

**Happy New Year  
from all of us at the  
Northumberland Echo!**

**Mrs. Claus  
visits the  
library**

See page 2



# Northumberland Echo

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"PROUDLY SERVING THE MOTHER COUNTY OF THE NORTHERN NECK SINCE 1902" • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2019 • HEATHSVILLE, VA.

75¢

## LOCAL ECHO

### Justice may come after ten years

*Two men charged in  
woman's 2008 death*

By Jackie Nunnery

It's taken more than a decade, but two men have been charged in the death of Emma Jane Johnson, who was found dead along the side of Route 3 in Westmoreland County on March 1, 2008.

Johnson, 62, was found a mile away from the bus stop at Lyells Corner where she was supposed to be picked up for a day trip to Atlantic City, NJ. Johnson's daughter, Corretta Morris, had planned to travel with her mother when the bus arrived at a stop in the City of Richmond. However, once the bus arrived, the driver told Morris that Johnson was not at the Lyells Corner stop.

Advancements in forensic testing since 2008 led the Commonwealth Attorney to reevaluate the evidence and take it to the grand jury, which led to the recent indictments.

An autopsy showed that Johnson had died from "blunt force trauma to the trunk," which Virginia State Police stated was "consistent with being run over by a very large, slow-moving vehicle and would be consistent with that of a bus." Cox was listed as the driver of the very bus Johnson had planned to take to Atlantic City. Parker was the other driver on the bus that day.

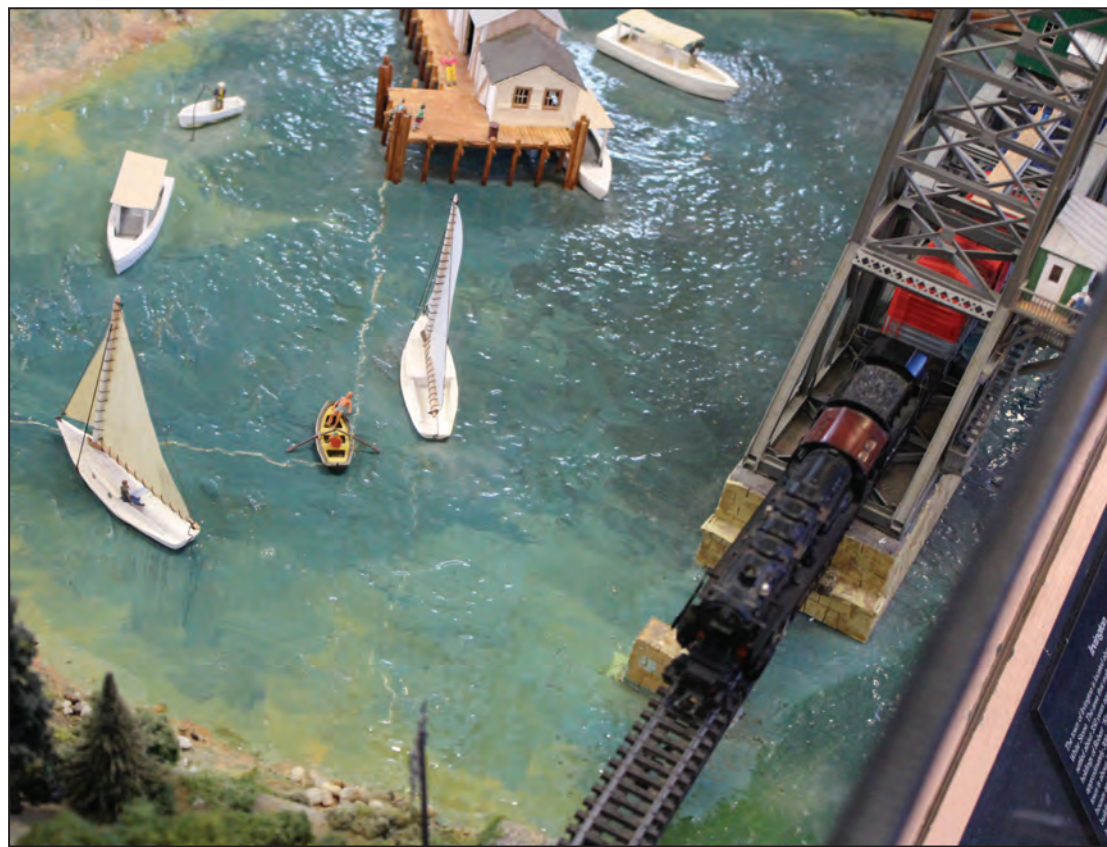
See JUSTICE, page 2



Parts of Heathsville, which was the first section of track, with Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern is in the background



The circus has come to Irvington, complete with bigtop tent in the background.



