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January 1, 2021



Happy New Year!

New Sawmill Park Public Pavilion Awaits Active 2021 Season

By Carol Vaughn

A new, \$145,350 pavilion under construction at Sawmill Park in Accomac was expected to be completed by the end of December.

The 40' x 80' covered structure at the public park will have Wi-Fi available, according to Accomack County Administrator Mike Mason.

"It one of a number of different initiatives the county is pursuing to improve access to high-speed internet during the pandemic," Mason said.

The structure was paid for by federal assistance provided through the CARES Act.

The pavilion will provide a venue for picnics, educational programs, and community events once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and warmer weather returns.

"It is our hope and expectation that it will draw more folks to Sawmill Park and improve their outdoor experience while they are there," Mason said.

The pavilion's design "pays homage to the days when the park property was used as a lumberyard," Mason said, adding that the concrete slab on which it stands was used by the lumberyard until it closed.

The 35-acre Sawmill Park, which opened in June 2018, was constructed on the site of a sawmill business that operated for more than seven decades before it closed in 2007.

The park in addition to the pavilion has a ballfield, a concession stand, a playground, picnic tables and grills, a butterfly habitat, bathrooms, a walking trail, and solar panels that provide power to



A new pavilion at Sawmill Park in Accomac will have public Wi-Fi available and will provide a venue for picnics, educational programs, and community events. Photo by Carol Vaughn.

the park and nearby county buildings.

Sawmill Park was created to compensate for land at Wallops Research Park that had been given to the county by the federal government and desig-

nated for recreational use.

When the county sought to use that land for part of the research park, county officials had to find an alternate site for a public recreational park.

The park, which was awarded a 2019 Virginia Association of Counties Achievement Award for excellence in local government programs, is at 24387 Joynes Neck Road in Accomac.

TRUCK PLUNGES INTO CHESAPEAKE BAY

By Connie Morrison

A two-axle, six-tire box truck went overboard Tuesday on the east side of the northbound span of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel between North Channel Bridge and the northernmost island.

"Witnesses reported seeing a man exit the tractor trailer and drift west," the U.S. Coast Guard reported in a press release. A multi-agency search was underway and the fate of the per-

son, presumed to be the driver, was unknown at press time.

The single-vehicle accident occurred around 8:20 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29, at milepost 14 northbound, according to a bridge-tunnel press release.

A video posted to Facebook showed a partially submerged truck identified by the photographer as a "Cloverland milk truck."

A reporter's call to Cloverland Dairy had not been returned at press time.

The facility sustained guardrail and curb damage. Bridge-tunnel maintenance crews responded to make emergency repairs.

A single lane of traffic was open in the northbound direction.

CBBT Police are still investigating the circumstances of the accident. Virginia Beach Fire & Rescue and the U.S. Coast Guard are assisting.

Further updates will be posted at www.easternshorepost.com

Who Gets Vaccinated and When? Hospital Official Answers Questions

By Carol Vaughn

A Riverside official spoke about the COVID-19 vaccine in a virtual town hall Monday, Dec. 21.

Riverside Health System received and began to distribute doses of the Pfizer vaccine in December. The first dose was administered at a Riverside facility Dec. 16.

“It was a very exciting time for us,” said Cindy Williams, vice president and chief pharmacy officer for Riverside.

Since then, the FDA issued emergency use authorization for a second vaccine, made by Moderna.

Williams in an emailed statement said Riverside received its first shipments of the Moderna vaccine Dec. 22.

“We are currently continuing to administer the Pfizer vaccine to healthcare workers this week, but the Moderna vaccine will be used for our scheduled healthcare worker clinics over the next two weeks,” she said.

Both vaccines require two doses to be fully effective.

The second dose should be administered 21 days after the first for the Pfizer vaccine and 28 days for the Moderna vaccine, according to Williams.

“It’s important to get the same vaccine for both doses,” she said.

Riverside is giving patients who receive the first dose a card with information about the vaccine and a reminder of when the second dose is due.

The Centers for Disease Control recommends people make a photograph of the card with their cellphone as a reminder in case the card is misplaced.

After a person is vaccinated, they are monitored for at least 15 minutes, or at least 30 minutes for anyone with a history of severe allergic reactions, with medications and monitoring equipment in place to treat a reaction.

Neither vaccine has egg-related components.

Williams spoke about the vaccines’ safety, efficacy, and side effects.

“What we’ve seen in the clinical trials information is that the efficacy of the vaccines and the safety of the vaccines is very similar; but as with any vaccine, there is always a chance of side effects,” she said.

Most trial participants reported generally mild to moderate side effects with both vaccines — most commonly injection site pain, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, and, rarely, fever.

How long the vaccine provides immunity is still being studied in clinical trials, according to Williams.

“What we know as of now, based on when the first Moderna and Pfizer vaccines were administered back late last spring, is that we’re roughly six months into the post-vaccine monitoring for those initial recipients of the vaccine,” Williams said, adding the FDA will continue to follow those people for at least two years.

One frequently asked question is about the phases of vaccine distribution, Williams said.

Several groups at the national level put together guidelines late last summer.

“This was done because we knew initially when the vaccine was approved there would not be adequate doses for everyone to get vaccinated at the same

time,” Williams said.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the CDC is tasked with recommending who gets vaccinated in each phase, based on risk level “as well as the importance of individual roles in supporting the functioning of society,” Williams said.

The nation currently is in Phase 1A, with healthcare workers and older adults living in long-term care or assisted living facilities prioritized.

When the ACIP met Dec. 20, the goal was to determine the next two phases.

The committee decided Phase 1B will include people age 75 and over not living in congregate settings and front-line essential workers — including police, firefighters, teachers, daycare workers, U.S. Post Office employees, public transit workers, food and agriculture employees, manufacturing, and grocery store workers.

The next phase, Phase 1C, is recommended to include people age 65-74, younger people with high-risk health conditions; and other essential workers, including in transportation, food service, construction, finance, IT and communication, energy, media, legal service, public safety, and water and wastewater services.

The ASIP will continue to evaluate information on the virus’ impact and make recommendations about future phases based on that.

Williams said it is anticipated everyone will have access to receive the vaccine by sometime in the summer, depending on more vaccines being approved and manufacturing capacity.

“Riverside is currently following state and federal guidelines, and as those are being firmed up by the state and CDC, Riverside will continue to update the community on next steps,” Riverside spokesperson Savannah Lentz said.

UPDATE: Eastern Shore Cases and Outbreaks

The Eastern Shore Health District reported, between Dec. 21 and 28, 158 new cases, five hospitalizations, and zero deaths in Accomack County and 39 new cases, zero hospitalizations, and zero deaths in Northampton County, according to the Virginia De-

partment of Health website.

The district reported 36 visits to the emergency department for COVID-like symptoms the week ending Dec. 19 and 32 emergency department visits the previous week. The numbers do not reflect confirmed cases but help track the burden on local hospitals.

Accomack County currently has one outbreak in progress, at Shore Health and Rehabilitation in Parksley, where 59 cases were reported as of Friday, Dec. 25.

Between zero and five deaths related to the outbreak have been reported. To protect anonymity, if between 0 and 5 deaths are associated with an outbreak, the count is represented by an asterisk.

The numbers only include cases linked to the outbreak. If someone tests positive for COVID-19 but the person’s exposure was determined to be outside of the setting and the person did not pass on the virus to anyone in the facility, the case is not reported on the health department’s outbreak dashboard.

Northampton County has one outbreak pending closure, at Occohanock Elementary School, where the health department was notified of an outbreak on Nov. 28 and there were eight cases reported.

Pending closure means 28 days have passed without a documented new case and the outbreak has not yet been closed in the reporting system. The status refers to the outbreak investigation pending closure in the Virginia Outbreak Surveillance System, not the facility itself closing.

Outbreak numbers are updated weekly, on Fridays, on the Virginia Department of Health website, at <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-data-insights/covid-19-outbreaks-by-selected-exposure-settings/>

The dashboard includes information about outbreaks in medical care facilities; residential or day programs licensed by the VDH; the Department of Social Services or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; summer camps; and K-12 schools.



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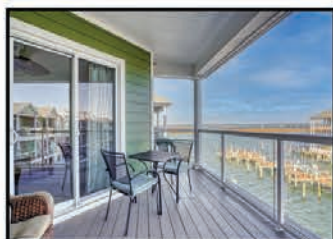
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Patsy Stith Brings Experience to the Nassawadox Mayor's Office

By Stefanie Jackson

Patsy Stith was re-elected mayor of Nassawadox again in November and is about to begin a third two-year term — for the second time.

The story begins decades ago when she met her husband, Dr. Drury Stith, while they both were students at Virginia Commonwealth University, formerly the Medical College of Virginia. She was studying physical therapy and he was in medical school.

They moved to the Eastern Shore in 1975, when Drury Stith accepted a position with Eastern Shore Physicians and Surgeons, in Nassawadox.

Nassawadox became their home since the job required Stith to live nearby. The family home on Rogers Drive was one of only two choices available at the time, Patsy Stith said.

After growing up in cities, staying in a small town on the Eastern Shore was like “living in a storybook,” she said.

“We have loved living in this community,” where people knew their neighbors and everyone was “nice and

welcoming,” Stith said.

Nassawadox was one of those towns where you could go to the grocery store, pick up what you needed, return home, and get the bill later, she remembered.

Her first experience on the Nassawadox town council came about four or five years after her family had moved to town, she said.

A colleague of Drury Stith's, Dr. Bill Burton, was on the town council but was ready to quit and told the Stiths that one of them should run.

Patsy Stith was elected to the town council and remained a member for six or eight years; then she was mayor of Nassawadox for about 10 years, she said.

One of Nassawadox's greatest accomplishments during her first experience in local government was the mass elimination of substandard housing, a cooperative effort with the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, which wrote the grants that funded the project.

Saw Mill Apartments, located be-

hind the current site of the Peninsula Tractor Organization museum, was one result of the effort.

The grants also paid to rehabilitate old houses and build new houses on property owned by Nassawadox residents.

The project was largely a success, but it wasn't a perfect solution to the town's housing issues. Most of the new homes were maintained, but some fell into disrepair.

It was a learning experience for Stith, who says that Habitat for Humanity is “the way to go” to help others who want to live in their own homes.

A successful Habitat for Humanity program applicant purchases a home with a low-interest loan, receives financial coaching, and builds “sweat equity” by helping to construct the home. These steps help the applicant “buy into” the program, ensuring he or she will be a successful homeowner for the long term, Stith said.

Similar to the substandard houses demolished on Occohannock Neck

Road in Exmore this past spring, Nassawadox removed its “poverty row” in the late 1980s or early 1990s, she recalled.

After a decade as mayor of Nassawadox and faced with the financial implications of having three children in college at once, Stith left local government and returned to work. She had retrained to perform physical therapy in both hospital and home care settings.

Four years ago, Ed Gibb was the mayor of Nassawadox and several town council members were age 80 or older.

Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital in Nassawadox was getting ready to close its doors and leave a hole in the heart of the town.

There was talk of unincorporating Nassawadox, but the matter was not pursued.

Both Patsy and Drury Stith ran for the Nassawadox town council in November 2016 and won.

Gibb resigned as mayor in January

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2017, and Patsy Stith found herself appointed as interim mayor until a special election was held later that year, which she won. She won re-election in both 2018 and 2020.

Now 75 years old, Stith enjoys serving her hometown as its mayor but would like to see someone younger take over. She is a firm believer that there should be both minimum and maximum age requirements for the U.S. Congress and president, and they should apply to local government, too.

In the meantime, Stith looks forward to serving Nassawadox as its mayor for another two years.

Her top priority in 2021 is pursuing solutions to the town's drainage issues, in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Transportation and private entities.

She noted that residences will continue to rely on septic systems and Nassawadox will not build a town-wide sewer system.

The town will not be involved in negotiations between the Hampton Roads Sanitation District and Riverside Medical Group, which owns the

sewer system that served the hospital and continues to serve other buildings on Hospital Avenue.

The future of the former hospital remains undetermined.

Stith wants to continue cleaning up the town; two derelict structures have undergone demolition and controlled burning, but more buildings need attention.

Drury Stith wrote a grant that funded the building of two new bus shelters in town, and a few new businesses have cropped up, thanks to the "energy" and drive of a few local entrepreneurs, Patsy Stith said.

The newest businesses include a yoga studio, a massage therapist, a wound therapist, an upholsterer, and a market and garden center, all located near the Nassawadox post office.

The mayor encouraged anyone interested in starting a business to try it and see what happens. "If you don't get out and do it, you won't ever know if it will work or not," Stith said.

The Nassawadox Free Library has been "a real plus" and the Brownsville Preserve has engaged the community

through public events; she acknowledges both as assets to the town.

Local businesses and organizations have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, but they are managing through it, and Stith believes the town can grow.

She sees potential in the empty doctors' offices on Hospital Avenue, which were practically abandoned after Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital moved to Onancock in February 2017.

The buildings could be converted into affordable apartments for teachers or other members of the local workforce, she said.

Stith would like to see more things for kids to do, such as more offerings at Randy Custis Park or the addition of a town playground.

She glances in the direction of an empty field and envisions a botanical garden highlighting the wide array of landscapes found on the Eastern Shore.

Stith also would like to see a volunteer group form to do yardwork for the elderly residents of Nassawadox.

Her love of nature, gardening, and



Patsy Stith

living near the water is evident in her vision for the future of the town, which seems fitting, since Nassawadox is an American Indian name meaning "land between two waters."

Patsy and Drury Stith "both feel blessed to have landed here" and want Nassawadox to be "a town that makes God glad."



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Accomack Supervisors Approve Library Contract Extension

By Carol Vaughn

The Accomack County Board of Supervisors at the Dec. 16 meeting approved a contractor's request for a four-month extension on the contract to build the new public library in Parksley.

The extension puts the new completion date at April 13, 2021.

R.H. Contracting Inc. asked for the extension, citing complications due to the COVID-19 pandemic as a basis, according to Accomack County Public Works Director Stewart Hall.

The documents submitted related to subcontractors and cited delays related to lack of materials arriving on time and lack of personnel to do the work, Hall told the board, saying, "In my opinion, there's not a lot of specifics in those documents."

A steering committee for the library project reviewed the request and supporting documents and recommended

the board approve the extension contingent on assessment of liquidated damages of around \$27,000.

The amount, to be paid by the contractor, covers architect's fees assessed to manage the project for the additional four months, Hall said.

Eastern Shore Public Library Foundation President Al McMath said earlier in the meeting additional expenses have been incurred by the group due to the delay in the library's completion.

Those expenses are around \$2,700 for storage of the Kirk Mariner collection and the delay in being able to sell Mariner's house, which was willed to the library, according to Accomack County Administrator Mike Mason.

Supervisor Robert Crockett in a Dec. 16 email to the Post said after the board's discussion he clarified with McMath that the library foundation plans to ask the board of supervisors in January to request the contractor to make up the loss.

Airport Comment

An Onancock resident during the public comment period meeting asked the board to reinstate the county airport commission.

"We have many good things that have happened at the airport," said Mike Morgan, citing runway and lighting improvements and a large paving project.

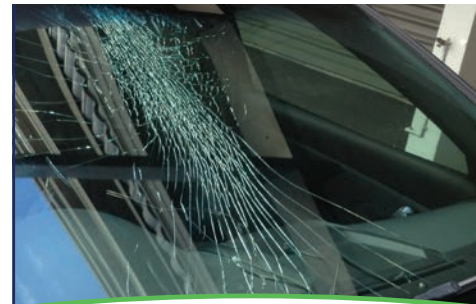
Morgan said having the commission reinstated "would help immensely with oversight," help tenants understand "what's going on at the airport," and help generate revenue.

"Right now we have been shut down about 60 days, so we've lost a couple hundred thousand dollars in revenue," he said, adding the hope is the airport will "open up within the next couple of weeks."

The board voted in September 2012 to dissolve the airport commission and make the airport a county department.

Supervisors Recognized

A Virginia Association of Counties representative recognized Supervisor Donald L. Hart Jr. for serving on the board of supervisors 40 years. Dean Lynch of VACo also recognized Supervisors Robert Crockett and C. Reneta Major for 10 years of service.



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Spectrum Offers Low-Cost Wi-Fi to Qualifying Northampton Families

By Stefanie Jackson

When Spectrum celebrated its \$20 million investment on the Eastern Shore in November with Gov. Ralph Northam and other state and local representatives, the Charter Communications company pledged to provide broadband internet access to more than 17,500 businesses and homes, including low-income families, by next spring.

Spectrum recently announced via the Northampton County Public Schools website that families may now qualify for low-cost broadband internet service.

A family qualifies if any member of the household receives at least one of the following: free or reduced lunch through the National School Lunch Program, free school meals through the Community Eligibility Provision, or Supplemental Security Income for ages 65 and older.

All Northampton students receive free school meals through the Community Eligibility Provision funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and their families are invited to inquire if they qualify for service in their area.

