

C2 Daily Press/The Times-Herald, Saturday, Oct. 18, 1986

Commission OKs Chesapeake amphitheater

By JOHN FARR Staff Writer

CHESAPEAKE — Despite the protests of citizens who complained that an amphitheater would bring excessive noise and roadkill to their neighborhood, the Chesapeake Planning Commission Wednesday approved a 20,000-sq-ft amphitheater for the city's Boarders Hill section.

The decision, which is only a recommendation, must be set out on by City Council after a hearing. Chesapeake City Councilman Gary W. Markham

said council expected to vote on the matter within 30 days.

For Bill Douthett, the amphitheater's developer, this action marks the first time his proposal has been accepted. Newport News, York County, Norfolk and Greenbrier (in Chesapeake) all have rejected the amphitheater.

Douthett conceded last month that Whipper Concerts, a Norfolk entertainment promotions company he headed for 10 years, was having trouble paying its debts. Several nonpayment lawsuits have been filed against the company, said Douthett, who has resigned as

president. Whipper is working out payment with its debtors.

Armadillo/Hoffler Enterprises, a Chesapeake-based development corporation, is acting as an agent for Douthett in the amphitheater project. John Cole, an Armadillo/Hoffler vice president, said "Today, we believe in the concept of low amphitheater. We're helping to put the project together, but right now we're analyzing different ways to finance it. He confirmed an estimate of \$5.5 to \$6 million for the project.

Asked if Whipper's financial problems would be a factor in the amphi-

theater, now the Chesapeake Center for the Performing Arts Cole said, "That's a different situation. Our dealings with the amphitheater is a separate issue. There are a lot of people who have had financial problems. But Bill has the talent to be involved in this project."

"I have some very serious concerns about that problem, but I'm not sure how much issue I could place on Bill Douthett," Markham said.

"I'm aware of some of Whipper Concerts' past problems, but I don't really know yet who's proposing the amphitheater," said John Butt, another councilman.

"I'll have to see what the Planning Commission recommended and then decide. But I'll look at everything — especially how the neighborhood will be affected."

Both councilmen said they would carefully consider noise pollution, an issue raised by citizens at Wednesday's meeting.

"It really bothers me that this may turn out to be a political decision, made without considering all information," Markham said.

School site, improvements to be discussed Tuesday

By RAY BETZNER Staff Writer

JAMES CITY — A new elementary school site proposal and a new capital improvements plan that includes a \$12 million Lafayette High School addition should come up for discussion at the Williamsburg/James City County School Board meeting on Tuesday.

The site is an alternative to the Route 3 location that was approved by the School Board and Williamsburg City Council, but rejected by the county Board of Supervisors. After the rejection, a committee of county, city and school board representatives was formed to hammer out a compromise.

"We have made a proposal to the school board for an alternative to the Route 3 site, but I can't tell you what it is," said Perry DeFur, a supervisor and member of the committee.

Funding for a new school is an issue that state law says can be discussed behind closed doors. The School Board is expected to discuss the proposal in executive session Tuesday.

Before that, the board will take up a five-year capital improvements plan which contains a \$720 million program for the coming fiscal year. The total proposed plan for the next five years comes to slightly more than \$2 billion.

Higher cost estimates for several projects were previously planned by the School Board have been included in the plan. Site acquisition costs for the new elementary school and a replacement school for Bruton Heights have gone up. School administration officials have suggested both schools be built in the coming fiscal year, which starts July 1.

The new elementary school is projected to cost \$5,475 million, up \$81,000 from the current year's estimate. The replacement school for Bruton Heights is projected to cost \$6,411 million, up \$19,000.

A new project on the five-year plan is the \$12 million auxiliary gymnasium at Lafayette, programmed for construction in fiscal year 1991.

The school now has a main gym and smaller gym which cannot handle the expanded athletic program at the school.

"For example, during the winter months, Lafayette High School has four basketball teams, two wrestling teams and a gymnastics team that all require gymnasium facilities," according to the plan. "Wrestling teams presently practice in the Commons area because of the space problem."

The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Surge Primary School.



Having a blast
Dave Powell seems to be having a blast using a high pressure water sprayer to remove old paint Friday

from a picket fence at his home on Chesapeake Avenue in Hampton.

Trash

Continued from Page C1
Road "leave no room" for heavy industry such as a trash-burning plant.

Between 1960 and 1980, the population north of J. Clyde Morris Boulevard has grown by more than 40,000. Stodhill said the city's inactive incinerator, which is at the Oyster Point site and was closed because its emissions did not meet state air quality standards, "looms like a ghost of the past" over the city's main business center.

In his report, Stodhill concluded that the Oakland Plantation site raised lower in the city's August study because of the expected difficulty in acquiring land for the incinerator.

