

The Tidewater News

115TH YEAR, NO. 42

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2021

\$1.00

Suspect captured who allegedly fled deputies in Courtland

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A Sedley man allegedly fled members of the Southampton County Sheriff's Office on the afternoon of Aug. 3 in Courtland, leading to a manhunt that ended in his arrest about three hours later.

According to a sheriff's office press release, a Southampton County deputy saw a male subject that he believed to have active warrants in the parking lot of the Shands Shopping Center in Courtland around 2:54 p.m.

Aug. 3. The deputy approached the individual, who then allegedly began giving him false identity information.

That suspect, later identified as Trevor Carter, 31, of Sedley, allegedly ran away from the deputy and went into the woods behind the shopping center, the sheriff's office stated. Deputies were able to quickly get the area surrounded, and



Carter

two K-9 teams were deployed.

"While the K-9 units were still tracking the individual, the sheriff's office received a call that the man had been spotted in the area of Main Street and Captain John Road," officials said in the release.

Deputies were near that location and spotted Carter, who ran back into the woods where deputies were able to arrest him behind a residence on East Circle, the release added. The subject was taken into custody without further incident. He was arrested

at approximately 5:40 p.m.

The sheriff's office stated Carter was booked on an outstanding charge of failure to appear on a felony offense, and he was also charged with obstruction of justice and providing false identity to a law enforcement officer. He is being held in Southampton County Jail with no bond.

"We would like to thank the Courtland Police Department and the Virginia State Police for their assistance during this incident," sheriff's office officials

said in the release. "We would also especially like to thank the citizen who called in when they saw Carter come out of the woods."

Board adopts resolution to advance Newsoms project

BY TITUS MOHLER
STAFF WRITER

The Southampton County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously July 27 to adopt a resolution that helps the county complete required pre-contract activities and execute the grant agreement that will allow Phase 1 of the Newsoms Housing and Drainage Improvement Project to move forward.



Johnson

Southampton County Administrator Michael Johnson previously noted that Gov. Ralph Northam announced Feb. 11 the approval of grant funding that will help advance the Newsoms project.

"The source of funding for that is coming through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development in the form of a Community Development Block Grant," Johnson said, adding that the grant is for

SEE BOARD, A10



Representing Diamond Grove Baptist Church at Franklin's National Night Out event were, from left, Vanessa Franklin, Pastor Quinton Franklin, Mabel Banks, Yolandah Brown and Tracey Wright.

National Night Out draws a crowd

BY TITUS MOHLER
STAFF WRITER

Rain did not keep people in Southampton County and Franklin from going out Aug. 3 to participate in the annual National Night Out (NNO) event, which aims to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforce-

ment. The NNO gathering that the Franklin Police Department helped put on was moved from its original location of Armory Drive Recreational Park to the department's headquarters at 1018 Pretlow St. on the morning of the event when rain was proving to be a factor.

"We were monitoring the weather every day and then hourly the day before," Franklin Police Chief Steve Patterson said. "We switched it as early as possible to avoid cancelling it."

Public safety partners, vendors and those serving up free

SEE NNO, A7

Murder suspect turns himself in

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Detectives of the Franklin Police Department obtained arrest warrants July 28 for a suspect in the Nov. 8, 2020, murder of Delvontae Boone, and Aug. 9, the suspect turned himself in.

A Franklin police news release continued by stating that Melkwane Remony Mitchell, 29, turned himself in at the Franklin Police Department at 11:30 p.m.

Police say he was arrested on charges of felony homicide and reckless handling of a firearm in the murder of Boone. Mitchell is being held at the Western Tidewater Regional Jail with no bond.

At 2:37 a.m. Nov. 8, officers responded to the 600 block of Oak Street for a report of shots fired. While canvassing the area, officers located the victim of a gunshot who was pronounced deceased at the scene. The victim of the homicide was later identified as Boone, a 28-year-old resident of Franklin.