The Spectrum Internet Assist program offers qualifying households high-speed internet access for \$14.99 a month, plus \$5 a month for Wi-Fi (wireless connection to the internet), for a total of \$19.99 a month.

All of Spectrum's broadband customers get a free modem, and no contract is required to receive service.

Customers who pay the extra \$5 a month for Wi-Fi get a free router with no activation fee.

Participating households will get download speeds of 30 Mbps, which qualify as broadband, according to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Spectrum also offers broadband service with download speeds up to 100 Mbps and higher at regular rates starting at \$49.99 a month.

The FCC reported this year that 34 million Americans lack access to high-speed internet, and the Pew Research Center stated that five million Amer-

ican families with school-age children don't have broadband at home.

Spectrum claims that its low-cost, high-speed internet is three times faster than comparable industry offerings, and it's the only low-cost internet that qualifies as broadband, according to FCC guidelines.

To find out if a household qualifies for the Spectrum Internet Assist program, visit www.SpectrumInternetAssist.com or call 1-844-525-1574.

Accomack Gets Grant To Preserve Court Records

Submitted Article

Accomack County Circuit Court Clerk Samuel H. Cooper Jr. was awarded a grant of \$18,137.50 to preserve local records.

The Library of Virginia announced the Circuit Court Records Preservation program grant, which will be used to conserve Deed Book 11, 1804-1807 part 1; Deed Book 8, 1793-1797; Executors' Bond Book 1785-1798; and Marriage Register 5, 1926-1936.

The records will also be digitized so

that they can be made available to the public through the clerk's online records management system.

"We're very excited," said Cooper, adding, "These records are the history of our county. We have an obligation to make sure that they are available for future generations."

Since 1990, the CCRP has awarded over 1,000 grants totaling more than \$20 million. This year, the program awarded \$1,633,800.19 to 95 localities to assist

clerks' offices with preservation efforts.

The CCRP is a part of the Library of Virginia's Local Records Services Branch. Funded through a \$3.50 portion of the clerk's recordation fee, the CCRP provides resources to help preserve and make accessible permanent circuit court records stored in the 120 circuit courts and at the Library of Virginia. For more information on the Circuit Court Records Preservation Program's resources and services, please visit www.lva.virginia.gov

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Onancock Town Council Accepts Donation of Parcels From Former Carnival Grounds

By Carol Vaughn

The Onancock Town Council in a virtual meeting Monday, Dec. 21, approved a resolution accepting a donation to the town of around 6.123 acres of land made by Carnival Grounds Development LLC.

John Custis, the registered agent for the limited liability company, who recently submitted his resignation as Onancock town attorney, called recent developments related to the former Onancock fireman's carnival grounds "an extremely exciting event."

"We had been working for quite a while now with the fire department to attempt to secure the sale of the carnival grounds," he said.

A group of investors and a builder were found "that are very excited to get started very shortly on building some single-family homes over there," Custis said.

The homes will result in an increased tax base and water and sewer payments for the town, he said.

The donated land is two parcels at the back part of the property.

"Hats off to the fire department for being creative. They deserve a lot of credit for this being donated to the town," Custis said.

"I think it's going to be a really big plus for the town," said Councilwoman Maphis Oswald, adding the property "will be an asset that is going to serve us a long time down the road."

According to a deed dated Dec. 15 and recorded in the Accomack County Clerk of Circuit Court office, Beach Transformations Inc., with an Ocean City, Md., address,

purchased five parcels at the former carnival grounds from Carnival Grounds Development LLC, for \$212,500.

Town Manager Matt Spuck said officials have discussed putting a dog park on the donated property.

The council voted to appoint Rachel Kellam as town attorney, replacing Custis.

Custis served as the town's part-time attorney for 10 years, according to his Sept. 23 resignation letter.

"While practicing law and serving my clients on the Shore will always be my full-time profession, I am now involved in a number of exciting economic development ventures on both Maryland and Virginia's Eastern Shore that are in various stages of completion," Custis wrote, adding that over the past year or so he has had "several partners wish to explore the greater Onancock area in hopes of seeking such opportunities."

He is stepping down as town attorney "so that there is absolutely no perceived conflict of interest on any future endeavors within the Town limits," he wrote.

Spuck said the town hall was closed to the public until after New Year's due to an employee having been exposed to COVID-19 outside the work setting.

"The rule is, basically, if we can work remotely, we will. The phones are being answered; somebody is in the office. If somebody needs something, we're just simply going to take care of them without opening the door," he said.

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Happy New Year From Weichert Mason-Davis

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Conference Examines Student Achievement Gaps

By Stefanie Jackson

The Virginia Department of Education observed its first annual “EdEquityVA Week” in December with virtual events attended by guests including Gov. Ralph Northam.

The events centered on Virginia’s efforts to provide a quality public education to all students, regardless of their race or socio-economic background.

Northam attended the session, “Closing Opportunity Gaps,” and re-capped his administration’s efforts over the last three years to improve public education in Virginia, “from cradle to classroom to career”:

- Expanding access to early childhood education programs for 3- and 4-year-olds.
- Working to eliminate “high-stakes testing” in the classroom.
- Increasing funding for school meal programs.
- Providing funding to improve the ratio of school counselors to students.
- Creating a more culturally inclusive social studies curriculum, highlighting African American history.
- Making Virginia the first state to implement computer science standards.
- Committing more than \$1 billion to increase opportunities in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math).

Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane reviewed the data that suggests race and socio-economic status continue to impact the educational opportunities offered to students.

For example, 48% of Virginia students are White, but White students make up 58% of students identified as gifted. However, 22% of Virginia students are Black, but Black students make up 12% of students identified as gifted.

“From a disparity standpoint, nearly half as many students as you would expect by population are identified for gifted services,” Lane said.

White and Asian students are potentially over-identified for talented and gifted programs, and Black and Hispanic students are under-identified for those programs, he indicated.

The percentages of students taking advanced placement (AP) or dual-enrollment courses tells a similar tale.

About 54% of Virginia students take AP or dual enrollment courses, including 77% of Asian students and 62% of White

students but just 36% of Black students.

Data on student enrollment in Virginia Governor’s Schools (high schools and summer programs for gifted students) shows both racial and socio-economic disparities.

About 53% of students enrolled in Virginia Governor’s Schools are White, 18% are Asian, 16% are Black, nearly 7% are Hispanic, and about 5% are mixed-race.

Only 18% of those students were economically disadvantaged.

Students attending public schools in high-poverty areas are more likely to be taught by new and provisionally licensed teachers, Lane added.

In schools with more than 80% economically disadvantaged students, about 15% of the teachers are new, but in schools with 20% or fewer economically disadvantaged students, only about 8% of the teachers are new.

Additionally, Virginia ranks in the bottom half of states for teacher salaries and per-pupil funding.

Out of 50 states, with one being best and 50 being worst, Virginia ranked 32nd for teacher salaries as of the 2017-2018 school year. The average Virginia teacher salary was about \$10,000 less than the national average, Lane said.

Virginia ranks 26th for state and local per-pupil funding of K-12 public schools, and 42nd for state per-pupil funding.

VDOE Director for Equity and Community Engagement Leah Walker listed 10 steps that can be taken at the state or local level to close opportunity gaps:

- Challenge all students academically.
- Provide accelerated academic programs.
- Target student supports.
- Provide differentiated and scaled instruction, including in hybrid and virtual learning programs.
- Reconsider how teachers are assigned to schools.
- Examine how funding is distributed to school districts and individual schools
- Give students social-emotional learning opportunities.
- Update infrastructure and technology, such as providing broadband internet
- Re-examine the state’s educational accountability system.
- Continue to monitor and report data.

For more information and to access Virginia’s Roadmap to Equity, visit www.virginiaisforlearners.virginia.gov/edequityva/

Starting the Conversation

How to talk to Mom and Dad about Senior Living

Mom may have had a hard time recalling names when you spoke with her over the phone the last few times, but you weren’t prepared for what you found during a recent visit. While you were happy to finally be able to see her again, you were concerned. It was clear the carpets needed vacuuming and the bathrooms had not been scrubbed in some time. Most worrisome, however, was Mom’s appearance. She looked like she’d lost a lot of weight.



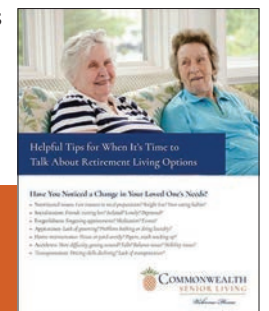
For many families, sheltering in place due to COVID opened their eyes to the side effects of isolation. You may wonder what is happening when you aren’t there. Is Mom safe? Is she happy? Now is the time to make a plan and find a senior living community that you would both feel comfortable with, rather than

being forced to make a choice in an emergency.

Here are some tips for discussing your concerns with your loved one:

- Remind Mom or Dad that you love them and are worried about their wellbeing.
- Ask what he/she would need to happen for them to decide it was time to move.
- Discuss his/her concerns about senior living and what he/she would like to see in a community.

While this can be a very difficult time, there is a myriad of support available to you. Commonwealth Senior Living has been guiding families on this journey for almost 20 years. Our caregiver support groups can connect you with families who are experiencing the same challenges and will provide useful tips for ensuring that your loved one gets the attention and support they deserve.



For a FREE copy of our guide,
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Court Postings *By Nancy Drury Duncan*

Accomack County Circuit Court

A judge granted a motion by the commonwealth to nolle prosequi (a decision not to prosecute) charges of attempted murder, malicious maiming, and use of a firearm against Robert James Northan Jr., 34, of Onley.

Northan was charged in the March 25, 2020, shooting of Donald Veney on Tyler Drive in Accomac. Veney was seriously injured but survived. After the shooting, police issued a warrant for Northan's arrest. He could not be found and was the subject of a multi-agency manhunt. He was arrested a month after the shooting by a U.S. Marshals fugitive task force in a Pocomoke City, Md., motel. A press release from the U.S. Marshals Office described Northan as a member of the Bloods, a local street gang.

At Northan's preliminary hearing, Accomack County Sheriff Todd Wessells said he responded to a call of shots fired in Accomac at 2:26 in the afternoon. He said he found Veney and his grandmother outside the residence. "Donald Veney had blood coming from his mouth, his face, and his back," he said. Wessells testified Veney was standing when he arrived. "He just told me that RJ had shot him and he collapsed on the porch," Wessells said, adding that Veney had blood coming from his back and "as he was talking, he was blowing out blood from his mouth." Veney was taken to Riverside Shore Memorial hospital. Again, Wessells said he asked Veney who shot him, and Veney again said RJ, according to Wessells' testimony. "I said RJ Northan and he said yes," Wessells said.

Donald Veney was called to testify next. In response to questions from Commonwealth's Attorney Spencer Morgan, Veney said he did not remember being shot and did not know R.J. Northan. Veney's grandmother was to testify as a witness to the shooting, but Morgan said he had a note from her doctor saying the woman has "cognitive impairment" causing memory problems. For these reasons, Morgan asked that the charges not be prosecuted.

Judge W. Revell Lewis III granted Morgan's motion, saying, "The court finds that Mr. Morgan's witness with significant cognitive impairment does not have

reliable memory abilities. The commonwealth can bring up the charges again," he said. "This is not a complete dismissal of the charges."

Northan was found not guilty of first-degree murder in the 2015 shooting death of Ronnie Washington in a 2016 bench trial. On July 7, 2015, Northan left a Mappsville trailer park in the early morning hours with two other men. Washington was one of the three. Testimony was that all had been drinking and smoking crack cocaine and marijuana for hours. Washington's body was discovered later riddled with bullets along Beartown Road near Mappsville. He had been shot 10 or 12 times, said then-Commonwealth's Attorney Matthew Brenner. Judge Lewis cited numerous discrepancies in the stories told by the two witnesses as the reason to acquit Northan.

Shelley Lynn Fox, 35, of Chincoteague, convicted of three counts of forgery in a plea agreement with the commonwealth, was sentenced to four years on each count with all suspended but time served. Fox will go to a six-month residential drug treatment facility in Northern Virginia.

"She was on a downward spiral," said defense attorney Tucker Watson. While in jail, she was contacted by an organization called Virginia Justice Initiative. He said the organization will help Fox overcome her addiction problems and have recommended a facility.

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney William Fox agreed that the program would be "critically beneficial to her." While in jail Fox gave birth to a baby girl who is in the sole custody of her father. Testimony was that Fox spent only two days with her daughter before the child was taken away.

"The court recognizes you have had a crack cocaine problem," said Judge Lewis. "Your crimes all center around getting money for crack cocaine." He warned her that she faces serious prison time if she is not successful in the program.

Debra Michelle Ryan, 40, of Hornstown, pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine and public intoxication.

When police responded to Pintail Lane in Trails End, the owner of the property

told them a woman armed with a butter knife was "going crazy." He said she was manic and paranoid and was saying someone was trying to kill her.

When confronted, she told police she had been drinking but not using drugs. When they finally got her to cooperate, she was searched. A white substance was found inside her pack of cigarettes. The substance was cocaine.

"She has been in jail since Sept. 27," said defense attorney Tucker Watson. He said she was unable to make bond and faced a similar charge in Scott County. He asked that she be sentenced immediately, saying she had no prior felony charges.

Judge Lewis sentenced her to two years and suspended all but time served. He ordered her to be on good behavior for five years and fined her \$50 for public intoxication.

Jonathan Dwight Brown, 33, of Dover, Del., pleaded guilty to grand larceny and multiple petty larcenies from Walmart. He was sentenced to 12 months on each petty larceny with all suspended but time served. On the grand larceny, he was sentenced to four years with all but time served suspended. He must pay restitution of \$1,720.40 to Walmart.

Ashley Alaniz, 33, of Onancock, was sentenced to two years with all but 30 days suspended.

Judge Lewis noted that police found a set of scales in her house while executing a search warrant. She told them she used the scales to weigh the marijuana she bought to make sure she was not being cheated. "The scales had cocaine residue on them," said the judge. He ordered her to be on good behavior for two years.

Donald Darnell Peed Jr., 25, of Onley,

pleaded guilty to assault and battery of a law enforcement officer, fleeing from police, petty larceny, and destruction of property.

On May 2, Peed and another man were seen stealing license plates from cars on Main Street in Onley, said Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney William Fox. Police were called. A man with a screwdriver was found behind the NAPA store. A confrontation ensued and the officer fired his Taser, hitting Peed. The officer pursued him as he ran toward U.S. Route 13. Peed hid in bushes then began to run again. The pursuit continued until the officer got in his car and pulled in front of the fleeing suspect. Peed broke the windshield of the police car with the screwdriver and hit the officer in the head. Both the defendant and the officer were taken to Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital for their injuries.

Peed was sentenced to time served on all the charges. He was ordered to pay \$586.94 for the damage to the car and to be on supervised probation for three years.

Ruth Ellen Sterling, 59, address unknown, was sentenced to four years with all but 30 days suspended for embezzlement.

Sterling was employed at the Shore Stop in Chincoteague when auditors were called to investigate missing money. They found there were two deposits that never got to the bank. "She has no previous convictions," said attorney Sharri Mapp-Jones, who also said Fleming had serious health issues and was very remorseful. "This is a serious matter," said Judge Lewis. "You were in a supervisory position." He ordered her to pay \$9,147.60 in restitution to Shore Stop and allowed her to delay serving her jail time until after April 15 because of COVID-19 and her health conditions.





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OBITUARIES

Robert James Bishop

Mr. Robert James “Bobby” Bishop, 78, husband of late Torchie Mae Bishop and a resident of Saxis, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020, unexpectedly at home.

Bobby was born on July 4, 1942, in Nassawadox. Bobby was the town cop of Saxis in his younger years, but was notably remembered as a commercial waterman for



Mr. Bishop

the duration of his life. He spent the last 40 years working side-by-side with his son, David, fishing the waters of the Po-comoke Sound. Bobby was a family man who spent many years caring for his mother-in-law, wife, and daughter as they steered through the medical troubles thrown at them. What may have seemed an overwhelming responsibility to most, Bobby took in stride. Bobby was rarely seen without his daughter, Karen. They spent their whole life together and were quite the duo. He would probably say she kept him straight. His son and daughter-in-law gave him two granddaughters to love over the years and while he enjoyed watching them grow, he had a special love for his two great-grandchildren. He loved his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren very dearly and shared a unique bond with each one of them. To say they were the apples of his eyes would be an understatement. He also had a great love for animals. He had become an adopted father to many cats on Saxis, providing them a home, love, food, and vet care. He could often be seen riding the streets of Saxis on his golf cart, stopping to visit with neighbors. Bobby was a hard worker all his life and had an inviting personality. His determination and values of family touched many people.

