p.m. 7:19 a.m.	H L	2:11 p.m. 8:23 a.m.	H L	3:19 p.m. 9:31 a.m.	H L	4:30 p.m. 10:42 a.m.
Folly Creek	H L	10:44 a.m. 4:43 p.m.	H L	11:27 a.m. 5:26 p.m.	H L	12:13 p.m. 6:14 p.m.	H L	1:04 p.m. 7:04 a.m.	H L	2:04 p.m. 8:08 a.m.	H L	3:12 p.m. 9:16 a.m.	H L	4:23 p.m. 10:27 a.m.
Wachapreague	H L	10:24 a.m. 4:19 p.m.	H L	11:04 a.m. 5:01 p.m.	H L	11:49 a.m. 5:50 p.m.	H L	12:40 p.m. 6:48 p.m.	H L	1:38 p.m. 7:53 a.m.	H L	2:45 p.m. 8:57 a.m.	H L	3:59 p.m. 10:01 a.m.
Quinby Inlet	H L	9:55 a.m. 3:58 p.m.	H L	10:38 a.m. 4:41 p.m.	H L	11:24 a.m. 5:29 p.m.	H L	12:15 p.m. 6:22 p.m.	H L	1:15 p.m. 7:23 a.m.	H L	2:23 p.m. 8:31 a.m.	H L	3:34 p.m. 9:42 a.m.
Machipongo	H L	10:25 a.m. 4:27 p.m.	H L	11:08 a.m. 5:10 p.m.	H L	11:54 a.m. 5:58 p.m.	H L	12:45 p.m. 6:51 p.m.	H L	1:45 p.m. 7:52 a.m.	H L	2:53 p.m. 9:00 a.m.	H L	4:04 p.m. 10:11 a.m.
Tangier Sound Light	H L	1:47 p.m. 7:52 a.m.	H L	2:32 p.m. 8:45 a.m.	H L	3:22 p.m. 9:43 a.m.	H L	4:19 p.m. 10:46 a.m.	H L	5:23 p.m. 11:53 a.m.	H L	6:36 p.m. 1:02 p.m.	H L	7:27 a.m. 2:09 p.m.
Muddy Creek	H L	2:15 p.m. 8:38 a.m.	H L	2:58 p.m. 9:26 a.m.	H L	3:45 p.m. 10:20 a.m.	H L	4:36 p.m. 11:20 a.m.	H L	5:34 p.m. 12:27 p.m.	H L	6:45 p.m. 1:41 p.m.	H L	7:42 a.m. 2:54 p.m.
Guard Shore	H L	2:07 p.m. 8:34 a.m.	H L	2:50 p.m. 9:22 a.m.	H L	3:37 p.m. 10:16 a.m.	H L	4:28 p.m. 11:16 a.m.	H L	5:26 p.m. 12:23 p.m.	H L	6:37 p.m. 1:37 p.m.	H L	7:34 a.m. 2:50 p.m.
Chescon. Creek	H L	1:42 p.m. 7:46 a.m.	H L	2:25 p.m. 8:34 a.m.	H L	3:12 p.m. 9:28 a.m.	H L	4:03 p.m. 10:28 a.m.	H L	5:01 p.m. 11:35 a.m.	H L	6:12 p.m. 12:49 p.m.	H L	7:09 a.m. 2:02 p.m.
Onancock Creek	H L	1:56 p.m. 8:06 a.m.	H L	2:39 p.m. 8:54 a.m.	H L	3:26 p.m. 9:48 a.m.	H L	4:17 p.m. 10:48 a.m.	H L	5:15 p.m. 11:55 a.m.	H L	6:26 p.m. 1:09 p.m.	H L	7:23 a.m. 2:22 p.m.
Pungoteague Creek	H L	1:12 p.m. 7:20 a.m.	H L	1:55 p.m. 8:08 a.m.	H L	2:42 p.m. 9:02 a.m.	H L	3:33 p.m. 10:02 a.m.	H L	4:31 p.m. 11:09 a.m.	H L	5:42 p.m. 12:23 p.m.	H L	6:39 a.m. 1:36 p.m.
Nassawadox	H L	11:55 a.m. 5:57 p.m.	H L	12:38 p.m. 6:39 p.m.	H L	1:26 p.m. 7:24 a.m.	H L	2:21 p.m. 8:23 a.m.	H L	3:24 p.m. 9:30 a.m.	H L	4:35 p.m. 10:43 a.m.	H L	5:49 p.m. 11:55 a.m.
Occohan. Creek	H L	12:27 p.m. 6:46 p.m.	H L	1:10 p.m. 7:23 a.m.	H L	1:56 p.m. 8:16 a.m.	H L	2:47 p.m. 9:18 a.m.	H L	3:46 p.m. 10:24 a.m.	H L	4:50 p.m. 11:30 a.m.	H L	5:59 p.m. 12:37 p.m.
Cape Charles	H L	10:46 a.m. 5:05 p.m.	H L	11:29 a.m. 5:49 p.m.	H L	12:16 p.m. 6:38 p.m.	H L	1:07 p.m. 7:32 a.m.	H L	2:05 p.m. 8:39 a.m.	H L	3:16 p.m. 9:53 a.m.	H L	4:40 p.m. 11:06 a.m.
Kiptopeke Beach	H L	10:20 a.m. 4:27 p.m.	H L	11:05 a.m. 5:10 p.m.	H L	11:54 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	H L	12:46 p.m. 6:56 p.m.	H L	1:46 p.m. 8:14 a.m.	H L	3:01 p.m. 9:28 a.m.	H L	4:24 p.m. 10:37 a.m.