Mitchell

Farmers Market Week highlights economic impact

BY TITUS MOHLER
STAFF WRITER

The Franklin Farmers Market was part of Virginia Farmers' Market Week, which highlights the economic and overall community impact of farmers markets across the state.

Dr. Kim Hutchinson, executive director of the Virginia Farmers Market Association, was on hand Aug. 7 at the Franklin market to present a certificate of recognition of the special week to Volunteer Market Manager Karen Cobb and Franklin Southampton Economic Development Inc. President and CEO Karl Heck.

Hutchinson noted that Virginia Farmers' Market Week, which is Aug. 1-7 this year, is the same as National Farmers' Market Week.

SEE FARMERS, A9



SUBMITTED | EMILY BALLANCE

Virginia Farmers Market Association Executive Director Dr. Kim Hutchinson, right, presents a certificate of recognition of Virginia Farmers' Market Week to Franklin Farmers Market Volunteer Manager Karen Cobb, center, and FSEDI President and CEO Karl Heck on Aug. 7 at the Franklin Farmers Market.

Governor mandates vaccines for state employees, masking in schools

BY JIMMY LAROU
STAFF WRITER

All state employees must be vaccinated by Sept. 1 or face weekly COVID-19 testing.

Gov. Ralph Northam announced the measure Wednesday that affects the roughly 122,000 state employees amid rising case counts as the more transmissible and potent Delta variant has spread around the state over the past two weeks.

Northam said the only way to beat the virus is through vaccination, and he strongly encouraged local governments and businesses to enact a similar vaccine mandate to the one he announced.

"There's no reason why we need to see more suffering and sickness," Northam said.

Isle of Wight County Administrator Randy Keaton said about 41% of the county's 414 employ-

ees have been fully vaccinated, though he expects that number to rise since others have submitted proof of vaccination.

The county board of supervisors opted during an Aug. 5 work session to defer a decision on a vaccine mandate for employees until after Western Tidewater Health District Director Dr. Todd Wagner or another COVID-19 expert can brief the board at its next meeting.

Keaton told the board that "it is allowable" for local governments to mandate vaccines for their employees. He said vaccines are "the only way to get a hold" of the coronavirus pandemic.

"There, of course, will be religious and medical exemptions," Keaton said, referencing the governor's announcement. "But my understanding from some communities are even if you have one

SEE MANDATES, A10

The Tidewater News
(757) 562-3187

editor@TheTidewaterNews.com
www.TheTidewaterNews.com



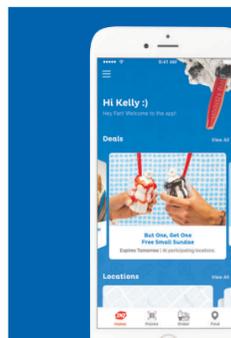
2020
Virginia
PRESS
Association
Award-Winning
Newspaper

INSIDE	
OPINION	A2
OBITUARIES	A3
IT'S HAPPENING HERE	A4
FAITH & WORSHIP	A5
COMMUNITY NEWS	A6
F/S COUNTY FAIR	B1-B7
CLASSIFIEDS	B7-B8
KID'S PAGE	B9

DEATHS
Mary B. Blythe
Roy C. Greene Sr.
Anna R. Hubbert
Gracie L. Liptrap
Rosa M. Rooks



BEST BET
Bingo night: The Boykins Ladies Auxiliary will have bingo on Thursday, Aug. 12, at 7 o'clock in the Boykins Firehouse. Pull tabs will be available for purchase. Doors open at 6 o'clock. Must sell 15 packages in order to play.



DON'T WAIT IN LINE
Order Ahead with the DQ® Mobile App



HAPPY TASTES GOOD

Scan to Download



The Tidewater News

115TH YEAR, NO. 36

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021

75 CENTS

Lucas recall petition heads to court

BY STEPHEN FALESKI
STAFF WRITER

Virginia Tea Party Chairman Nelson Velez filed a petition in Chesapeake's Circuit Court June 22 seeking to recall state Sen. L. Louise Lucas from her elected office.