The train makes its way across a working drawbridge before heading toward White Stone and Irvington.

### The railroad that almost never was

By Jackie Nunnery

Most of the history in museums is devoted to the places where things happened. But step inside the Model Shop at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum and you'll see an exhibit devoted to something that didn't.

First proposed in 1920, the Northern Neck Railroad was intended to be a link between Fredericksburg and the Northern Neck, moving both passengers and freight. The proposed tracks ran down the center of the Northern Neck before forking off to end at White Stone on one side and Reedville on the other. But the idea never caught on with investors and the Northern Neck Railroad never came to be.

See RAILROAD, page 2

## A look back: Highlights from 2018

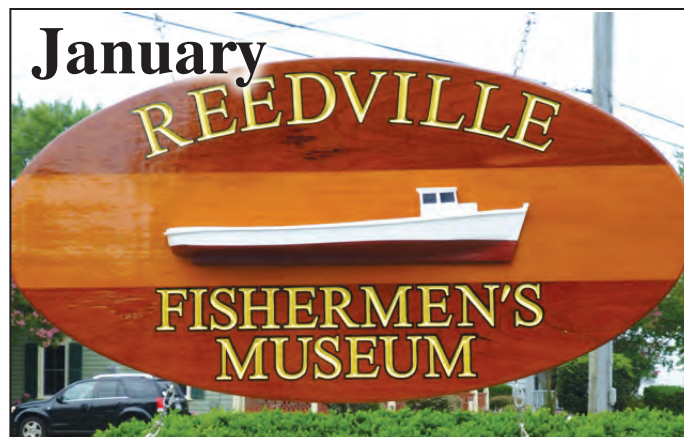
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### Connect



### January 30 years and many more to come

The Reedville Fishermen's Museum celebrates three decades in the Northumberland community.



### November Indians seize second place in Regionals

### Winter storm Riley leaves residents homeless

Callao Apartment residents moved to Gloucester for shelter after storm



March

### Northumberland Association of Progressive Stewardship is awarded grant



Keep Virginia Beautiful Foundation donates to help protect the environment

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# Northumberland Echo

Established in 1902

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**ADVERTISING DEADLINE**

Mondays at 10 a.m. Deadlines are subject to change due to holidays.

**COMMUNITY NEWS ITEMS**

*Northumberland Echo* considers for publication news items of general interest to the public. Deadline is Friday at noon. If you are promoting an upcoming event where admission will be charged or items will be sold, you will need to purchase an ad to ensure publication. Meeting the submission deadline does not guarantee content inclusion. Items are included on an "as space is available" policy. Community News email nncirc@lcs.net.

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*Northumberland Echo* welcomes letters on topics of concern to readers and the community. Letters are limited to 500 words and must bear the writer's signature, full valid address, email address and both daytime and evening phone number for verification purposes. Only the writer's name and town or city will be published. No unsigned or anonymous letter will be published.

*Northumberland Echo* reserves the right to edit submissions. Preference will be given to letters submitted by local residents and those that feature topics of local interest. *Northumberland Echo* will publish no more than one letter from a writer per week.

Letters should be the original work of the signatory. Letters should be exclusive to *Northumberland Echo*. The submission deadline is 10 a.m. on the Monday prior to publication. *Northumberland Echo* makes no guarantees that any letter will be printed, regardless of whether it was submitted by the deadline.

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion or belief of the author, not that of *Westmoreland News* or its staff.

Send your letter to echo@lcs.net, or mail to *Northumberland Echo*, c/o Editor, P.O. Box 8, Warsaw, VA 22572.

**OBITUARIES**

*Northumberland Echo* publishes obituaries at \$40 for the first 250 words and 10 cents per word after that. Death notices remain free and contain limited information. Photos or emblems may be included with either notice at no additional charge. The deadline for obituaries and death notices is Mondays at 10 a.m. *Westmoreland News* reserves the right to edit obituaries to conform to newspaper style. For full details, contact *Northumberland Echo*.