Bobby was predeceased in death by his wife, Torchie Bishop; parents, Paul and Margaret Bishop; and brother, Arthur Bishop. He leaves behind his daughter, Karen Bishop, of Saxis; son, David Bishop, and his wife, Alisa, of Oak

Hall; granddaughters, Shelby Bishop and Alysen Bozman; two great-grandchildren, Paityn Bozman and Lelend Bozman; and cousins and many beloved friends.

Funeral services will be private. The family plans to hold a memorial service on the Eastern Shore once it is safe to gather.

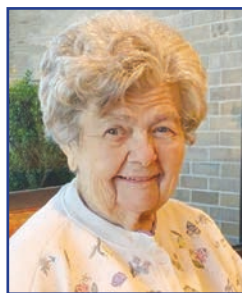
In lieu of flowers, contributions in Bobby's memory can be made to the SPCA.

Arrangements are by the Thornton Funeral Home in Parksley.

To sign the guest book online, visit www.thorntonfuneralhome.net

Shirley Gregory

After just having celebrated her 90th birthday, **Shirley Grace Outten Gregory** joined her husband, Levin Melson Gregory, and her parents, Sina Grace Marshall and Lloyd Augustus Outten, in heaven on Dec. 22, 2020. Shirley was also predeceased by her sister, Elsie Mae Daffin, and her brother, Lloyd Augustus Outten Jr. Shirley leaves behind four daughters: Martha Jo Tribble (Robert), Mary Jane Cramer (Ross), Betty Lou Charnock (Brian), and Susan Leigh Dixon (Thom), along with 10 grandchildren: Christopher Morgan (Megan), Mary Margaret Meredith (Ryan), and Gregory Waring Tribble, Sarah Elizabeth Coleman (Hayden) and Josh Cramer, Brian Tyler, Justin Gregory (Anne), and Shelby Rue Charnock, and Susanna Leigh Harrison (Jimmy) and Katherine Reeves Brownlee (Andy); and four most precious great-grandsons: Shawn, Connor, Merritt, and Hugh Thomas.



Mrs. Gregory

Shirley lived a most selfless life by giving of her love, time, and monetary support to her family and her church. She fondly reminisced about her days of dedication to teaching children's Sunday School and Bible School at Craddockville Methodist Church, leading Brownie Scout groups, making costumes for school plays and Christmas pageants, and arranging countless birthday parties. Shirley's grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the

joy of her life, and she enjoyed attending the milestones in their lives. In her later years, she returned to her beloved Johnson's United Methodist Church, where she participated in Bible Study classes, helped with church bazaars (especially with her famous pepper relish), helped with church suppers (especially clam fritters), and played an active role in the United Methodist Women's group.

Shirley loved Wilsonia Neck, where she came into the world and also where she departed it. She loved gazing at the sunsets and the green fields, and she found her home to be the perfect place to talk with God and to admire His handiwork. Her inner peace, optimism, and love for family and friends followed her to her final days as she gently and tenderly whispered her last goodbyes to her new great-grandsons, her daughters, and her grandchildren.

The family would like to express their appreciation for the excellent care Shirley received from her Intrepid Hospice nurses, Marie, Pat, Debbie, and Litisha, and her caregivers, Jenny Rose, Marge Kacik, Linda Guy, and Cheryl Powell.

A graveside service was held Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020, at Belle Haven Cemetery, where she was laid to rest beside her lifelong, loving husband, Levin, with the Rev. Clarence Bowen officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Johnson's United Methodist Church, c/o Marge Kacik, 12337 Trout Lane, Machipongo, VA 23405.

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

Arrangements were made by Doughty Funeral Home in Exmore.

William A. Hughes Jr.

Mr. William Alfonzo Hughes Jr., 64, passed away at his home in Cape Charles, on Dec. 9, 2020.

Mr. Hughes was born in Cape Charles to William A. Hughes Sr. and the late Mary V. Hughes. As a child, William developed a love for the outdoors, becoming an avid hunter and fisherman. His skills, reputation, and



Mr. Hughes

sheer love of these sports led many others to seek him out to enjoy these activities with him. William worked at Bayshore Concrete and retired after 40 years of service.

William was known for being a man of his word, with an appreciation for life that was infectious and strongly defined by family values. He chose to stay close to his parents and to raise his family on the Eastern Shore. He married the love of his life, Sharman, and during their 45 years of marriage, raised two children.

He was a loving son, brother, husband, father, and friend. William took many under his wing. He was always warm and welcoming as evidenced by the men and women from his Bayshore family/crew, his hunting brothers/crew, and many other men, women, and children from the county and beyond that he encountered and invited in. All were welcome.

William Jr. is survived by his loving and dedicated family: his wife, Sharman Goffigon Hughes; his son, William A. Hughes III (Shawnte); his daughter, Latoya R. Hughes; his niece/daughter, Tiffany N. Hughes; his grandson, Braylen E. Hughes; his father, William A. Hughes Sr.; his mother-in-law, Barbara Johnson; three siblings, Carol See (Don), Inez Hughes, and Merry Wiley (Troy); and a host of uncles, aunts, cousins, other extended family, and friends who love him dearly. He was predeceased by his sister, Unez Meschelle Hughes.

Home going services were held at the residence of William Hughes Sr. on Friday, Dec. 18, 2020.

Arrangements were made by John O. Morris Funeral Home, Nassawadox.

Gloria Godwin Sharpley

Mrs. Gloria Godwin Sharpley, 90, formerly of Greenbackville, and recently of Virginia Beach, passed away Dec. 22, 2020, at Sentara Leigh Hospital in Norfolk. Born March 30, 1930, in Sanford, she was the daughter of the late Thomas Edward and Erna Chase Godwin.

Gloria graduated from Atlantic High School, Oak



Mrs. Sharpley

Hall; she was a charter member of the Greenbackville Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary, and an active member of Union United Methodist Church in Greenbackville, serving in the United Methodist Women and a member of the adult choir as long as her health allowed.

Gloria spent most of her younger years as a housewife and mother. In later years, she worked at Rose's Department Store for a number of years in Pocomoke City, Md.

Gloria is survived by one son, Thomas R. Sharpley Sr., and his wife, Catherine, of Virginia Beach; two brothers, Richard Lee Godwin and his wife, Judy, of Oak Hall, and Reginal Thomas Godwin, of Indian Head, Md.; six grandchildren, Thomas R. Sharpley Jr., Matthew E. Sharpley, and Sarah E. Sharpley, all of Virginia Beach, Rodney Keith Sharpley Jr., of Chincoteague, Kelly Marie Rose and her husband, Brandon, of Pocomoke City, and Jordan N. Sharpley, of Mount Vernon, Md.; four great-grandchildren, Thomas R. "Trey" Sharpley III, Elijah W. Sharpley, of Virginia Beach, Kassidy A. Sharpley, of Chincoteague, and Grayson Rose, of Pocomoke City; and a large, extended family including cousins, nieces, and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Gloria was preceded in death by her husband, Willie Russell Sharpley; one son, Rodney Keith Sharpley Sr.; a sister, Rosa Faye Long; and a sister-in-law, Virginia Ewell Godwin.

A graveside funeral service, officiated by the Rev. Brenda Laws, was held Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020, in the Union Greenbackville Cemetery on State Line Road, Greenbackville.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Union United Methodist Church, 2198 Spinnaker Street, Greenbackville, VA 23356.

Arrangements are in the care of Holloway Funeral Home, P.A., 107 Vine St., Pocomoke City, MD 21854.

To send condolences to the family, please visit www.hollowayfh.com

Everette James Snead

Mr. Everette James "Buddy" Snead, 89, of Chincoteague Island, passed away Dec. 23, 2020, at Shore Health and Rehabilitation Center in Parksley.

He was born on Chincoteague Island, on Feb. 27, 1931, a son to the late Norman and Lottie (Watson) Snead.

He was a member of Union Baptist Church on Chincoteague Island.

Buddy is survived by his loving spouse of 20 years, Carole Ann Snead, of Chincoteague Island; son, Jeff Snead, and his wife, Stephanie, of Chincoteague

Island; three stepdaughters, Lisa Altschwager and her husband, Howie, of South Carolina, Diana Frimmel, of Chincoteague Island, and Lisa Baker and her husband, Tim, of Wallops Island; daughter-in-law, Sandra Hutchinson, of Florida; two stepsons, Danny Williams Jr., of Horntown, and Kevin Merritt, of Chincoteague Island; five grandsons, Michael Snead, of Newport News, Skylar Snead, of Pittsville, Md., Adrian Snead, of Baltimore, C.J. Snead, of Florida, and Scott Snead, of Melfa; granddaughter, Heather Osager, of South Carolina; five step-granddaughters, Alicia, of Florida, Danielle Daisey, of Chincoteague Island, Whitney Nelson, of Marion, Md., Shaida Bowden, of Chincoteague Island, and Samantha Merritt, of Delaware; two step-grandsons, Stephen Bowden, of Chincoteague Island, and Josh Merritt, of Virginia; several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, son, Craig James Snead, two brothers, Harold and Claud Snead, first wife, Kaye Snead, and second wife, Janice Snead.

Graveside services were held Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020, at the Downing Cemetery, Oak Hall, with the Rev. Kevin Eley officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to CVFC, P.O. Box 691, Chincoteague Island, VA 23336.

Services entrusted to Salyer Funeral Home Inc. on Chincoteague Island.

Condolences may be made online at www.salyerfh.com



Mr. Snead

Peggy Townsend-Colone

Mrs. Peggy A. Townsend-Colone, 74, of Pocomoke City, Md., departed life on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020, at the Manokin Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare, Pocomoke.

Born in Horntown, Peggy was the daughter of the late Chester Pitts Sr. and the late Ruth Handy Morris. She moved to Boston in 1967 and completed Job Corp in Poland Spring, in that same year. Peggy worked for New England Telephone Company for 28 years.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020, at the chapel of Cooper & Humbles Funeral Co., Accomac, with the Rev. Harvey Davis Sr. officiating. Interment was in the Dea's Chapel Cemetery, Horntown.

Peggy leaves to cherish her memories: two sons, Timothy Townsend Sr. and Kevin Townsend; five grandchildren; 13 siblings, Geraldine Mason, Robert Handy, Norman Pitts, Howard Pitts, Brooks Pitts, Chester Pitts, Joshua Pitts, Lawrence Pitts, Helena Pitts, Sallie Pitts, Cassandra Pitts, Joanne Pitts, and Diane Pitts; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Arrangements were by the Cooper & Humbles Funeral Co., Accomac.

Jacqueline Turner

Ms. Jacqueline Turner, 85, of Chesapeake, formerly of the Shore, departed life on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020, at Chesapeake Regional Medical Center, Chesapeake.

Born in Accomac, Jacqueline was the daughter of the late Johnny and Sarah Simpkins. She was affectionately known as "Mama Jack" by her family and friends. She relocated to Norfolk and worked for her uncle's record store. While in Norfolk, she met and married Richard Turner.

Funeral services were held



Mrs. Townsend-Colone

on Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020, at the chapel of Cooper & Humbles Funeral Co., Accomac, with Bishop Jobie Boone officiating. Interment was in the Fairview Lawn Cemetery, Onancock.

Jacqueline leaves to cherish her memories: two sons, Jeffrey and Dwayne Turner; son-in-law, Jobie Boone; 11 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; five sisters, Althea, Sarah, Florence, Teresa, and Linda; one brother, Moses; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Arrangements were by the Cooper & Humbles Funeral Co., Accomac.

Typhinia P. Turner

Ms. Typhinia P. Turner, 51, of Painter, departed life on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020, at Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News.

Born in Painter, Typhinia was the daughter of Obediah Parker and Charlotte Parker. She was affectionately known as "Try" by her family and friends. She began work at an early age. In her teen years, she worked at Burger King and Shore Memorial Hospital in dietary. Try switched careers to work at Perdue Inc. and worked there for over 16 years as a line leader in marination.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020, at the chapel of Cooper & Humbles Funeral Co., Accomac, with the Rev. Jesse Thomas officiating. Interment was in the Shiloh Baptist Cemetery, Painter.

Left to hold the memories of Try are: siblings, Rodney Parker, Ardena Parker Jordan, Jeffrey Roane, Levon Parker, Robert Parker, George Parker, and Julia Adams; two nephews; one great-niece; three aunts; three uncles; special cousins; several best friends; and a host of cousins, other relatives, and friends.

Arrangements were by the Cooper & Humbles Funeral Co., Accomac.



Ms. Turner



Ms. Turner

Send Obituaries to
angie@easternshorepost.com



CryptoQuip

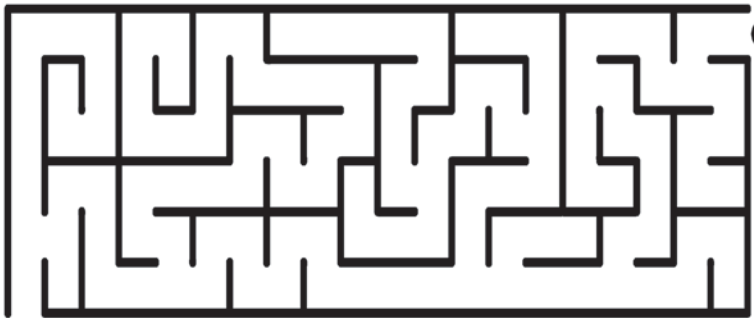
This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: N equals U

HB PGN XGUD MV M XHZEGX
 XMVQFU, H YNFVV PGN'E BHZE
 PGNUVFOB GZ LQF GNLVHEF
 OGGDHZY HZ.

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Kids' Maze



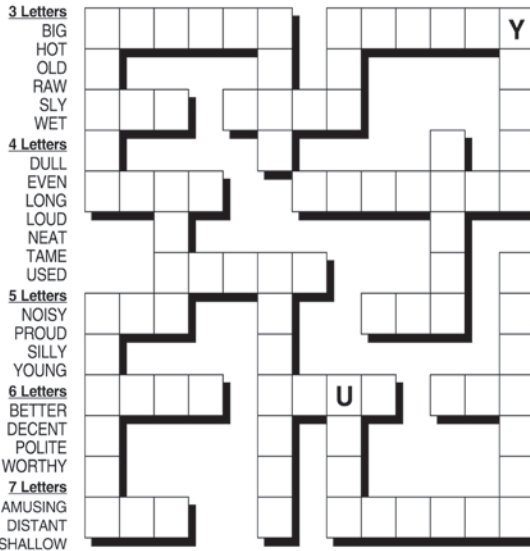
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Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

CRISSCROSS – 24 ADJECTIVES

Each word will fit into one spot in the grid. Use the starting letters as a guide and fit each word into its spot. All words will be used, so cross off each one after you put it into the grid.



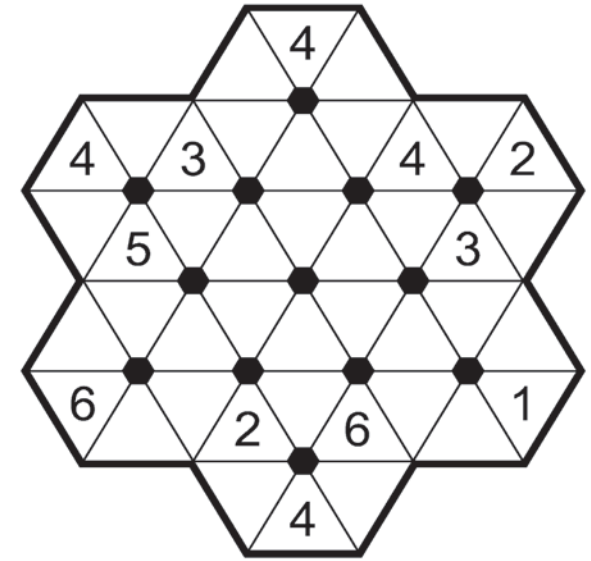
- 3 Letters: BIG, HOT, OLD, RAW, SLY, WET
- 4 Letters: DULL, EVEN, LONG, LOUD, NEAT, TAME, USED
- 5 Letters: NOISY, PROUD, SILLY, YOUNG
- 6 Letters: BETTER, DECENT, POLITE, WORTHY
- 7 Letters: AMUSING, DISTANT, SHALLOW

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.

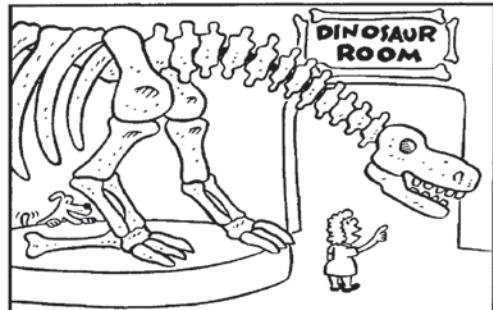


DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Bonus Puzzle Page



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A BONEYARD BAFFLER! Sally loves to count the number of bones in the dinosaur room. See if you can dig up the same number as she did.

Answer: Not counting the teeth, Sally found 38 bones.

A SEATTLE SPRITZER! What word, in an Oxford English Dictionary, do people in Seattle always pronounce incorrectly?