Lucas, a Democrat, represents Virginia's 18th District and serves as the Senate's president pro tempore. The district includes parts of the counties of Isle of Wight, Southampton and Surry, as well as parts of the cities of Franklin and Suffolk.

The petition, Velez confirmed, is the same one Virginia Beach-based attorney and gun store owner Timothy Anderson started last year following the senator's appearance at a June 2020 protest

at Portsmouth's now-removed Confederate monument.

The protest began as a peaceful demonstration but escalated after Portsmouth police officers arrested the city's NAACP president and vice president for allegedly trespassing on the monument — charges that were later dismissed. Lucas arrived on scene shortly after the arrests and was caught on camera telling the officers that some of the protesters were planning to "put some paint on this thing," referring to the monument.

"Y'all cannot arrest them," she told the officers. And they didn't — at least, not that day.

Several hours after Lucas left, a man was severely injured when protesters caused a piece of the monument to fall on him.



Sen. Louise Lucas

The petition accuses Lucas of misusing her office. It argues Lucas knew when she entered the area that her actions would escalate the aggression of the protest-

ers and that by telling police they could not arrest the protesters for being on city property, she knew this would "cause the crowd to unlawfully trespass on the monument."

"She pretty much gave them a direct order," said Portsmouth resident Charlotte Briglin, who worked with Velez to collect signatures and accompanied him to Chesapeake's courthouse along with a group of like-minded voters.

Anderson had made similar claims last year, going so far as to accuse Lucas of having incited a riot and committed a felony in a WAVY-TV interview after the incident and in a video published to his law firm's social media. Lucas responded by suing Anderson for defamation. When that hap-

pened, Anderson discontinued his involvement with the petition, Velez and Briglin stepped up to take his place.

While Velez is the one Anderson specifically tasked with leading the recall movement in his absence, "Charlotte Briglin is the main warrior who worked getting signatures with me and Anderson from the very beginning," Velez said.

SEE LUCAS, A7



TITUS MOHLER | THE TIDEWATER NEWS

Franklin's Confederate monument remains standing in Memorial Park, as seen in this June 28 photo, after rain this past weekend delayed its planned removal.

Rain delays Confederate monument removal

BY TITUS MOHLER
STAFF WRITER

The City of Franklin's Confederate monument, standing in Memorial Park between Clay Street and Meadow Lane, was set to be removed June 26, but weather prevented this from happening.

City Manager Amanda C. Jarratt addressed the delay during the Franklin City Council meeting June 28.

"We were not able to move the Confederate monument this weekend because of the torrential rain that happened on Friday and Saturday, so we're working with the contractor to have that re-scheduled," she said. "I'll keep you all posted on that date. We're hopeful it'll be within the next few weeks."

The contractor for the relocation is Hampton Roads Crane & Rigging Company, which submitted a bid of around \$35,000.

"Their staff will work with ours to make sure that it's scheduled as

SEE DELAY, A7



TITUS MOHLER | THE TIDEWATER NEWS

Emergency responders carry out their responsibilities at the scene of a two-vehicle accident June 28 on Route 58 in Drewryville as one of the vehicles, a gray 2001 Toyota Camry, sits on the side of the road.

Accident in Drewryville results in fatality

The Southampton County Sheriff's Office responded to a two-vehicle accident on Southampton Parkway in Drewryville that involved a fatality June 28.

In a press release, the sher-

iff's office stated it received the call regarding the crash at 12:13 p.m. Once on scene, deputies determined that a gray 2001 Toyota Camry occupied by one adult male traveled through the median

at the intersection of Route 58 and Drewry Road in an attempt to turn left onto Route 58 East. At that time, the Camry collided with a gray

SEE ACCIDENT, A7

Bids postponed in courthouse renovation project

BY TITUS MOHLER
STAFF WRITER

The timeline of the Southampton County courthouse renovation project has been pushed back a couple weeks, but activity has nevertheless begun to ramp up.

The county will be moving a variety of court operations to Hunterdale Elementary School in Franklin to allow for the courthouse renovations.