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*Northumberland Echo* considers for publication - free of charge - engagement and wedding accounts, subject to editing. Engagements must be submitted for publication at least eight weeks prior to the wedding. Wedding submissions must be presented for publication no later than eight weeks following the ceremony. Both engagement and wedding photos will be cropped/enlarged/reduced according to this newspaper's policies. Engagements will receive a one-column width photo and weddings, two columns. Paid submissions are published as the family wishes. Submissions which do not meet the eight-week guideline are priced as ROP advertising.

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*Northumberland Echo* considers for publication - free of charge - anniversary celebrations including 25th, 50th and in five year increments following the 50th. Anniversary write-ups will not be placed prior to the anniversary date. Anniversary photos will be cropped/enlarged/reduced according to this newspaper's policies of a two-column width. Paid write-ups are published as the family wishes. Submissions which do not meet the eight-week guideline are priced as ROP advertising.

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Previous issues of *Northumberland Echo* are bound in hardback books and are available for public inspection. Appointments are suggested. Individual mailed copies of *Northumberland Echo* are available for a fee. Call the office for current rates and postage charges.

**RESEARCH**

*Northumberland Echo* can perform research services for those unable to come to the office. Research fees are \$60 per hour plus hard copy fees and postage. Call the office for current rates and postage charges.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Rates: Northern Neck counties Rates \$37 annual/\$67 for two years; \$52 annual/\$97 for two years in Virginia; \$52 annual/\$98 for two years in the continental United States.

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# Mrs. Claus comes to the library



Mrs. Claus shows children the special key that Santa uses to get into houses that do not have a chimney.

*Story-time with a holiday twist*

By Jackie Nunnery

Mrs. Claus took time out of her very busy schedule to spend time with children at the Northumberland County Public Library. In addition to singing Christmas carols, she gave them some behind-the-scenes stories about how her husband, Santa Claus, gets so much done in such a short period of time. Afterward children and parents were treated to Christmas cookies and hot cocoa.

## Railroad

continued from 1



Reedville's Captain's row "under construction."

That is until 1997, when George Frayne again proposed the idea of the Northern Neck Railroad winding through the region, except this time at 1/87th of the actual size.

Originally a temporary display, the model train ran during the holiday season beginning in November and ending in January. The first set of tracks laid featured a depot in Heathsville, complete with the distinctive courthouse and Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern as they would have appeared in the 1920s to the 1930s, when the railroad was planned.

Visiting the model train became a family holiday tradition and other sections followed. The train now makes its way through Reedville, White Stone, and Irvington as well. "Captain's Row" in Reedville is especially impressive. Modeler Bill Butler was responsible for many of the hand-made replicas of Reedville's distinctive Victorian homes on Main

Street. They took hundreds of measurements, photographs, and even flying over to get a bird's-eye-view of the roofs, all to make sure they were as accurate as possible. Because life in the Northern Neck also includes water, Bill Wright, used the same level of detail to create hand-made boats you see as the train makes its way across the Rappahannock and Great Wicomico.

The huge model train display now has a permanent home, which was completed in 2003. A volunteer group of model train enthusiasts maintain and run the current display, in addition to working on a new section of tracks that includes downtown Kilmarnock. The train now runs at other times during the year, or by special request for school groups.

The train will continue to run every day through December 31, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on Sunday, when it runs 1p.m. to 4 p.m.

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## Justice

continued from 1

In an affidavit for a search warrant, State Police also mentioned evidence at the bus stop located at the intersection of Routes 3 and 203 in Richmond County that suggested that Johnson was killed elsewhere and that the body had been moved to where it was discovered.

On November 29, 2018, a Richmond County grand jury indicted two men in connection with Johnson's death. Earl Cox of Hague has been charged with voluntary manslaughter and not reporting an accident involving injury or death as a driver. Carey Parker, also of Hague, is charged with not reporting an accident involving injury or death as a passenger. Both were arrested and released on bond. They are scheduled for arraignment in Richmond County Circuit Court on January 28.

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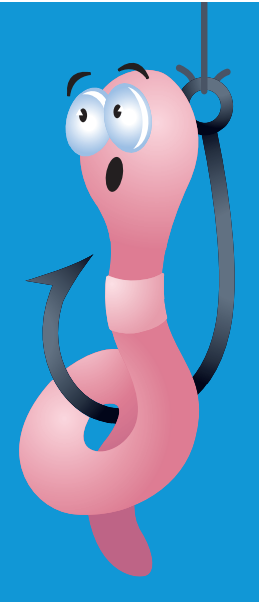


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