Answer: That word would be ... "incorrectly."

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, left to right: the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.

Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: dust, dusk, dunk, dune, dank, Dane, dare, dam.



Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson



YELLOW JACKET JOUSTING!

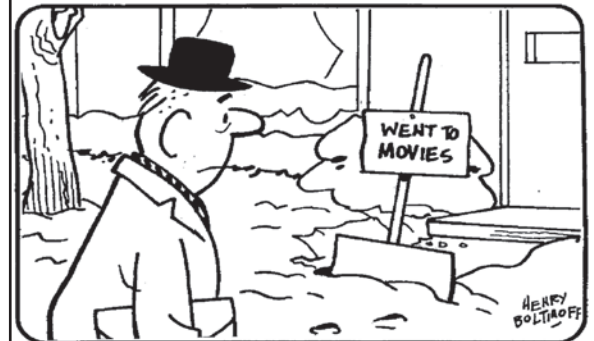
Can you identify the "stinging" words asked for in the following questions? (all of the words end in "sting.")

1. What sting has excessive pride?
2. What sting cures hunger?
3. What sting writes for someone else?
4. What sting is found in bakeries?
5. What sting is found in theaters?
6. What sting is found in schools?
7. What sting makes you laugh?
8. What sting leaves you hungry?
9. What sting do farmers love?
10. What sting changes bread?
11. What sting cleans your room?
12. What sting ruins old boats?

Answers: 1. Boasting. 2. Feasting. 3. Ghosting. 4. Frosting. 5. Casting. 6. Testing. 7. Jest. 8. Fasting. 9. Harvesting. 10. Toasting. 11. Dusting. 12. Rusting.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sign on shovel is different. 2. Window on door is missing. 3. Doorknob is added. 4. Man's hat is different. 5. Tree trunk is wider. 6. Man's nose is shorter.

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Property Transactions

Accomack County

- From Helen Barbara
To Catherine and Jeremy Michael Carey
19424 Barbara Lane, Quinby
For \$632,900
- From Maria and Avraam Avramidis
To Robert L. Sparks Jr. and Carolyn R. Cox
Captains Cove Lot 1638 Section 3,
Greenbackville
For \$5,000
- From Edward L. Mears III, Edean M. Bundick, and Laura M. Goga
To Patricia H. and Harry T. Parker
27216 Bobtown Road, Melfa
For \$55,000
- From Stephen Spooner and Whitney E. Wilkins
To Linda L. and Carl P. Bacchi
17108 Michael Hill Road, Keller
For \$50,000
- From Stephanie J. and Adam C. Merritt
To Suzanne Farrar and Frederick J. Keating Jr.
6389 Annamessex Lane, Chincoteague
For \$270,000
- From Sunset Bay LLC
To Marion Young and Daniel E. Murphy
Boat Slip Unit 31, Sunset Bay South
Condominium, Chincoteague
For \$5,500
- From Terry L. Strong Jr.
To Debra Medina
Captains Cove Lot 393 Section 2,
Greenbackville
For \$136,500
- From Robert P. Dunlop, Laurie D. Johnson, and Nancy Dunlop
To Marianne T. and William G. Browning
35379 Bluff Drive, Belle Haven
For \$325,000
- From Patricia B. and Robert V. Baker Jr.
To Sherry L. and Grady H. Chavis
Trails End Lot 255 Unit 3 Sheet 6,
Horntown
For \$23,500
- From Robert C. Chandler
To Joseph J. Monaco
19158 Dogwood Drive, Onancock
For \$217,000
- From Tawnia L. Glover, executor of the estate of Henry C. Palmer Jr.
To Kristen and Lukas Wagner
17242 Taylor Lane, Onancock
For \$25,500
- From Kathleen Burnett and Mark

- Austin Jones, trustees
To Kelly and Brian K. Roberts
52 Kerr St., Onancock
For \$165,000
- From Melanie H. and Brian C. Sumlin
To Justin Barnes
Lot 24 Sandpiper Lane, Atlantic
For \$12,500
- From Susan M. and John C. Elerding Jr.
To Justin Barnes
Lot 17 Sandpiper Lane, Atlantic
For \$14,000
- From Tanya R. and H. Gannon Derrickson
To Kelly Anne and Gregory Allen Carper
6364 Circle Drive, Chincoteague
For \$285,000
- From Suzanne R. and James M. Willwerth
To Novella A. and George D. Bozman
Trails End Lot 581 Unit 1, Horntown
For \$26,900
- From Lari Anne Pruitt
To Douglas W. Bowden and Kayla E. Hall
24401 Guilford Road, Bloxom
For \$26,000
- From H. Frank Howard
To Deborah Faye and Donald James Johansen
Two parcels in Greenbackville
For \$15,000
- From Antonio A. Simoes
To Logan Nicole and Raymond Neal Grudi
Lot 254 Oyster Bay Section 2 Subdivision C, Chincoteague
For \$87,000
- From Sandra J. Stewart
To Mary K. and Craig M. Mix
6309 Highland Park Drive, Chincoteague
For \$389,000
- From Lisa C. and Eric B. Roper
To Terry L. Strong Jr.
Captains Cove Lot 257 Section 7,
Greenbackville
For \$216,800
- From Janet and Robert Bloomfield
To Kathryn and Thomas Burke
Lot 93 Old Mill Lane, New Church
For \$18,900
- From Jan Caryl Foth and Daniell B. Green
To Kimberly A. and Robert A. Clark Jr.
Trails End Lot 43 Unit 3, Horntown
For \$16,000

- From Annette E. Edwards
To Michael A. Driscoll
31421 Laughing Gull Court, Painter
For \$113,000
- From Elizabeth F. and J. Spencer Morgan III
To Joan M. Donohoe
7 College Ave., Onancock
For \$187,500
- From Janet M. Hoey, Phillip H. Hoey, and Matthew John Hoey
To Helen R. and Ernest L. Bowden III
5375 N. Hibiscus Drive, Chincoteague
For \$389,000
- From Teddi Virginia Crockett, Beverly Marshall Thorne, Miriam Eskridge Anderson, William Thomas Eskridge III, and Kara Eskridge Crockett
To Teddy Ross Marshall Jr.
Lot on Main Ridge, Tangier
For \$45,000
- From Lisa Gallagher and Roger Paul Viens
To Abby Crum and James R. Gale
24181 Little Mimosa Drive, Onancock
For \$400,000
- From Carnival Grounds Development LLC
To Beach Transformations Inc.
Five parcels on Johnson St., Onancock
For \$212,500
- From Integrated Fisheries International Limited
To Stonewall Capital LLC
13249 Lankford Highway, Mappsville
For \$1,000,000
- From Catherine L. and Peter N. Turlington
To James R. Nalls
16103 Bailey Beach Drive, Onancock
For \$1,100,000
- From Cynthia L. and Thomas E. Stauffer
To Catherine L. and Peter N. Turlington
28396 Fairway Drive, Melfa
For \$375,000
- From Connie L. and Willie A. Davis
To Lucilia A. and Idario A. De Freitas
Lot 119 Phase 3 Corbin Hall, Horntown
For \$44,900
- From Phillip P. Ettinger and James R. Stevens
To Andrew M. Hudzinski
33371 Holly Lane, Wallops Island
For \$217,500
- From Sandra L. and David W. Campbell
To Cassandra Nicole and Douglas D. Parker
5375 Friendly Court, Horntown

- For \$142,500
- From Marysusan and James W. Bradley
To Christi and Laurence Gray
4461 Shady Lane, Chincoteague
For \$365,000
- From Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.
To Karen Lee and Kevin B. Lovell
20182 Allen Lane, Onancock
For \$52,750
- From Sharon D. Goodman
To Dale E. and Raymond D. Fink
19192 Glenn Drive, Parksley
For \$185,000
- From Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.
To John Lord
12969 Cattail Road, Hallwood
For \$10,900
- From Debra R. and Marshall W.W. Ryon
To Kathryn A. Stoner
7 Fairgrounds Road, Onancock
For \$199,000
- From Wesley O. Taylor
To Tamika and Derrick Colona
27163 Drummondtown Road,
Locustville
For \$90,000
- From Robert N. Davenport and Katharine Haynes Gulde, and John M. Haynes
To Captains Cove Land Development LLC
Captains Cove Lot 809 Section 1,
Greenbackville
For \$2,000
- From The J. R. White Family Limited Partnership by Lee White Kilduff, Laura White Anderson, and Edward S. White II, general partners
To Bibiana Aguilar Rios
Parcel C, 4.93 acres, Lankford Highway, Gargatha
For \$115,000
- From Judith E. Decker and Paul W. Newborg III
To Robert L. Heldrich Jr. And Carolyn J. Thorne
1411 Franklin City Road,
Greenbackville
For \$91,300
- From Harold C. Thorn and Sandra L. Becker-Thorn
To Julie L. Kennedy
Trails End Lot 201 Unit 1 Sheet 1,
Horntown
For \$10,000
- From Truist Bank
To Sharon A. Medcalf
5107 Canton Road, Tangier
For \$26,500

Osprey-Eyed Reader Contest: From Fish to Dish! Yum!

Last Week's Contest: Find the Cartoon Fish

Last week's six cartoon fish were on pages 2, 16, 19, 23, 24, and 32. Annie Schu, of Saxis, had the skill to find all six and then the luck to be randomly selected as the winner of a \$25 gift certificate to Eastern Shore Pets in Onley.

This Week's Contest: Place Settings for All

In recognition of Sage Diner being our sponsor this week, we have placed

six place settings in this edition of the Post. Specifically, this place setting:



From among the osprey-eyed readers who find all six, we will randomly choose one reader to receive a \$25 gift certificate to the Sage Diner in Onley. See sponsor's box on this page.

The rules:

- Find the place settings and tell us where you found them (page number and location on the page). Send

this information to david@easternshorepost.com.

- You can start sending your entries now. Entries MUST have your first and last names and your town.

- Include a photograph if you choose to submit one and tell us a little something about the picture.

- Entries will be accepted until noon on Monday, Jan. 4. Entries arriving after noon on Monday the 4th will not be entered in the contest.

- Anyone submitting a photograph must have taken the picture or have permission to use it.

- Do not submit multiple entries.

The winner and as many runners-up as possible will get their photographs in the paper. If you don't want to use your own picture, you can submit a photo of your child or a pet — or a plate you broke, a cup you soak, or even a bear you had the foolhardy courage to poke. Just no feet.

Business owners, charities, fundraisers: if you want to raise awareness, advertise, and get on the good side of puzzle lovers up and down the Shore, consider sponsoring a weekly prize in the osprey-eyed reader contest. The prize value must be a minimum of \$25 but can be in any form you decide: merchandise, tickets, services. Readers of the Eastern Shore Post love the osprey-eyed reader contest — get in on the fun and contact Troy Justis at ads@easternshorepost.com.

Last Week's Winner



Finding all six cartoon fish made Annie Schu, of Saxis, a contestant. Then a random number generator made her the winner of a \$25 gift certificate to Eastern Shore

Pets in Onley. Standing in as winners for their grandmother are Schu's grandsons, Luc and Alex, dressed in matching pajamas and looking thrilled on Christmas morning.



THIS WEEK'S OSPREY-EYED SPONSOR

This week's \$25 gift certificate is donated by:

The Sage Diner

25558 Lankford Highway, Onley

Open 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday to Saturday

365 Days a Year! Eat in or Carryout!

Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner

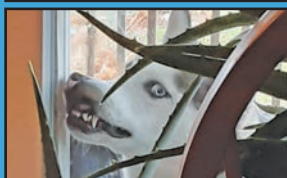
Breakfast all Day!



Runners-Up



Why is runner-up Ernie Swisher, of Parksley, looking so happy? He has just finished canning 35 pints of homegrown tomatoes.



We had never heard the word "derpy" before, but Jessica Thornes, of Bloxom, explains it with this picture of her crazy husky, Bella, with a "derpy look."



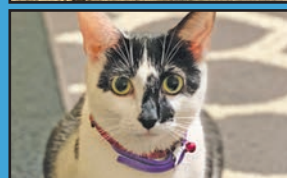
If you want to know what Christmas morning looks like, just check out the faces of Samuel, 10, and James, 6. Sent in by mom Sarah Ross, of Chincoteague.



Suzy and Missy are resting before doing anything strenuous, like walking to the food bowl. Sent in by Jeanette Bell, of Onley.



Taylor Lewis, of Melfa, said her sweet dog was ready for Christmas but Murphy looks like he is still considering the prospect of being a reindeer.



Oreo knows that eye contact is vital if you want to own the camera, which is operated by runner-up Brittany Pettit, of Parksley.

Runners-Up Not Pictured:

Theresa Lattimore, Bloxom
Cotina Strand, Melfa
Joestte Jones, Hallwood
Elaine Baseman, Horntown

Pamela Jones, Hallwood
Charles Elsner, Stockton, Md.
Charlie Koski, Chincoteague

John Chrzanowski, Melfa
Amy Eckard, Temperanceville
Jimmy Nickerson, Parksley

Rob Moore, Cape Charles
Patty Bailey, Cheriton
Virginia Manzione, Exmore
Sarah Morgan, Oyster

Random Facts About ... New Year Celebrations Around the World

By David Martin

What we found when we opened our internet tubes for cleaning this week were grapes, broken dishes, brightly colored underpants, and a trembling possum. What they all have in common is their use in New Year's Eve celebrations.

In a combination of tradition and superstition, many people in Spain believe that bad luck can be avoided and good luck encouraged if they eat one grape for each stroke of the chimes marking midnight Dec. 31. The 12 grapes can be eaten one by one, keeping pace with the 12 chimes, or for an extra dose of good fortune, the grapes can be loaded into your mouth and kept there until, by the last stroke of the year, your cheeks are bulging with 12 grapes. Choking on those grapes while trying to get them down the hatch would, we guess, qualify as bad luck.

In Denmark, cups and plates and other dinnerware are broken on a neighbor's doorstep as a sign of affection and good luck. The more broken crockery on your doorstep, the more popular you are. In the month lead-

ing up to the new year, dinnerware manufacturers sell a lot of seconds that people then use to smash at their neighbors' doors. In some areas, the tradition has been modified so that people put little piles of broken crockery on doorsteps rather than do the actual smashing, which prevents door damage but doesn't seem as much fun.

The color of your underwear will portend your fortune in the new year, according to beliefs in Mexico and some South American countries. Wear red underpants on New Year's Eve if you're hoping for romance in the new year. Blue underwear brings good health. White underpants signify a hope for peace and prosperity. Black drawers will bring bad luck. Yellow underwear is supposed to bring financial good fortune, although we thought yellow underpants signified something else entirely.

In parts of the South, especially in North Carolina towns, a possum would be dropped at midnight on New Year's Eve in imitation of the ball dropping in Times Square, New York City. Some critics of the possum drop believed that live

possums were dropped off buildings at midnight, but the celebration actually puts the possum in a wire cage or plexiglass box and slowly lowers the animal in the same manner that the Times Square ball is lowered to mark the end of the year. Even so, animal rights organizations protested possum drops as being cruel to the animals, so some towns switched to possums that were victims of roadkill or the artistic expressions of taxidermists.