County Administrator Michael Johnson and Franklin City Manager Amanda Jarratt

gave updates on the project at the most recent Board of Supervisors and City Council meetings, respectively.

Johnson wrote in the June 22 board meeting packet that the county conducted the mandatory pre-bid meeting on June 3.

"All five of the prospective bidders had the opportunity to walk through the courthouse, and for some of them, it was probably their first opportunity to really look at the project," Johnson said to supervisors at their June 22 meeting.

He wrote in the board packet

that the county's invitation for bids called for submittal of bids on July 13. He added that the county was preparing to issue an addendum that would postpone the bid date by a few weeks.

"I don't have the exact date yet, but we're thinking sometime around the 26th, I think, of July, so about two weeks later," he said during the meeting.

He stated that the reason for the delay is that some very minor modifications to Hunter-

SEE BIDS, A5

FSEDI names Karl Heck as president and CEO

The Franklin Southampton Economic Development Inc. (FSEDI) Board of Directors has named Karl Heck, an experienced economic developer, as its new president and chief executive officer.

A FSEDI press release stated the announcement was made recently by Harrell Turner, chairman of the board and owner of CHT Forestry LLC.

Heck's first day is set for Aug. 2. "The board took a very strategic approach in identifying candidates to lead FSEDI," Turner said in the release. "Our goal was to find a professional who has the economic de-

SEE FSEDI, A7



Karl Heck

Franklin man charged with child endangerment

Franklin police officers made an arrest with the charges of aggravated malicious wounding/abduction and child endangerment after responding to a reported domestic disturbance June 26.

A Franklin Police Department news release stated that at 12:26 a.m. on June 26, officers responded to the 100 block of Center Street for a reported domestic disturbance.

"Upon arrival, contact was made with the victim, who had suffered knife wounds to her hand and facial area," police said in the release. "A child was also located who had suffered abrasions to their arm and elbow."

Police stated that the suspect, identified as Thomas Warren, a 38-year-old Franklin resident, had



Thomas Warren

SEE FRANKLIN, A7

The Tidewater News
(757) 562-3187

editor@TheTidewaterNews.com
www.TheTidewaterNews.com



2020
Virginia
PRESS
Association
Award-Winning
Newspaper

INSIDE

OPINION A2
OBITUARIES A3
IT'S HAPPENING HERE A4
COMMUNITY NEWS B1
FAITH & WORSHIP B2
KID'S PAGE B6
CLASSIFIEDS B7-B8

DEATHS

Joseph M. Burgess Jr.
Mary C. Butler
Carolyn F. Elliott
Sylvia B. Funkhouser
Joyce W. Parham
Emma L. Person
Irvin R. Ricks Jr.
Allen L. Ridley Sr.
Kenneth W. Miggins
Bobby M. Vick
Woodrow Wilson

BEST BET

Veteran's program: The GFWC Sedley Woman's Club annual Veteran's Recognition Program will be on Saturday, July 3, at 10 a.m. at Sedley Baptist Church on Johnsons Mill Road. For more information, call Anne Bryant at 562-5783.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AMERICA

You're the Greatest Country in the World

HAPPY TASTES GOOD

Love your biggest fans,
Mid Atlantic Dairy Queen

© American Dairy Queen Corporation Minneapolis, MN 2020



The Tidewater News

115TH YEAR, NO. 23

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2021

75 CENTS

State Police catch abduction suspect

STAFF REPORT

Virginia State Police late Monday apprehended an abduction suspect and recovered the 6-year-old victim in a chase that ended in Western Tidewater.

State Police had broadcast a transmission to troopers at about 10:30 p.m. about a 2017 Honda Civic Coupe that was possibly involved in an earlier abduction in Greensville County, according to Virginia State Police spokeswoman Sgt. Michelle Anaya.

Prince George County Police had attempted to pull the vehicle over, and a pursuit occurred. The pursuit was terminated shortly thereafter, however, because the 6-year-old girl was still believed to be inside the vehicle.