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T S R E N I H S D N A E S I R

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: CRANIAL COMPUTER

- Bahrain
Drain
Drivetrain
Ingrain
- Monkeyshine
Moonshine
Outshine
Refrain
- Restrain
Rise and shine
Shoeshine
Spit-shine
- Sprain
Sunshine
Terrain

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Last week's answers

CASH EWS POSTAL SCOTTS
OCTAVIA LALALA TOPHAT
WEEKEND WARRIOR ENTITY
ELD INS LUGGED IN
SEVE MAN MODE ROCKET
CLIMBING SPUR ESS BRO
ALP ELYSIAN SPA PITA
DIESEL CHICKEN NUGGET
PRESSLY CHEW EPA
OTIS AIRSHOW ATO TOE
FISHING NET SETTING SUN
ACH SIS DESERET AUTO
ELK IDEE MAIDENS
YANKEE CLIPPER DOLAPS
AGOG ALT TRIED ON MEA
NAS URN REIGNING KING
GREEN HORNET LAT ISTO
BARONIES SKA CUB
REASON MECHANICAL BULL
ARGYLE ELAINE ARLSEA
NASALS SYNTAX BENEATH

5	6	1	2	7	4	9	8	3
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3	7	4	1	2	5	8	9	6
8	1	9	3	4	6	5	7	2
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Weekly SUDOKU

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword REPTILIAN EMPIRE

- ACROSS
1 Soft drink giant
9 Pappy
12 "Botch- —" (old hit song)
15 Masticate
19 Oval wind instruments
20 Took too far
22 Put concrete on
23 Start of a riddle
25 Partially
26 Heir, often
27 Penta- plus one
28 Spitting beast
30 Everything
31 Unusual
34 "Our Gang" novelist Roth
37 Actress Peet of "Trust Me"
39 Riddle, part 2
44 Leonardo of "Titanic"
45 Curvy letter
46 Given a permanent post
47 Cereal grain
48 Computer menu option
50 Prefix with chemistry
53 Curiosity's planet
54 Riddle, part 3
60 Palatable
- 61 Computer menu option
62 Revise, as a manuscript
63 Yank's home
66 Try to be like
69 A couple of
71 Mice, e.g.
73 House divs.
74 Kinda
77 And higher, as in price
80 Perfect
81 Riddle, part 4
85 Dalai —
88 Contaminate
89 Big burden
90 Sports draw
91 Paper-folding craft
94 Part of BTW or OTC
96 "Allow me to assist"
99 End of the riddle
103 Allergy sufferer's device
104 White swan in "Swan Lake"
105 Audit org.
106 Spy's device
107 With
112-Across, "Hold on!"
109 Sneak attack
112 See
107-Across
115 Akron's state
- 117 Riddle's answer
123 Painter Vincent van —
124 Fastening feature of many a face mask
125 Ultimate consumers of products
126 With
83-Down, Italian veal dish
127 'Zine staffers
128 Antis' votes
129 Occupied, as an inn
- DOWN
1 Female whales
2 Eight, in Peru
3 "Misery" actor James
4 Prado display
5 102, to Nero
6 Walk- — (small roles)
7 Plastering strip
8 Arthur of tennis
9 Troy of "A Summer Place"
10 Gardner or DuVernay of film
- 11 Biden's party: Abbr.
12 Basketball coach Rupp
13 Re-sol linkup
14 Boiled, salted soybeans
15 1040 pro
16 Dance similar to the tango
17 Unsaintly soul
18 Marshy habitats
21 Holy artifact
24 Trade show
29 "So true!"
31 Fertilizable cells
32 Chip go-with
33 Actress Bo
35 "The risks outweigh the benefits"
36 Intense beam
38 Some reunion-goers
39 U.S. women's soccer star at the Atlanta Olympics
40 Living ink squiter
41 Assistant
42 Idaho's capital
43 Person doing penance
44 One searching for water with a divining rod
- 49 Tariff
51 Sporty truck, in brief
52 Daiquiri base
55 "Cool" cash amount
56 Very little, as of salt
57 Tantrum
58 Brian of electronica
59 Give as a bonus
63 Like wasted food
64 In a theatrical manner
65 Snoozing
67 Shoe tip
68 Like Nin's writings
70 "Mind Train" singer Yoko
72 Baseball great Roush
75 Old Pan Am competitor
76 "Shy" singer DiFranco
78 ETs' craft
79 Fail to keep one's cool
81 Return to base after a fly ball
82 — nous
83 See
126-Across
84 "Likewise"
- 85 African capital on the Gulf of Guinea
86 Wyoming tribe members
87 Small swine breeds
92 Several
93 Plant-eating sea mammal
95 Catches in a snare
97 "Planet Money" ailer
98 Includes
100 People lugging things
101 Politician Mo, Mark or Tom
102 Ship's rigging
108 "If only — known!"
110 — of March
111 Taboo thing
112 Litigated
113 Poet Pound
114 "— la vie!"
116 "Well well!"
118 Charged atom
119 Animal park
120 Rx watchdog
121 Dude
122 Suffix of enzymes

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11		12	13	14		15	16	17	18
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