If you don't want to break plates or worry about the color of your underpants or don't have a possum to drop, some other ways you can welcome in 2021:

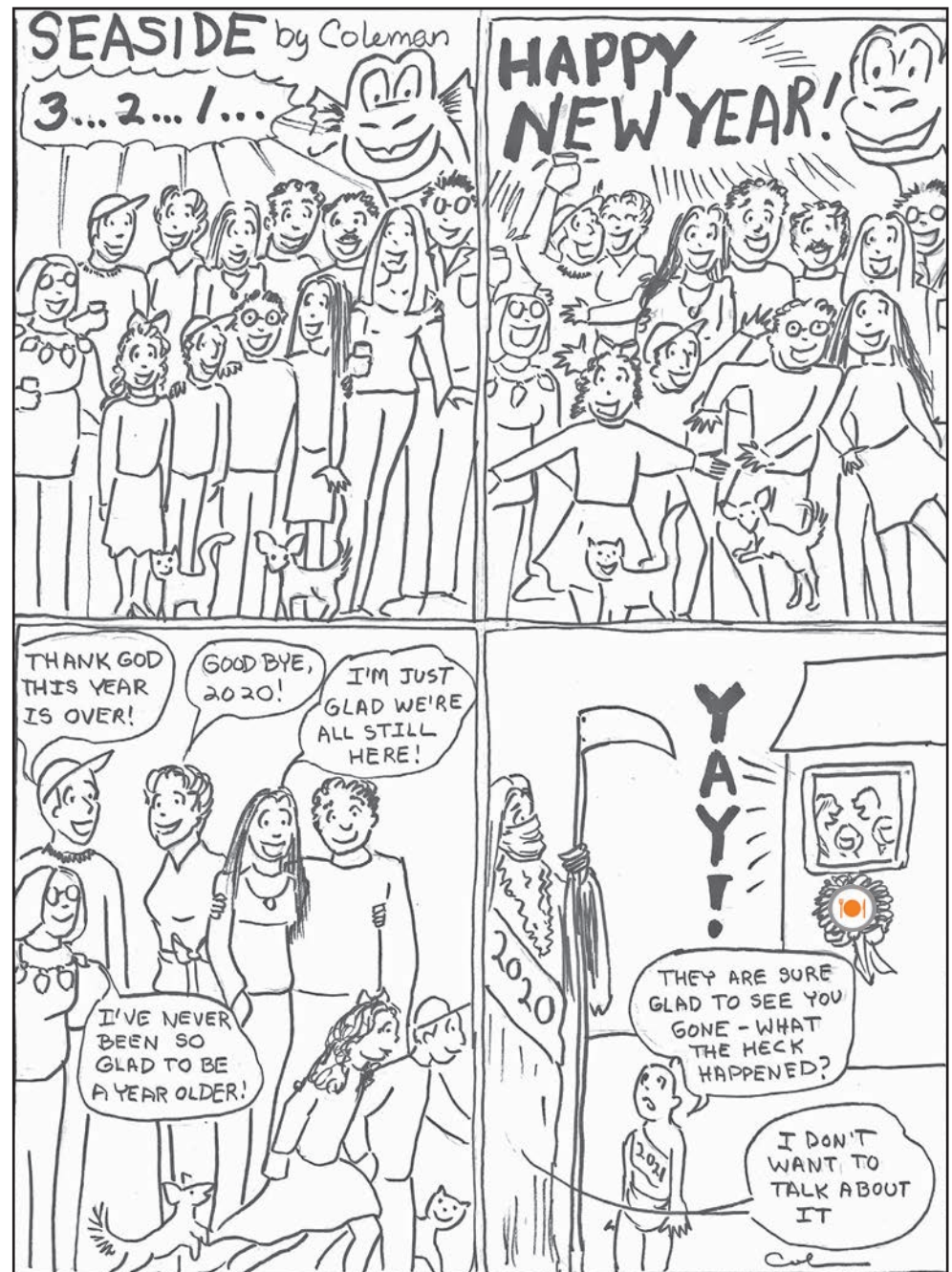
- Spread salt on your doorstep to bring good luck in the new year.

- Observe the Scottish tradition of first footing by making sure the first person to enter your home is a dark-haired man. First footing men with blond or red hair are thought to bring bad luck because Vikings had blond and red hair and when they showed up on your doorstep, bad luck followed in brutal ways.

- Throw white flowers into the ocean as they do in Brazil.

- Hang an onion or a lemon, squish a pomegranate against your door the way the Greeks do (the more seeds, the more luck), or pound a loaf of bread against a wall as the Irish do.

Anything to make 2021 better than the year we've just endured.





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TIDE TABLE

		Friday Jan. 1	Saturday Jan. 2	Sunday Jan. 3	Monday Jan. 4	Tuesday Jan 5	Wednesday Jan. 6	Thursday Jan. 7
Seaside	Assateague Beach	H 9:29 a.m. L 4:04 p.m.	H 10:13 a.m. L 4:52 p.m.	H 10:57 a.m. L 5:39 p.m.	H 11:45 a.m. L 6:28 p.m.	H 12:36 p.m. L 6:40 a.m.	H 1:33 p.m. L 7:42 a.m.	H 2:34 p.m. L 8:48 a.m.
	Chinco. Channel	H 9:29 a.m. L 4:01 p.m.	H 10:12 a.m. L 4:43 p.m.	H 10:59 a.m. L 5:27 p.m.	H 11:49 a.m. L 6:15 p.m.	H 12:43 p.m. L 6:39 a.m.	H 1:41 p.m. L 7:45 a.m.	H 2:42 p.m. L 8:52 a.m.
	Gargatha Neck	H 10:25 a.m. L 4:46 p.m.	H 11:09 a.m. L 5:31 p.m.	H 11:53 a.m. L 6:18 p.m.	H 12:41 p.m. L 6:20 a.m.	H 1:32 p.m. L 7:19 a.m.	H 2:29 p.m. L 8:21 a.m.	H 3:30 p.m. L 9:27 a.m.
	Folly Creek	H 10:18 a.m. L 4:31 p.m.	H 11:02 a.m. L 5:16 p.m.	H 11:46 a.m. L 6:03 p.m.	H 12:34 p.m. L 6:05 a.m.	H 1:25 p.m. L 7:04 a.m.	H 2:22 p.m. L 8:06 a.m.	H 3:23 p.m. L 9:12 a.m.
	Wachapreague	H 9:59 a.m. L 4:08 p.m.	H 10:40 a.m. L 4:50 p.m.	H 11:23 a.m. L 5:37 p.m.	H 12:09 p.m. L 6:28 p.m.	H 12:59 p.m. L 6:49 a.m.	H 1:54 p.m. L 7:53 a.m.	H 2:55 p.m. L 8:56 a.m.
	Quinby Inlet	H 9:29 a.m. L 3:36 p.m.	H 10:13 a.m. L 4:31 p.m.	H 10:57 a.m. L 5:18 p.m.	H 11:45 a.m. L 6:07 p.m.	H 12:36 p.m. L 6:19 a.m.	H 1:33 p.m. L 7:21 a.m.	H 2:34 p.m. L 8:27 a.m.
	Machipongo	H 9:59 a.m. L 4:15 p.m.	H 10:43 a.m. L 5:00 p.m.	H 11:27 a.m. L 5:47 p.m.	H 12:15 p.m. L 5:49 a.m.	H 1:06 p.m. L 6:48 a.m.	H 2:03 p.m. L 7:50 a.m.	H 3:04 p.m. L 8:56 a.m.
Bayside	Tangier Sound Light	H 1:19 p.m. L 6:57 a.m.	H 2:03 p.m. L 7:44 a.m.	H 2:51 p.m. L 8:38 a.m.	H 3:42 p.m. L 9:38 a.m.	H 4:38 p.m. L 10:43 a.m.	H 5:38 p.m. L 11:50 a.m.	H 6:26 a.m. L 12:29 p.m.
	Muddy Creek	H 1:44 p.m. L 7:51 a.m.	H 2:25 p.m. L 8:36 a.m.	H 3:09 p.m. L 9:25 a.m.	H 3:57 p.m. L 10:19 a.m.	H 4:49 p.m. L 11:19 a.m.	H 5:46 p.m. L 12:24 p.m.	H 6:37 a.m. L 1:33 p.m.
	Guard Shore	H 1:36 p.m. L 7:47 a.m.	H 2:17 p.m. L 8:32 a.m.	H 3:01 p.m. L 9:21 a.m.	H 3:49 p.m. L 10:15 a.m.	H 4:41 p.m. L 11:15 a.m.	H 5:38 p.m. L 12:20 p.m.	H 6:29 a.m. L 1:29 p.m.
	Chescon. Creek	H 1:11 p.m. L 6:59 a.m.	H 1:52 p.m. L 7:44 a.m.	H 2:36 p.m. L 8:33 a.m.	H 3:24 p.m. L 9:27 a.m.	H 4:16 p.m. L 10:27 a.m.	H 5:13 p.m. L 11:32 a.m.	H 6:04 a.m. L 12:41 p.m.
	Onancock Creek	H 1:25 p.m. L 7:19 a.m.	H 2:06 p.m. L 8:04 a.m.	H 2:50 p.m. L 8:53 a.m.	H 3:38 p.m. L 9:47 a.m.	H 4:30 p.m. L 10:47 a.m.	H 5:27 a.m. L 11:52 a.m.	H 6:18 a.m. L 1:01 p.m.
	Pungoteague Creek	H 12:41 p.m. L 6:33 a.m.	H 1:22 p.m. L 7:18 a.m.	H 2:06 p.m. L 8:07 a.m.	H 2:54 p.m. L 9:01 a.m.	H 3:46 p.m. L 10:01 a.m.	H 4:43 p.m. L 11:06 a.m.	H 5:47 p.m. L 12:15 p.m.
	Nassawadox	H 11:26 a.m. L 5:44 p.m.	H 12:08 p.m. L 6:27 a.m.	H 12:52 p.m. L 6:29 a.m.	H 1:39 p.m. L 7:23 a.m.	H 2:31 p.m. L 8:23 a.m.	H 3:28 p.m. L 9:29 a.m.	H 4:32 p.m. L 10:38 a.m.
	Occhohan. Creek	H 12:01 p.m. L 5:45 a.m.	H 12:44 p.m. L 6:30 a.m.	H 1:29 p.m. L 7:18 a.m.	H 2:16 p.m. L 8:14 a.m.	H 3:08 p.m. L 9:19 a.m.	H 4:04 p.m. L 10:26 a.m.	H 5:03 p.m. L 11:31 a.m.
	Cape Charles	H 10:15 a.m. L 4:52 p.m.	H 10:56 a.m. L 5:35 p.m.	H 11:40 p.m. L 6:21 p.m.	H 12:28 p.m. L 6:31 a.m.	H 1:20 p.m. L 7:31 a.m.	H 2:17 p.m. L 8:36 a.m.	H 3:21 p.m. L 9:45 a.m.
	Kiptopeke Beach	H 9:47 a.m. L 4:22 p.m.	H 10:29 a.m. L 5:04 p.m.	H 11:14 a.m. L 5:48 p.m.	H 12:03 p.m. L 5:55 a.m.	H 12:57 p.m. L 6:55 a.m.	H 1:56 p.m. L 8:01 a.m.	H 3:00 p.m. L 9:12 a.m.

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 P O T E I P K M K S I O U G E
 D B Z T W G S C I X W P S U T
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 O E Y E S P O T S N O S O L K
 J I D A I N A V L Y S T O P S
 S P O T L E S S T O P S N U S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: A BEAM OF LIGHT ON STAGE

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| Despotism | Ink spot | Spotless | Starspot |
| Eyepots | Nightspot | Spotsylvania | Sunspots |
| Fusspot | Spot-check | Spotter | Unspotted |
| Hotspot | Spot-weld | Spotty | |

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Last Week's Answers

W	A	G	S	E	T	N	A	S	L	O	W	I	S	H	A	W	E		
W	H	O	I	S	T	H	I	S	H	I	B	A	C	H	I	F	O	G	
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8	7	4	3	2	5	9	1	6
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

7				6				9
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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

AUTO SUGGESTION

- | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 44 Road given a no. | 94 Abbr. for those with only one given name | 128 Asian nation | 31 Vowel, e.g. | 79 Bodily band |
| 1 Halo sporter | 46 Pop-rock singer | 95 Mil. unit | 129 Garish | 32 Bull leather | 80 Benes on "Seinfeld" |
| 6 Nest nuggets | 50 Kind of sheet metal | 96 Tooth anchor | DOWN | 33 Capsizes | 81 Investigates |
| 10 Had no being | 54 Border illumination on some smartphones | 98 First extended stay on the International Space Station | 1 TV title alien | 35 Ending for major | 83 Annul |
| 15 "Vamoose!" | 58 What bran provides, to Brits | 104 Spiny plants | 2 Natal lead-in | 38 Conn. hours | 84 Author |
| 19 "I wanna try!" | 60 Grads.-to-be | 107 With 103-Down, didn't know at all | 3 Yukon | 39 Compulsion maker | 85 A lot like |
| 20 Cameo, e.g. | 61 Basso Pinza | 109 Radio knob | 4 Avian-based skin care product | 41 Inferior mags | 88 Rub oil on |
| 21 Lend — (pay attention) | 62 Outfits anew | 110 Loin steaks | 5 To a smaller degree | 45 Someone — problem | 89 Wowed |
| 22 Poi source | 64 "No" voter | 111 Put in order | 6 Botch it up | 47 Tony winner | 91 Future louse |
| 23 Participants in a guided discussion | 65 "— culpa!" | 113 Writer Franz | 7 "Sheesh!" | 48 Writer Blyton | 94 Bismarck is its cap. |
| 25 Longtime kids' nature magazine | 66 Slender nails | 114 "Y" athlete | 8 Biochemical sugar | 49 Huge heads | 97 Realm of Oedipus |
| 27 Spanish for "bear" | 67 Large cosmological aggregate | 115 Annual Arizona football game | 9 Erma Bombeck's "The Grass Is Always Greener Over the — Tank" | 51 More, in music | 99 PalmPilot, e.g., in brief |
| 28 McDonnell Douglas jet | 71 Imams' God | 117 New York City fashion-industry agency whose name is apt for this puzzle | 10 Alert | 52 "Psycho" co-star Janet | 100 — Tower (Paris sight) |
| 30 Refuge | 75 U.S. tax org. | 122 Shoe fillers | 11 Actress Ortiz | 53 Dog in "The Thin Man" | 101 Agenda part |
| 31 Thelma's cohort, in film | 76 Berlin article | 123 Conical tent | 12 Pick up on | 54 Bidding site | 102 Like an oval or rectangle |
| 34 Use an entryway | 77 Ejected lava | 124 Comics' Kett | 13 1998 Winter Olympics city | 55 Common battery type | 103 See |
| 35 Velvet or Hallow ender | 82 Waste time | 125 "Peachy!" | 14 Nonkosher | 56 Infuriated | 107-Across |
| 36 — hop (jitterbug) | 83 Party game | 126 Sommer of Hollywood | 15 More direct | 59 "What You Need" rock band | 104 — latte |
| 37 14- to 18-year-old in a British youth association | 84 "— not lost" | 127 Laudier of fragrances | 16 — terrier | 63 Injured-arm supporter | 105 Disney's "Little Mermaid" |
| 40 Source copy: Abbr. | 86 1980s TV's Remington | | 17 Curved | 65 Actor Paul | 106 Streamlet |
| 42 "BTW" part | 87 1966 Wilson Pickett hit | | 18 Sweet white wine | 66 Yahoo | 108 Become a parent to |
| 43 You, in Berlin | 90 The "I" of 75-Across | | 24 Word after film or play | 68 Left the bed | 112 Fence "door" |
| | 92 Show up for | | 26 Frank topper | 69 Kin of a tulip | 113 Swiss painter Paul |
| | 93 Farm female | | 29 Musician Brian | 70 Once, once | 116 Really small |
| | | | | 71 Mater lead-in | 118 Berlin article |
| | | | | 72 Yahoo | 119 Water, to |
| | | | | 73 Rearmost | Somme |
| | | | | 74 It lingers in the mouth | folks |
| | | | | 78 — annum | 120 "Inc." cousin |
| | | | | | 121 — latte |

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2020 Was Tough but Shore Athletes Found Ways to Succeed



Maddison Johnson (left) and coach Chelsea Porter Sharp pose in Richmond with the medal Johnson won in the 100-yard breaststroke. Submitted photo.



Coach Rodney Armstrong instructs his Arcadia Firebirds in their postseason game against Thomas Jefferson. Photo by Matthew Yoder.



Take down specialist Aizimani Joseph defeats a wrestler from Salem High at the Warrior Duals. He placed third in the state and finished his sophomore campaign with a 42-8 record. Photo by Brennan Waldorf.

Story by Matthew Yoder and Brennan Waldorf

You could say 2020 was the year that wasn't in sports, but to do so would diminish the efforts of athletes, parents, and organizations who persevered to successfully compete with great skill amid compromising situations. The year started out much as any normal year would, with a number of local teams fighting hard on the court to position for postseason basketball play and with swimmers and wrestlers achieving great individual feats. As some were signing letters of intent to transition to the next level of competition and the weather began to give rise to outdoor competition, the world stopped, went into shutdown, and many lost their outlet to compete. For a large number of Shore athletes this remains the situation, but it's worth noting, in looking back at the year, that many others have taken it upon themselves to persist. In talking about 2020, early there were the traditional moments of achievement, and later many other stories emerged that speak to the will of the human spirit to compete.

Basketball

Speaking from a newcomer's perspective, 2020 was a tremendously entertaining year for boys and girls basketball on the Shore. From rivalry games that concluded in true nail biting fashion to spirited play from built-from-the-ground-up programs, as well as a pair of Northampton players reaching career milestones, there were a number of storylines that

defined a strong year of competition.

The Arcadia boys nearly ran the table in league play, fighting off pointed efforts from Nandua, Northampton, and Chincoteague. The senior-heavy Firebirds played the comeback kids in a number of games, ultimately keeping their composure to walk away victorious. They earned a first-round bye in district play and hosted Thomas Jefferson in the second round. Their run ended with a hard-fought 72-64 loss. Lethon Williams scored 23 points in his final game.

The Northampton Lady Jackets took down the district title on their home court back on Jan. 30. They went undefeated in the district before advancing to the regional tournament where they fell to Lancaster High. Senior Maeyanna Delk guided the Jackets over Arcadia, racking up 30 points on limited playing time, putting her into in the 1,000-point club.

Northampton senior Vonte Coston joined the 1,000-point club back on Jan.