Troopers began searching for the vehicle, and a trooper located it on Route 35 near the Sussex/Southampton line on Route 35 at about 10:43 p.m., Anaya stated.

A traffic stop was initiated, and the vehicle fled eastbound on Route 35 at a high rate of

speed, Anaya stated. As the trooper was making efforts to stop the Honda, the Honda struck the trooper, and the Honda ran through the median, across the westbound lanes and into an embankment. The crash happened on Route 35 near Baxter.

The girl was located inside the vehicle and escaped unharmed. She was evaluated by medical personnel at the scene and released to her family.

The trooper was unharmed in the crash.

The driver was identified as Crystal M. Maryland, 36, and taken to Southampton Memorial Hospital for a medical evaluation. Once cleared of her injuries, she was processed into the Southampton Regional Jail, where she was served with a pending felony warrant for abduction. She was also charged by state police with felony eluding, reckless driving, felony child endangerment, and failure to secure a child in an approved child restraint device. She received no bond.

Details on the original abduction were unclear by press time. Anaya referred a reporter to Greensville County, and the Greensville County Sheriff's Office in turn referred a reporter to state police.



Zahreiah Gilliam

Franklin police seeking missing girl

STAFF REPORT

FRANKLIN

The Franklin Police Department is seeking the public's assistance in locating 17-year-old Zahreiah Gilliam.

According to FPD spokesman Sgt. Scott Halverson, Gilliam was last seen in the 400 block of South High Street on March 29 around 11 p.m. She is described as being 4 foot 9 inches tall, weighing 165 pounds, and may be in need of medical services.

Anyone with knowledge of her whereabouts is asked to contact the FPD at 757-562-8575.

Franklin commissioner to retire

**STEPHEN FALESKI
STAFF WRITER**

Stephen.Faleski@TheTidewaterNews.com

FRANKLIN

Brenda B. Rickman won't seek re-election as Franklin's commissioner of the revenue this November.

When her current term expires Dec. 31, she will have served the city for a total of 46 years, 39 of them as commissioner, making her the second longest-serving commissioner of the revenue in Virginia's history.

Rickman was first appointed to the constitutional office in January 1983 and stood for election that November. Prior to that, she served as deputy commissioner of the revenue for five years and worked as a clerk in the treasurer's office for two years.

"The City of Franklin and her citizens have been good to me," Rickman said. "I have always said that God opened a door and made a way for me to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of Franklin in this capacity. I have seen many changes in Franklin



Brenda Rickman

over the years and hope that in some small way have made it better for our citizens. I am looking forward to retirement but will

miss my dedicated staff and colleagues here at the City of Franklin and across the State of Virginia."

When Rickman started working for Franklin's city government in 1975 there were no computers, copy machines or cell phones.

Valuing every vehicle in the city to calculate personal property taxes had to be done by hand using the National Automobile Dealers Association guide. From that information, Rickman would have to type a personal property book to provide to the city's treasurer, who would then type a tax bill for mailing to each taxpayer.

"Now, all of this is processed by computer," Rickman said. "Don't get me wrong, it still takes a lot of time to get the records in the system for processing the bills correctly."

The commissioner's office is responsible for calculating what is owed for real estate and personal property taxes; business license fees; meals and lodging taxes; cigarette taxes; machinery and tools taxes; and tax relief for veterans, the elderly and the handicapped; as well as will and real estate transfers, map changes

SEE RICKMAN, A7

Treasurer still wants waste fee removed

**STEPHEN FALESKI
STAFF WRITER**

Stephen.Faleski@TheTidewaterNews.com

COURTLAND

For the second year in a row, Southampton County Treasurer Cynthia Edwards is asking that the county's \$200 annual solid waste fee be eliminated.

When Southampton enacted its fee in 2012, it was paying the Southeastern Public Service Authority \$145 per ton to send trash from three SPSA transfer

SEE FEE, A7

**STEPHEN FALESKI
STAFF WRITER**

Stephen.Faleski@TheTidewaterNews.com

FRANKLIN

Southampton County hopes to lease the former Hunterdale Elementary School building to house the county's Circuit Court, clerk's office and Commonwealth Attorney while its courthouse undergoes an 18-month renovation and expansion.

The county expects to break ground on the renovations this September. The lease would run from Aug. 1 this year through Jan. 31, 2023, when construction is projected to be complete.

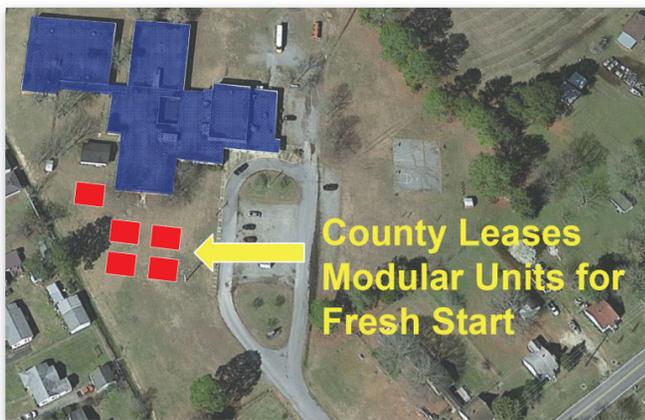
In the interim, County Administrator Mike Johnson estimates the Circuit Court, clerk's office and Commonwealth's Attorney will collectively need roughly 20,300 square feet of temporary space. The roughly 42,000-square-foot school building located just outside Franklin's city limits currently houses

the county school system's Fresh Start alternative education program for students in grades 6-12 whose behavioral issues prevent them from attending their regular school.

Johnson entered negotiations with county's School Board at the board's March 8 meeting, offering the school system rent in the amount of \$30,000 a month for 18 months, plus \$300,000 to relocate the Fresh Start program to modular units and \$14,950 for air conditioning, heating units and fire alarms — a total of \$854,950. Since Franklin shares use of the Circuit Court, clerk's office and Commonwealth's Attorney with Southampton County, it will bear responsibility for a percentage of this cost.

Johnson said the city's exact share will be determined once and if details are finalized.

The payments from the county could potentially fund several school capital improvement projects, among them upgrading the school system's transporta-



County Leases Modular Units for Fresh Start

SUBMITTED | MIKE JOHNSON

A slide from County Administrator Mike Johnson's presentation shows how modular classrooms could house Southampton County Public Schools' Fresh Start Center while the Hunterdale Elementary building is used as a temporary home for the county's Circuit Court, clerk's office and Commonwealth Attorney.

tion routing software, new school furniture and constructing a student activities building at Capron Elementary School.

If the Hunterdale negotiations

fall through, the county has developed a backup plan to place modular offices in front of the

SEE COURT, A7

The Tidewater News
(757) 562-3187
editor@TheTidewaterNews.com
www.TheTidewaterNews.com



2019
Virginia
PRESS
Association
Award-Winning
Newspaper

INSIDE	
OPINION	A2
OBITUARIES	A3
IT'S HAPPENING HERE	A4
COMMUNITY NEWS	A5
ENTERTAINMENT	A6
LIFE	B1
FAITH & WORSHIP	B2
CLASSIFIEDS	B7-B8

DEATHS
Donny R. Bass Jr.
Julian A. Felts Jr.
Louis Jenkins
George L. Story Jr.
Joseph T. Warren



BEST BET
Summer Adult Basketball registration: The Summer Adult Basketball games will begin June 7. Registration is April 1-May 10 at the Hayden Village, 680 Oak Street, Franklin. Games will be played on Monday nights June 7-July 5 from 6 to 9 p.m. You can register online at www.franklinva.com or at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center at 683 Oak Street, Franklin. For more information, call 757-562-2475.

Refreshing New Tropical Lemonade Twisty Misty Slush

Enjoy Any Large Misty Slush Just \$1.11

©American Dairy Queen Corporation Minneapolis, MN 2020