13 against regional Franklin High. The two-way guard had a spectacular night scoring 41 points on superb shooting. The senior went 6 for 9 behind the arc while knocking down 16 of his 22 shots on the night. He added eight rebounds, four assists, and two steals as the Jackets defeated the Broncos 84-58.

Swimming

The Nandua Swimming team traveled to Richmond on Feb. 19 to compete in the combined Division I & II state swimming and diving tournament after a stellar performance at regionals. Both teams took third overall at regionals while the boys finished 11th overall at states and the girls finished 17th. Maddison Johnson landed on the state podium with a seventh-place finish in the girls 100-yard breaststroke. The boys relay team made up of Luke Parks, Bennett Cossitt, Cade Williams, and Patrick Lilliston won medals in the 200-yard relay, placing seventh, and the 400-yard relay with an eighth-place finish.

Wrestling

This year's Shore state tournament was quite bountiful with several wrestlers placing and bringing home medals from the five-hour trip. Northampton's Aizimani Joseph had the Shore's best showing across all divisions, placing third overall. The sophomore lost only one match, and he major decisioned Grundy's Jacob Stiltner for his bronze medal. Joseph finished his second season with a 42-8 record and an All-State standing.

The Nandua Warriors made a splash on the state level as one of the top teams in Virginia by cracking into the top 10 and tying for seventh place with Stuart Draft High School with 61 points. The Warriors made a name for themselves advancing eight wrestlers to the final dance with five Warriors taking the podium in Salem. Their top performers include, (106) Collin Ford sixth place, (120) Matthew Taylor fifth place, (145) Cameron Mears sixth place, (160) Joseph Teasley fourth place, and (170) David Gastelum fourth place.

Arcadia High School advanced three wrestlers to the Division II tourney and was led by (113) Angel Vasquez. Vasquez placed fifth overall after pinning Sam Pequignot of Madison County.

Broadwater Academy's William Wehner placed in the VISAA State Wrestling Tournament held Feb. 14-15. The freshman is the only wrestler on the team traveling and competing alongside Northampton. He compiled a 23-10 season and finished seventh



Billy Justice and Greg Ford spearheaded the effort to bring back baseball and softball this fall to the fields in Onancock. Photo by Matthew Yoder.



Truly all kids mattered this summer at Deverick Henderson's basketball camp. Photo by Matthew Yoder.

overall after decisioning Jeffery Billings of Fishburne Military School.

Football

Nandua standout Larry Jones has chosen to continue his playing career at the next level, taking his talents to Richmond for Virginia Union University. Jones was a four-year varsity letterman at Nandua, concluding his career as the only player from the Shore to earn Division II All-Regional honors last season. As the district defensive player of the year, Jones had an outstanding final season. Jones ended with 89 tackles, 65 solo tackles, 20 tackles for a loss, 2.5 sacks, one fumble recovery, and one blocked extra point.

Deverick Henderson's Summer Camp for Kids

Initially started as an outlet to get his kids up and mobile, Shore native Deverick Henderson opened an impromptu day camp at the parking lot of Arcadia High School. News spread and quickly the camp supported more than 50 young boys and girls several times a week. Attendees gained an understanding of the fundamentals of basketball from a number of capable teachers and, more importantly, found the time of fellowship when they most needed youthful interaction.

Charles Baines returns to the Shore, and Ace Custis continues to thrive at Virginia Tech

Professional basketball player and Accomack County native Charles Baines returned home from a break in overseas competition and devoted some of his time to helping kids on the Shore. Baines could be found working

out early hours at the YMCA with his father to stay primed to return as the standout shooter he became known as. Northampton County's prolific star Ace Custis continues to impress beyond his playing days, serving as special assistant to head coach Mike Young at his alma mater, Virginia Tech. As of press time, the Hokies are currently 7-1, having just started play in the highly competitive Atlantic Coast Conference. They are ranked 24th in the country.

The Cancellation and re-emergence of Little League baseball

Coming off a standout year for both T-ball registration and distinguished upper-level Little League play, the Central Accomack Little League was poised to keep the momentum going. Following recommendations from Little League organizations, Central Accomack Little League canceled the much-anticipated spring season, hoping to return with fall ball instead. Board members, who always display the utmost concern for local children, decided to press forward in the fall, and a successful campaign even included a modified and more localized Sundog tournament.

Travel softball teams and letters of intent

Many local softball players found an outlet to satisfy their competitive desires with a number of travel teams. The Eastern Shore Thunder, East Coast Titans, and DelMarVa Freedom all benefited from contributions of local talent. Two standout softball players, Chincoteague's Emma Jackson and Arcadia's Haley McDaniel, have positioned themselves to continue



Head coach Devin Allen (left) was the first female player to reach 1,000 points at Northampton. Here she poses with Maeyanna Delk who's the third female to reach the milestone. Delk scored 30 points in the contest against AHS. Photo by Brennan Waldorf.

their stellar careers at the collegiate level. Jackson has verbally committed to play at Virginia Tech, while McDaniel signed a letter of intent to play at Chesapeake College.

25 Years of Hockey in Parksley

Delayed but not deterred, the Eastern Shore Street Hockey League dropped the puck, or in their case, the ball, on their 25th season of play at Stapleton Rink in Parksley. Participation in the league is still robust, and the level of play continues at a high level.



Emma Jackson provided a strong bat for the East Coast Titans this past summer and fall. Photo by Brennan Waldorf.



Larry Jones, accompanied by family and coaches, signs his letter of intent to play football at Virginia Union University. (L-R front row) father Larry Jones Sr., Larry Jones, and mother, Lisa Cypress. (L-R back row) head principal George Parker, head coach Thomas Rotkowski, assistant coach Brock Custis, and athletic director Luke Brankley. Photo by Brennan Waldorf.

Accomac's Kim Penland Recalls Peacekeeping Mission in Beirut

Story and Photo by Bill Sterling

Three days before Christmas, when the galvanizing cry across the world is "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men," former U.S. Marine Kim Penland recalls a time when he was sent to Beirut as a member of a peacekeeping mission.

Now 88 and living in Accomac with his wife of 64 years, Jo, Kim was a 26-year-old aide-de-camp lieutenant serving Gen. Sidney Wade in 1958. The Penlands, married for two years at the time, were staying in military housing at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and holding a potluck party with friends when Gen. Wade called.

With the help of his wife and daughter Nancy, a writer who now lives in Malaysia, Penland tells how he soon found himself in a tense situation in faraway Asia.

"The general told me, 'Pack your bags, Penland. We are going to be assigned on an overseas mission, but I can't tell you where we are going,'" recalls Penland. "Jo had to spend half the night ironing my utilities uniform."

It turned out Penland was headed for Beirut, the capital of Lebanon. Since the Eisenhower Doctrine for the Middle East had been established after the end of World War II, any country included in the agreement could ask the United States for help in averting a conflict or communist insurrection that would put a democratically elected leader in jeopardy. In this case, the governing body of Lebanon was facing a rebellion led by its own military commander.

Gen. Wade was the staff commander for the Land Forces and brought two battalions. Penland accompanied the general on a helicopter to meet Adm. James Holloway, who was in charge of naval forces.

Penland had the utmost respect for Gen. Wade and believed he also had the general's trust. He also knew Adm. Holloway because he had dated his daughter some years before when on a Mediterranean summer tour of duty.

The troops were on board a carrier that had arrived in Beirut and then the troops landed on the beach. Penland recalls seeing many of the local residents sunbathing on the beach.

He says Gen. Wade did not want

to proceed further until they had the agreement of the embassy to the plan, but radio communications were not working.

Thus, Gen. Wade and Penland took an embassy car into town about five miles away to meet with President Chamoun of Lebanon. Wanting to hold any troop movements until he could return, Gen. Wade sent Penland back out to where the troops were stationed.

Penland recalls, "We arrived at a traffic circle where there was a long line of Lebanese tanks arranged. They had been pointing away from our troops toward the city, but when we came back about an hour later, the tanks had been repositioned so they were pointing up the road in the direction of our troops.

"I then went up to the officer at the head of the line of tanks and had a word with him. He was quite congenial. He said he had a relative stationed in the United States serving in the Army. I asked him, 'What are your orders, sir?' And he replied, 'If your tanks move any closer to town, I am to open fire on you, sir.' I said, 'Oh, okay, understood.'"

Penland went back to the troops and informed the staff about the situation. With radio communications now intact, Gen. Wade ordered all movement of the troops to be stopped until he could return, arriving soon with the ambassador, whom Penland recalls brought along his poodle for the ride.

According to Penland, Lebanese leaders and the staffs of Gen. Wade and Adm. Holloway met in a nearby school to discuss plans. The Lebanese wanted troops to enter from land while the Americans preferred to make a sea landing, not wanting to get bogged down in the sand dunes.

"They eventually agreed to our plan, and with the ambassador and his poodle, we led that battalion of Marines marching into town and brought the ships into the port with no shots fired. That was the most exciting day during my service in the Marines, I'd say," Penland recounts.

He says the moral of the story was that during that period known as the Cold War, steady and cool heads were needed. "Gen. Wade was very steady



Kim and Jo Penland reminisce at their Accomac home about Kim's experience as a Marine peacekeeper in Beirut.

and knew what actions would not make the Lebanese mad and was very careful not to unsettle the situation. He knew if we made a false move, we would have been in the middle of a firefight and even the cause of war erupting."

Penland describes another commander of the troops, known as a hothead, who was adamant that the Marines "clean out the rebel forces — sweep them out," which Adm. Holloway called "a damn fool plan" and kicked the commander out of the discussions.

Looking back, Penland says they were aware that any of these seemingly benign missions could be compromised by hasty and irrational decisions. Penland adds that day was the only action during that period the Marines Corps engaged in that was not listed as a combat engagement, only a peacekeeping mission.

Sixty-two years later, Penland is proud to say he did his duty and that his actions and comportment helped to calm a potentially dangerous situation and keep the peace.

Penland, who survived two crash landings of a helicopter during his time in the Marines, was awarded a meritorious award for service from Gen.

Wade, who attempted to convince him to remain in the service at the end of a 12-year stint when he had attained the rank of captain.

But armed with a civil engineering degree from the University of South Carolina, offers of jobs from oil companies and a growing family, Penland went to work for Exxon and eventually Gulf Oil, often taking helicopter rides without incident to oil rigs in the ocean.

The Penlands have four children, including Bruce, who lives on the Shore and checks in on his parents regularly, as well as three daughters who live off the Shore. They also have nine grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Jo Penland, a Northampton County native, convinced her husband, born in Gainesville, Fla., to retire to the Eastern Shore, where they operated a bed-and-breakfast in Willis Wharf for several years before settling in Accomac in 2006.

"Everyone has a story," said Jo Penland, "and that day in Lebanon when peace was maintained by the actions of a very small handful of wise people in a very volatile situation is Kim's story, and Christmas, a time of peace, is a perfect time to tell it."

New Hotline Available in Spanish

Submitted Article

Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center announces the launch of a hotline in Spanish for victims of violence and injustice, available starting Monday, Jan. 4.

The hotline, managed by bilingual and bicultural trained advocates, will serve victims of violence who need help in Spanish, no matter where in Virginia they live.

Through this initiative, Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center strives to ensure that victims of violence who speak Spanish and seek emergency services do not often hear the phrase, "I'm sorry, I don't speak Spanish" or have to wait days for someone who speaks Spanish to return their call.

The organization seeks equity for victims of violence with limited English proficiency by delivering services and support to be able to realize the same treatment and results, or comparable treatment and results, that English speaking vic-

tims are able to receive.

While many similar projects exist in other parts of the country the Latinos in Virginia 24/7 Hotline in Spanish is the first and only one of its kind in Virginia that can guarantee services to violence victims are always provided in Spanish by bilingual, bicultural trained advocates.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 4, those affected by violence who need services in Spanish can call 888-969-1825, 24 hours a day, from any part of Virginia. All services of Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center's are free and confidential.

Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center is a nonprofit dedicated to providing free, culturally appropriate, and linguistically specific services and support to members of the Latino community. Learn more at www.latinosenvirginia.org, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Latinos.En.Va, by email at hola@latinosenvirginia.org, or by telephone at 804-658-3341.

Línea de Ayuda Disponible en Español

Latinos en Virginia Centro de Empoderamiento anuncia el lanzamiento de su Línea de Ayuda 24/7 en español para personas afectadas por violencia e injusticia, a partir del lunes, 4 de enero.

La línea de ayuda, manejada por personal bilingüe, bicultural, y entrenado en trauma, servirá a víctimas de violencia que necesiten ayuda en español, sin importar en qué parte del estado de Virginia se encuentren.

A través de esta iniciativa, Latinos en Virginia Centro de Empoderamiento busca asegurar que las víctimas de violencia que hablan español y que buscan servicios de emergencia no escuchen la frase "Lo siento, no hablo español" con frecuencia o tengan que esperar días para que alguien que habla español les devuelva la llamada.

De esta manera, la organización busca proporcionar equidad para que víctimas de violencia con dominio limitado

del inglés puedan lograr los mismos resultados, o resultados comparables, que las víctimas que dominan el idioma. Si bien proyectos similares existen en otras partes del país desde hace muchos años, la línea de ayuda 24/7 en español de Latinos en Virginia Centro de Empoderamiento es la primera y la única línea de servicios para víctimas en el estado de Virginia que puede garantizar que sus programas siempre serán provistos en español por personal entrenado, bilingüe y bicultural.

A partir del lunes, 4 de enero, las personas afectadas por violencia que requieran servicios en español podrán llamar al 888-969-1825 las 24 horas del día, desde cualquier parte del estado. Todos los servicios de Latinos en Virginia Centro de Empoderamiento son gratuitos y confidenciales.

Conozca más en www.latinosenvirginia.org, llame al 804-658-3341, o escriba a hola@latinosenvirginia.org.

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION



Firearms – Decoys Quality Furniture – Sterling Silver Collectibles

Eastern Shore Auctions, Inc. is honored to sell the living estate of Freddie Holland of New Church, VA, with selected additions. Quality items include a large selection of Ducks Unlimited firearms and others by Beretta, Browning, Weatherby, Remington, Winchester, Parker, a J. Stevens Arms model 520-30 U.S. trench shotgun and more, decoys by "Tuts" Lawson, Hancock, Jester, Roe Terry, Danny and Carroll Marshall, Art Kilmon and others, Lance jars with display rack, Connecticut Valley Chippendale chest of drawers, Henkel Harris, Eastern Shore corner cupboard, Broyhill, Keller, Bassett and more, John Deere and Winross Toys, Silver and many more collectibles.

This is a huge auction of quality items.

See website for additional items and photos.

Bidding is currently open and ends on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, starting at 5 p.m.

Location: 28620 Ocean Gateway, Salisbury, MD 21801

Checkout Date and Time: Saturday, January 9, 2021, from 9 a.m. to Noon. No exceptions!



EASTERN SHORE AUCTIONS

Auction Hotline 443-235-5717 or 410-548-3137

Visit our website for details

easternshoreauctions.com



**Willie Benton -
Auctioneer
VA Lic. #4438**

Health Matters Obesity and COVID-19 Complications

Courtesy of Riverside Shore
Memorial Hospital

Research shows that people with COVID-19 who are obese require hospitalization and intensive care more than people with COVID-19 who aren't obese.

Obesity is having excess fat or being at an unhealthy weight for your height. It's a common condition in the U.S. In 2018, nearly 43% of adults in the U.S. had obesity, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Eating a diet with more calories than your body uses, along with too much saturated and trans fats or added sugars, can cause someone to develop obesity. But other risk factors are also involved, including:

- Sitting too much
- Having chronic stress
- Not getting enough sleep
- Not having access to healthy foods, parks, or recreational facilities for so-

cioeconomic or community-planning reasons

- Having a family history of obesity
- Having a disease or taking a medication that causes weight gain

"For most, obesity is multifactorial, which means several factors work together to cause it," said Aida Atiq, M.D., primary care physician, Riverside Medical Care Center - Mercury West.

Even though it's become quite normal for most Americans to carry extra weight, Dr. Atiq says this shouldn't make us turn a blind eye to the serious health consequences of being overweight or obese.

"Normalizing obesity is dangerous. The data show us the condition is clearly linked to other serious diseases like type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease, stroke, certain types of cancer, depression, and the list goes on," Dr. Atiq said. "And now we've added

COVID-19 to the list."

How to find out if you have obesity – and what to do next

The screening tool used to calculate obesity is called body mass index, a calculation using your weight in kilograms divided by the square of your height in meters. If you have a reliable bathroom scale and measuring tape at home, you can input your weight in pounds and height in inches into an online calculator to determine your BMI.

"You can also learn your BMI during your annual primary care checkup," Dr. Atiq said.

Anyone who has a BMI of 30 or greater has obesity and needs to work with their primary care provider on an achievable weight-loss program to prevent further health problems.

How to protect yourself during this pandemic

Catching the new coronavirus is a serious concern for anyone with obesity since they can have impaired immune function and decreased lung capacity. Obesity increases the risk of severe COVID-19 symptoms and triples the risk of hospitalization.

If you have obesity, continue to follow the CDC's recommendations for how to protect yourself from the coronavirus:

- Wash your hands often.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with others – keep at least a 6-foot distance.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others.

• Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, and immediately wash your hands afterward.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Monitor your health daily, staying aware of COVID-19 symptoms.

"Also, get some physical activity and eat a healthy diet every day. These things don't just help you lose weight; they strengthen your immune system," said Dr. Atiq.

Another good reason not to delay your weight-loss journey.

When to know if COVID-19 symptoms need medical attention

If you get sick with COVID-19, call your doctor immediately if you develop any of the following symptoms:

- A fever above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
 - A persistent cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Fatigue that keeps you in bed
- Go to the emergency room or call 911 if you have:
- Constant trouble breathing
 - Persistent chest pain or pressure
 - Confusion
 - Trouble staying awake
 - Blue lips or face

"Pandemic or not, don't put off talking to your doctor about how you can lose weight and get healthier," advised Dr. Atiq.

For more information, go to https://www.riversideonline.com/health_information/healthy_you/obesity-and-COVID-19.cfm?fbclid=IwAR1K05c5pCG-vlh2EN3nPeDXS6KAgzIEH0BtD-C3RRsOJ6tFgDC_BF0azHLk

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LOCAL NEWS**

Community Notes

ESCC Registration Rally Next Week

Eastern Shore Community College reopens from holiday break Monday, Jan. 4, and will hold its final Registration Rally Tuesday, Jan. 5, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., prior to the new semester beginning Monday, Jan. 11.

Accomack County Democratic Meeting

The Accomack County Democratic Committee's monthly general membership meeting will be a virtual platform via GoToMeeting on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at 6 p.m.

All members interested in attending the meeting should contact Executive Chair Lisa LaMontagne at 703-623-0690 for a code to access the virtual meeting.

Shoe Drive

The Museum of Chincoteague Island is conducting a shoe drive now through Feb. 18, 2021, to raise funds in light of an absence of income this year due to the pandemic. The Museum of Chincoteague Island will earn funds based on the total weight of the pairs of gently worn, used, and new shoes collected, as Funds2Orgs will issue a check for the



collected shoes. The goal is to fill 100 bags with 25 pairs of shoes in each bag. Those dollars earned will benefit continued programming and upkeep of the museum. Anyone can help by donating gently worn, used, and new shoes at the drop box located in the museum's courtyard, 7125 Maddox Blvd., Chincoteague Island, or at Shore Post and Parcel Business Center located at 4019 Main St., Chincoteague Island.

All donated shoes will then be redistributed throughout the Funds2Orgs network of micro-enterprise (small business) partners.

Bookmark Contest

The Eastern Shore Public Library is hosting a bookmark contest for all ages. The theme of the bookmark is "What I Want to Read in 2021." The winning bookmarks in each age category will be printed for distribution in the four Eastern Shore libraries.

Bookmark entries must be drawn in a 2-inch by 7-inch rectangle. Entry forms are on the Eastern Shore Public Library website, www.espl.org and Facebook page. Return your drawing and form by Jan. 5, 2021, in an envelope in your local library's book return or mail to: "Bookmark," Eastern Shore Public Library, P.O. Box 25, Parksley, VA 23421. Questions or scanned entry forms can be emailed to espl@espl.org.

4-H Virtual Decorating Contest Results

Marcus Riley, 4-H youth development agent at the Virginia Cooperative Extension, announced the winners of last month's Virtual 4-H 2020 Gingerbread House/Cookie Decorating Contest.

The winners include:

Gingerbread House Ages 5-8

Best Design: Kaden Dix (Tied) and Finnley Giorgilli (Tied)

Cookie Decorating Ages 5-8

Best Design: Hayden Morgan (Contestants 9+ who placed received a gift card: 1st - \$15, 2nd - \$10, 3rd - \$5)

Gingerbread House Ages 9-12

first place - JakHandi Tull
second place - Makiyah Gunter
third place - Kelly B.

Cookie Decorating Ages 9-12

first place - Daniel Hess
second place - Nico Ragland
third place - Chloe Bacchi

Gingerbread House Ages 13+

first place - Dylan B.
second place - Skylar Turner
third place - Jennifer Cramer

Cookie Decorating Ages 13+

No entries submitted

MILLE • Births • POSTS



This is the Age 13+ Gingerbread House Winner, submitted by Dylan B.

Hands-Free Talking While Driving Begins Jan. 1

Beginning Jan. 1, it is against the law in Virginia to hold a phone or mobile device while driving. Here are some alternative options to make a call:

- Use a Bluetooth earpiece for hands-free talking
- Virginia law states you may only have one ear bud in while driving
- If equipped, connect the phone to the vehicle through Bluetooth
- Consider having a passenger answer calls via speakerphone
- Use a cell phone mount to hold the phone

The law provides some exemptions, which include:

- Reporting an emergency
- If the driver is legally parked or stopped
- Anyone operating an emergency vehicle while in the performance of their official duties
- The use of an amateur or citizens band radio
- The operator of any Department of Transportation vehicle during the performance of traffic incident management services

As a reminder, if convicted, drivers will be fined \$125 for the first offense. If they are caught again or seen on the phone in a construction zone, the fine is \$250.



NAACP Cute Pet Contest Winners

Northampton County Branch NAACP announced the winners of the Cute Pet Contest it held last month.

Pictured above, from left are the winners: first place - CHICO, owner Tasha Church Hoffer, Salisbury, Md.; second place - REX, owner Jacquelyn McLendon, Hampton; and third place - SNICKERS, owner Trina Cooper, Accomac.

Eastern Shore Trading POST

Classified Ads, Real Estate Ads, Auctions, and Legal Notices

Announcements



BILLY'S LAST WISH

Just over a year ago, I lost my husband and best friend to the devastating disease known as Parkinson's. William L. Ferencik passed away on July 17, 2019, much to my sorrow. Though I know he is in a better place and no longer suffering, I miss him every day. He fought a long, hard battle with the disease, but in no way did he let it deter him from living every moment to its fullest ... including doing what he could to show me his love. This is what love meant to Billy ...

On October 31, 2018, Billy entered the room of my mother, Ruth Kiks, where she sat reading. He wanted to fly his wife, Joanne, to New York to renew their vows and wanted to ask her permission. It was as he told her ... His Last Wish. Needless to say she agreed and insisted he call, sooner rather than later, and make the arrangements. He immediately began doing just that.

His first call was to Judge Totolis to set a date that he could officiate the union. With that accomplished he set about making the travel reservations ...

On November 18th, William and Joanne began this last journey together. Billy's friend, David, and Joanne's mother, Ruth, carried them from Virginia's Eastern Shore to Norfolk, where they would catch their flight the next day. Flying out on American Airlines (Billy's past employer), they arrived in Syracuse, and of course ... true to his romantic nature, had them picked up by The Limousine Service of New York, and taken to their hotel, the Best Western of Johnson City. This journey's

end took place November 21, 2018, when Billy and Joanne arrived at Sons of Italy. There, they once again pledged their love and devotion to one another and sealed their union for a second time.

Without a doubt, this took a lot out of Billy, but he would have it no other way. That's my reason for writing this. I want to take the time to honor Billy's last wish and thank those who helped him with this, in his medical care and in his death. Without your help, he would not have been able to accomplish this.

My personal and heartfelt thanks to you all, His Loving Wife, Joanne Ferencik.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Judge Totolis
- American Airlines
- Best Western of Johnson City
- Sons of Italy
- Dr. Thomas Murry
- Dr. Robert Paschall
- Dr. Patrick
- Intrepid
- Riverside Shore Memorial
- Shore Rehab
- Gary Finder
- Marilyn McNeil
- Doughty Funeral Home
- Limousine Service of New York
- David Deyette, Best Friend
- John Kiks, Who Saved My Husband's Life with a 911 Call and Gave me Precious Time To Be With My Husband and Stayed With Us for 30 Days Before He Died
- Tracy Kiks and last, but by no means least...
- His loving Mother-in-Law, Ruth Kiks



The Family of The Late Matthew Thomas Nock Would Like To Thank You

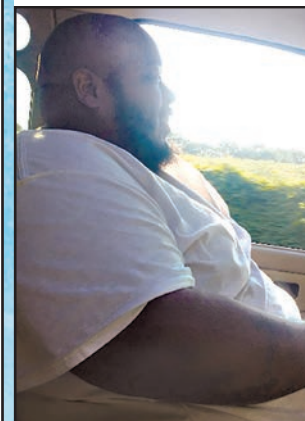
The family of the late Matthew Thomas Nock expresses great appreciation and thanks for your condolences: the kind words, telephone calls, cards, flowers, gifts, and the time you took to express your heartfelt sympathy.

In Memory of a Life

Valice Ray Harmon

Jan. 3, 1933 – Dec. 13, 2016

You will be forever missed and loved!
Rest In Peace



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Announcements (Cont'd)



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Send display ads to
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Help Wanted

William & Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science Laboratory, located in Wachapreague, VA, is seeking qualified applicants for the full-time position of Seawater Lab Manager. This position oversees the daily operations of a state-of-the-art 8,000 sq. ft. seawater laboratory and associated outdoor seawater tanks and flow-through tables at the VIMS Eastern Shore Laboratory.

For further information, qualifications, and to apply to position #FP083V Research Seawater Ops Lab Manager, please visit our online application system at <https://jobs.wm.edu>. Only online applications will be accepted.

William & Mary values diversity and invites applications from underrepresented groups who will enrich the research, teaching and service missions of the university. The university is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer and encourages applications from women, minorities, protected veterans, and individuals with disabilities.

SEASONAL SHOREBIRD/WATERBIRD FIELD TECHNICIAN

The Nature Conservancy is soliciting applications for a short-term Shorebird/Waterbird Field Technician to assist with management activities for nesting birds on the islands of the Volgenau Virginia Coast Reserve. This position will last 18-20 weeks beginning in April 2021. Responsibilities include monitoring beach nesting birds, posting and patrolling bird colonies and visitor education. Basic qualifications include coursework in wildlife biology or related field, bird monitoring experience, and boat operation/trailing experience. To see complete details for this position and to apply, go to www.nature.org/careers, click *Current Job Opportunities*, search jobs by the position title and/or location, then click *Apply Now* to submit an online application by 11:59 pm on January 17, 2021. The Nature Conservancy is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Cherrystone Aqua-Farms is seeking a highly motivated and detailed oriented individual to work in our Willis Wharf hatchery.

Duties include but are not limited to:

- cleaning and maintaining all equipment and systems associated with our production facility
- keeping detailed logs and records
- work both as part of a team and independently

Prior hatchery experience is preferred, but not necessary.

The qualified candidate will be expected to work a flexible schedule that will include part or all of weekends and holidays throughout the hatchery season. Compensation is commensurate with experience.

TO APPLY: send an email with a brief explanation of interest and your resume attached to hatcheryjobs@clamandoyster.com

Certified VA Inspector Wanted Immediate Opening

- MUST HAVE VA INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION
- STOP BY TO PICK UP AN APPLICATION MON-FRI,
8AM-5PM, AT MOORE'S TOWING & REPAIR
15442 MERRY CAT LN., BELLE HAVEN, VA 23306
757-442-2734**

ACCOMACK COUNTY Virginia

Convenience Center Attendants
P/T position
Rate: \$ 10.76 hourly

The County of Accomack is seeking applications for part-time positions for Convenience Center Attendant, in the Public Works Department.

The position is responsible for operating and maintaining the convenience center facilities and assisting customers as needed. Applicants must be able to work weekends and holidays. *Attendants may be assigned to any location within the County.*

Qualifications: A high school diploma or GED is preferred; A valid driver's license and satisfactory completion of a background check and drug screening prior to employment are required. A job description and application instructions can be obtained from the County's website: <http://www.co.accomack.va.us/residents/job-opportunities>.

First consideration will be given to applications received prior to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 7, 2021.

The County of Accomack is committed to an inclusive and diverse workforce.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS VACANCIES – IMMEDIATE OPENINGS 2020-2021

- Administrative Assistant-Human Resources
- Administrative Assistant-Special Programs Compliance and Records Management Assistant
- Art Teacher-Elementary
- Behavioral Support Aide
- Bus Monitor
- Bus Drivers (paid CDL training will be provided)
- Cafeteria Workers
- Car Driver
- Coordinator of Grants
- Elementary Teacher
- Family & Consumer Science Teacher
- School Psychologist
- School Secretary-Part-Time & Full-Time
- Secondary Mathematics Teacher
- Special Education Teacher
- Substitutes-Teachers, Custodians, Cafeteria Workers, Nurses, etc.
- Technology Lab Assistant
- Tutors-Math & Reading
- Xtreme Reading Teacher

For job descriptions, qualifications, salaries, and to apply go to www.ncpsk12.com

**Inquiries may be directed to:
Melinda Phillips - Director of Administrative Services
(757) 678-5151 ext. 2013 or mphillips@ncpsk12.com**

Northampton County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities.

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at 757-789-7678

Help Wanted (Cont'd)

Accomack County Social Services- Local (765-01) Family Services Specialist I/II (Accomack)

Position Number: L0010

Hiring Range: \$30,828 (May be higher depending on qualifications and budgetary considerations.)

For detailed job information and to apply, visit <http://www.dss.virginia.gov>. Accepts only online applications; job close date 01/11/2021.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Accomack County Social Services- Local (765-01) Office Associate II (Accomack)

Position Number: L0039

Hiring Range: \$20,298 (May be higher depending on qualifications.)

For detailed job information and to apply, visit <http://www.dss.virginia.gov>. Accepts only online applications; job close date 01/11/2021.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Town of Onancock is accepting applications for a **Police Officer**. Virginia DCJS law enforcement certification is preferred. Applicants must meet the minimum requirements as outlined in section §15.2-1705.A of the Code of Virginia.

Applications may be obtained at www.onancock.com or during normal business hours from the Onancock Town Office, 15 North St., Onancock, VA 23417. Applications will be accepted until filled.

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

Developmental Disabilities Aide (\$11.25/hour- \$2.50/hour-weekend differential)
Peer Recovery/Engagement Specialist
Clinician

Part-time Peer Recovery Specialist
Mental Health Facility Technician

For more information or to apply, please visit the ESCSB's website at www.escsb.org

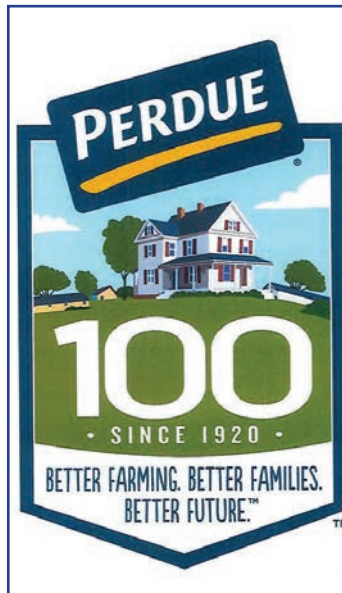


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34' DELTAVILLE DEAD-RISE \$28,500 OBO - Charter Fishing Boat. 2012 Re-Power Cat 3208T (757) 678-3718. dat556@verizon.net www.ltbaycharters.com

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Circa 1851 historic post & beam structure for sale. 18'x18' frame. Ideal for re-building on your own lot. \$500 obo to a good home. Also, bricks and beams avail. Call Tom 301-646-1040

LAWN MOWER - John Deere with 84 hours. Zero-turn, 54-inch cut, \$4,000. Call 757-894-0669 or 757-665-5040

1953 ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE 600 FORD TRACTOR - \$3,500. 442-7507.

NEW TRAILER - 6' x 12', back and side gates, \$1,800. Call 757-894-0669 or 757-665-5040

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HORSE HAY for sale (\$6 per bale) and STRAW (\$4 per bale). Call 757-824-3930 or call 757-894-1339 (cell).

Firewood

PLENTY OF SEASONED OAK AND CHERRY FIREWOOD CUT 16"-18" - 757-678-2566.

Firewood
757-442-7540

Misc. - For Sale

STAGE EQUIPMENT FOR SALE - Stage lights/cords, CD burner equipment, microphones, old trunk. Call for pricing: 757-709-5327.

LIKE NEW: 2 INDIAN HEAD PENNIES - \$6 a set. Call 757-442-4252.

WHIRLPOOL PROPANE WATER HEATER TANK Exc. cond., \$275. Located on Chincoteague. 804-218-1090.

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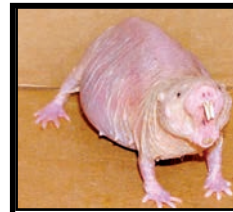
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2016 TOYOTA CAMRY - 4-dr., 4-cyl., auto., A/C, full pwr., cruise, tilt, CD, backup camera, exc. cond., Toyota warranty. \$14,900. Call 443-235-0304.

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2010 ULTRA CLASSIC FULL DRESSER - \$8,500. 757-787-2190.

2003 HONDA SILVERWING SCOOTER 600cc - Tour pack, adj. back rest, garage kept, tall windshield, like new, current maint., 43K mi., \$3,000. 757-710-4835.

Legal Advertising

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 19148 GLENN DR, PARKSLEY, VA 23421. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated December 3, 2018, in the original principal amount of \$264,568.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Accomack County, Virginia as Instrument No. 180004411. 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 on February 1, 2021, at 11:00 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE IN METOMPKIN DISTRICT, ACCOMACK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, DESIGNATED AS LOT #24 ON THE PLAT OF "GARGATHA LANDING" RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ACCOMACK COUNTY, ON JULY 23, 1986, WITH A DEED TO SWAN/ONLEY PARTNERSHIP FROM HOPELAND FARMS, INC., AND RECORDED IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE IN DEED BOOK 508, AT PAGE 387, TO WHICH PLAT REFERENCE MAY BE HAD FOR AN ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF THE LOT HEREBY CONVEYED, SAID PLAT BEING RECORDED IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE IN PLAT BOOK 86, AT PAGE 25. 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.bwvsales.com. **BIDDERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW CDC GUIDANCE AND WEAR A COVER OVER BOTH NOSE AND MOUTH AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING AT THE AUCTION.** 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. For more information contact: BWV Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-348472-1.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
THE ACCOMACK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021, AT 6:30 p.m., AT METOMPKIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETORIUM, 24501 PARKSLEY ROAD, PARKSLEY, VIRGINIA,** TO AFFORD INTERESTED PERSONS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD OR TO PRESENT WRITTEN COMMENTS CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING:

A. Agricultural Ordinance Amendment to allow Antennas and Towers over 100 ft.

The Accomack County Board of Supervisors proposes to amend the Accomack County Zoning Ordinance Agricultural District Regulations; specifically Section 106-53, to allow Antennas and Towers over 100 feet by Special Exception-Special Use Permits in the Agricultural District.

B. Agricultural Ordinance Amendment to allow for any use of land not specifically listed as a Use Permitted by Right or Special Exception-Special Use.

The Accomack County Board of Supervisors proposes to amend the Accomack County Zoning Ordinance Agricultural District Regulations; specifically Section 106-53, to allow for any use of land not specifically listed as a Use Permitted by Right or Special Exception-Special Use in the Agricultural District Regulations which is clearly similar and compatible with the uses listed therein.

Public hearing related materials are available for review at the Accomack County Planning Department, 23296 Courthouse Avenue - Room 105 - Accomack, 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 824-5223.

Public Notice

The Northampton County Wetlands Board will meet Wednesday, January 20, at 10:00 a.m., in the Board Chambers located at 16404 Courthouse Road in Eastville, VA, for the purpose of considering the following wetlands/coastal primary sand dunes matters under public hearing and to conduct regular business. The Board will assemble at 8:30 a.m. to conduct site visits.

VMRC 2020-2046: Desmond A. Baker has applied for a permit for shoreline armoring with a rip-rap revetment and to extend an existing bulkhead within the Wetlands Board jurisdiction. The property is located on the Chesapeake Bay at Lot #4 of Peaceful Shores Subdivision and is further described as Tax Map 6A-4-4.

Anyone interested in the above matters should attend the scheduled public hearing. The applications may be viewed in the Planning, Permitting, and Enforcement Office located at 16404 Courthouse Road in Eastville, VA. Written comments can be submitted to the Planning, Permitting, and Enforcement Office P.O. Box 538, Eastville, VA 23347.

Handicapped Assistance Available: Please call (757) 678-0440 extension 516 at least 48 hours in advance.

Marshall Cox, Chairman
Wetlands Board

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TO: Benjamin F. Gardner, Jr.
RE: 3211 Lee Street, Exmore, VA 23350,
Tax Map No. 10A1-6-G-7

Be advised that the above-noted structures constitute a danger to the public health or safety of the residents of the Town of Exmore, Virginia. Pursuant to Town Ordinances and Va. Code Ann. § 15.2-906, the structures must be removed, repaired or secured to the satisfaction of the Town no later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Failure to comply with the foregoing will result in the demolition and removal of the structures with the cost charged to you as allowed by Va. Code Ann. § 15.2-906 (3) and (4).

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Case No. 20CL836
 Accomack County Circuit Court, P.O. Box 126,
 23316 Courthouse Avenue, Accomac, VA 23301

ANTHONY M. BUTTERS
 v. **WILLIAM S. BULL & VIRGINIA BULL** and unknown
 heirs of **WILLIAM S. BULL & VIRGINIA BULL**
 The object of this suit is to:
ESTABLISH TITLE BY ADVERSE POSSESSION TO
REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS TAX MAP NO.
075A0A000011900 NEAR ONANCOCK, ACCOMACK
COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

It is ORDERED that **WILLIAM S. BULL & VIRGINIA BULL** and unknown heirs of **WILLIAM S. BULL & VIRGINIA BULL** appear at the above-named court and protect their interests on or before **FEBRUARY 5, 2021.**

December 7, 2020
 Caretta S. Duncan, Dep. Clerk

Legal Advertising
and Auctions
(Cont'd)

TRUSTEE'S SALE
12300 BROWNE AVENUE, EXMORE, VA 23350
MAP NO. 010A4/ 01 00/ 0000012/ /

Pursuant to the terms of a deed of trust dated November 8, 2012, in the original principal amount of \$83,673.00, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Northampton County, Virginia, as Instrument No. 120001986, the property briefly described below will be offered for sale at public auction:

Lot 12, as shown on the plat of Property of Josephine Browne Masi, recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Plat Book 4, Page 48, and as more particularly described in the referenced deed of trust.

The sale will take place on **JANUARY 7, 2021, at 12:00 NOON**, at the front entrance to the building housing the Circuit Court for Northampton County, located at 5229 The Hornes, Eastville, VA.

The property and the improvements thereon will be sold "AS IS" and without representation or warranties of any kind. The sale is subject to all liens, encumbrances, conditions, easements and restrictions, if any, superior to the mentioned deed of trust and lawfully affecting the property.

Terms: A deposit in the form of CERTIFIED FUNDS in the amount of 10% of the successful bid is required of any bidder at the time of sale. Closing within fifteen (15) days of sale. Time is of the essence. Additional terms will be announced at sale. Purchaser to pay all closing costs. Sale subject to lender confirmation.

James A. Evans, Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: James A. Evans, Substitute Trustee, 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 301, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. 17574379500 (2034285).

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

THE ACCOMACK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021 AT 7:30 p.m. AT METOMPKIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE CAFETORIUM located at 24501 Parksley Road, Parksley, VA 23421 TO AFFORD INTERESTED PERSONS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD OR TO PRESENT WRITTEN COMMENTS CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING:**

A. Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2022 - 2026

The Capital Improvement Plan is a long-range 5 year planning tool used to schedule anticipated Capital Projects lasting longer than 3 years and costing more than \$50,000 and to coordinate how they will be funded.

B. Ordinance Amendments pertaining to Lighting Regulations.

Proposed amendment to the Accomack County Zoning Ordinance regarding the Lighting Regulations, specifically Section 106-139 - Industrial Zoning District; Section 106-412 - General Business Zoning District; and Section 106-226 - Zoning Permits by adding a section to allow for certain building mounted lights such as wall packs.

Additionally, to consider an amendment to Article X. - General Provisions by adding Sections 106-241 and 106-242 to require Special Use Permits and Conditional Use Permits to comply with the lighting regulations, and to regulate excessive lighting in all districts.

This Planning Commission meeting will be held as a Hybrid - Electronic (Conference Call) and In-Person Meeting due to the restrictions put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 824-5223.

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Post OP-ED PAGE

Stakeholders Deserve Answers From Cape Charles on Water, Wastewater Privatization

By Loraine Huchler

On Dec. 8, 2020, John Hozey, town manager of the Town of Cape Charles, released a notice indicating the town's acceptance of two unsolicited conceptual proposals to acquire and operate the town's water and wastewater assets: AQUA Virginia and Virginia American Water. In compliance with the Virginia Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act (PPEA) and locally adopted PPEA guidelines, the town is gathering information to conduct a high-level assessment of each proposal for the purpose of qualifying one or both companies to advance to the next phase: a detailed evaluation that would include a full public process.

The town is currently developing the evaluation guidelines for the first phase of its assessment followed by preparing to receive input from stakeholders in the second phase.

In a separate communication, the town indicated it would likely hire a consultant to assist with the high-level assessment and subsequent detailed evaluation.

When the Town of Cape Charles commissioned the new water and wastewater plant in 2012, the town owed \$5.2 million; the remaining \$14 million was paid by grants. The town's annual debt service is \$260,000 for 20 years at 0% interest; the last payment will be in 2032. Properly maintained, this plant has a useful life of 50 years. In other words, the town has \$20 million worth of assets acquired at a steep discount and an undefined value of the associated assets. Aqua Virginia offered \$5.6 million to acquire and operate all of the assets, with promises to implement specific upgrades to improve compliance to the wastewater discharge regulations.

At the end of 2020, the remainder of this debt is about \$3 million. Cape

Charles' 2021 budget for the water and wastewater plant is around \$2 million of operating and capital expense, debt service, ratepayer services, and contribution to the capital reserve fund. Minutes of recent meetings of Town Council described the need to define future capital projects and potential unexpected maintenance for the wastewater plant to evaluate the business case for privatization – as well as several current operational challenges.

As the primary stakeholders for this initiative, Cape Charles property owners, leaseholders, and business owners need to understand the opportunity – and the risks.

The most intangible issue is the town's loss of control of the quality of services. When things go wrong, the town risks a loss of credibility and accountability in the eyes of the property owners and leaseholders. Remember, a private company's primary accountability is to shareholders, not its customers. Yes, the town can sue the supplier for complaints about poor customer service and potentially unreasonable policy for disconnection of service for nonpayment, or other issues, but lawsuits do nothing to restore stakeholder confidence or protect the town's reputation.

Utilities like water and wastewater services are a natural monopoly. With the current system, town residents have more direct power through the ballot box and influence from the town officials who have contractual authority over the supplier. For privatized systems, stockholders have a stronger voice; town officials must mediate issues through discussions with the supplier or appeal to appointed state regulators. The town's authority is limited by the typical complexity of these supplier contracts that have long terms (10-

25 years) and stringent exit clauses that make it difficult — and potentially expensive due to legal processes — to make timely changes.

One proposer, Virginia American Water, serves four densely populated counties; the other proposer, Aqua Virginia, serves 36 counties. Virginia American Water serves areas that have much higher populations and population densities than Cape Charles — and have much higher rates than Cape Charles. The demographics of the service areas for Aqua Virginia are more diverse, with a mixture of rural, urban, and suburban areas. The important issue for the town's stakeholders is that several published studies have shown that after privatization, water rates increase at about three times the rate of inflation, with average increases between 10% and 20% every other year.

While it's difficult to make definitive comparisons of rates due to the lack of information about the nature and condition of the water system assets and the financials, including existing debt, it's notable that Aqua Virginia has a single rate structure for all of their diverse service areas — and these rates are significantly higher than the rates in Cape Charles.

The rate structures (<https://www.aquawsc.com/member-services/rates-and-fees/>, <https://www.amwater.com/vaaw/Resources/PDF/VA%20Water%20Tariff.pdf>) are of greater concern; they are not very similar to the Cape Charles rate structures. Some key issues include a differential in the unit costs for residential versus commercial customers and a monthly fixed fee for sprinkler system connections. Cape Charles has unmetered sprinkler system connections and no monthly service fees. Again, the critical finding from several published studies is that the costs for privately

owned water utility services are 20% to 50% more than publicly owned water service due to the need to meet corporate profit goals, pay dividends to shareholders and income taxes to the U.S. government, and finance water improvement projects using equity and corporate debt instead of grants, bonds, and no-interest municipal loans available to publicly owned systems like Cape Charles.

Privatization of the water and wastewater assets requires the town to be willing to invest time and funds for professionals to analyze all of the issues (for example, fair valuation and financial analysis of the assets and the operating costs, the commitment that the town has made to their workers who will lose their town jobs) and all of the options (e.g. public-private partnerships, privatizing only the operation of the water and wastewater systems while preserving the value of the assets by retaining ownership, retain ownership and operation).

I believe that the town should explain its motivation and objectives for privatization and provide more information about the PPEA process described in the town's notice about the town's authority and scope — especially the process of public input from stakeholders and the assertion that the town “reserves the right to negotiate an interim and/or comprehensive agreement with either proposer.”

As a property owner in Cape Charles, I am anxious for a robust discussion between the town officials and stakeholders on the merits and risks of privatization.

Loraine Huchler is an Eastern Shore resident and a licensed professional engineer specializing in water and wastewater. She and her husband, John, have owned a property management business in Cape Charles for 20 years.

Bloxom Supported Community Colleges

Dear Editor:

This is to add another accolade for Bob Bloxom on the event of his passing.

I knew Bob through his work in the General Assembly in my ten years as Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System. I saw Bob in many legislative circumstances. He was always kind, concerned, and highly respected by delegates from both sides of the aisle. His counsel was sought on many issues and in his role as a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. He was accessible and always insightful.

Bob has many legacies. I emphasize his legacy in support of community colleges. He was an early believer in community colleges, a critical supporter as an early board member in the formation of Eastern Shore Community College. As the decades passed, he became a champion of community colleges and their value to hundreds of thousands of citizens in our great Commonwealth. He was a strong advocate of low tuition for community college students to create unprecedented access to higher education.

For the many contributions you made to Virginia and its Eastern Shore, I thank you, Bob. Also, thank you for the many good deeds you accomplished in your long and significant lifetime, and thank you for doing all this with thoughtfulness, grace, style, and an ever-present smile; you were always a true Virginia gentleman.

Arnold Oliver, Harborton
Chancellor Emeritus

Virginia Community College System

Kids Need Sports

Dear Editor:

Kudos to Giovanni Rosanova and Arthur Leonard for stating the obvious to the Accomack School Board, our children need to be playing sports!!

Children need physical education as much as academic education. Sports motivates the individual student and team sports promotes teamwork whether on the field or in the classroom.

I also want to share my appreciation for the Pocomoke YMCA, in conjunction with Chincoteague YMCA, for initiating soccer this fall; it was worth the ride to see these kids thrive as individuals and teammates.

Kathy Scott, Chincoteague

Hall Street Lights Add to Joy of Season

Dear Editor:

Bright and joyful is the Christmas celebration on Hall Street in Onancock.

There is no doubt in anyone's mind how the residents on that street feel about the holiday. Their display of wonderland decorations draw you into a moment of peace and happiness. It's good to know with all that has happened this year, the Hall Street families have a unique sense of festive spirit to let their glowing lights of love shine for others to share.

To everyone that participates in Hall Street's Celebration, I would like to say thank you for taking the time to put a smile on our faces and joy in our hearts. A visit on Hall Street makes everyone feel the excitement of the holiday.

DeCola Johnson, Accomack

'Misty of Chincoteague' Stands the Test of Time

Dear Editor:

I hope it will be interesting to some folks of the mainland and Chincoteague to know that not all of the filming of "Misty of Chincoteague" was done on Chincoteague. A lot of the home scenes, for whatever reason, were filmed on Folly Creek, down

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Custis Neck, back of Accomack, on what was once known as the Carol Bull farm.

Whether you are 6 or 86, this film and M. Henry's many books on the descendants of Misty make for good entertainment and the making of our history. One book is written around the terrible storm of March 1962 when the island was flooded and what actions were taken to save some of the ponies. Those folks set an example for generations to come as to what was required to preserve what they cared for.

We're encouraged to stay at home and be safe because of this deadly virus. What a nice way to spend an evening with the whole family together watching "Misty of Chincoteague." What a nice surprise for a child or adult to find one of Henry's books or the film under the Christmas tree.

Our thanks to so many who have worked down through the years and are still working to care for the Chincoteague ponies and our Eastern Shore wildlife in general.

We are blessed here on the Eastern Shore with nature and all its beauty. May we just take time to enjoy it and be thankful.

Billie Blackwell, Accomack

All Politicians Guilty

Dear Editor:

In response to the last few weeks of political views of Republicans and Democrats, on and on about Nixon, Kennedy, Johnson, and Clinton. They are all guilty of one thing or another.

They all had fingers in the sticky pie of making the other party look like the ones that were at fault.

I am not quite sure, but I believe that F.D. Roosevelt quoted that you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you'll never fool all of the people all of the time!

Mark Twain once said, "It is much easier to fool someone than it is to convince someone that they have been fooled."

Seventy-three million fooled; 80 million not fooled.

Raymond Noyes, Exmore

The Way I See It by Dan Hillman



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