Newport News and Hampton city councils have voted to discontinue the Regional Redevelopment and Housing Authority, which owns and operates the park, which may make it easier to acquire property for the plant, Hildebrand said.

Candidates cancel scheduled TV debate

By RAY BETZNER Staff Writer

A live television appearance by state Sen. Robert Scott, D-Newport News, and Rep. Herbert H. Bateman, R-1st, was canceled Friday because Congress had adjourned. The debate between the two candidates for the 1st District congressional seat was scheduled to be seen on WHRO television Friday from 7 to 8 p.m.

"We're very disappointed," said Lucy Newton, Scott's press secretary. "This was the only televised debate and we had a lot of issues we wanted to address."

A separate televised joint appearance is scheduled for Sunday, from 5 to 5:30 p.m. on WAVY-TV, channel 10.

No final conclusions in deaths

By RAY BETZNER Staff Writer

YORK — A state medical examiner has not reached any final conclusions about the circumstances of the death of two women found on the Colonial Parkway on Sunday, according to the FBI.

James Waters, the FBI special agent supervising the investigation, Friday labeled as "premature" reports that the victims were strangled before their throats were cut.

The bodies of Rebecca Ann Dawaki, 21, and Catherine Martin Thomas, 27, were found in Mc Thomas' car off the Colonial Parkway near Chestham Annex with their throats cut about 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

The medical examiner has made some guesses about the time and cause of death but nothing he would testify in court to, Waters said. He said he does not expect a final opinion from the medical examiner until the middle of next week.

Officer on motorcycle injured

By RAY BETZNER Staff Writer

HAMPTON — City patrol officer Kevin Eberle was injured Thursday during a crash that occurred after he veered his motorcycle to avoid a collision with a pickup truck, police said.

Eberle had changed lanes to pursue a traffic violator when the pickup truck moved into his lane. The driver apparently did not realize the officer's motorcycle was there, said Police Capt. E. E. Barnes.

The southbound motorcycle struck a curb and flipped over, throwing Eberle to the pavement. Barnes said the accident occurred at about 3:20 p.m. on Calson Drive at Calson Mall.

Eberle was taken to Hampton General Hospital, where he was reported Friday to be in satisfactory condition with cuts, bruises and a mild brain concussion.

School to be rebuilt at same site

By RAY BETZNER Staff Writer

YORK — Magruder Elementary School will be rebuilt at its present site when money becomes available in about two years, the Board of Supervisors decided Thursday.

Supervisors Chairman Benjamin M. Bush first told a crowd of 56 residents at the supervisors meeting that when the money comes, "it may not be appropriate to build at the present site," Route 143 and Pennington Road.

But, later in the meeting — after most of the people left — the board decided the school will be built at the present site.

Women in masks hold up bank

By RAY BETZNER Staff Writer

HAVEN — After aggressively arming in the bank parking lot, two women donned Halloween masks and held up tellers at the First Federal Savings Bank of Virginia on Friday morning, then escaped with an undetermined amount of money.

The two women ran away after the 10:40 a.m. robbery, during which they peated handbags and demanded money from two tellers. No shots were fired and no injuries were reported during the incident.

Crime reported by residents more

Continued from Page C1

Minetti agrees that more people are willing to report crime now. "I think the kinds of projects we have going on in the community certainly support that. That's the whole emphasis of the Neighborhood Watch program."

In Hampton, the total number of crimes reported to police the first six months of this year was 3,662 compared to 2,439 reported crimes the same period last year. That represents about a 6 percent increase.

The FBI report indicated an 8 percent crime increase nationwide.

"Overall increases were recorded universally throughout the nation," FBI Director William H. Webster said in a statement released to the agency. "Upward trends were evident in each of the nation's geographic regions, as well as in cities of all sizes and counties, both suburban and rural."

Lee Quack, assistant special agent in charge of the FBI office in Norfolk, said he was not aware of any social conditions in this region that would cause an increase in crime.

He said the report's statistics were compiled by the FBI based on information from local police departments.

Crime statistics

	Newport News			Hampton		
	1st half of 1985	1st half of 1986	Percent change	1st half of 1985	1st half of 1986	Percent change
Arson	17	40	135	25	21	-16
Auto theft	147	233	59	158	187	18
Robbery	119	169	42	79	72	-9
Assault	205	247	20	91	83	-9
Larceny	1,991	2,233	12	2,587	2,653	3
Burglary	917	960	5	505	643	27
Homicide	6	4	-33	2	2	0
Rape	47	41	-13	22	24	9
All CRIME	3,432	3,887	13	3,439	3,662	6

Status offenders 'slipping through the cracks'

By RAY BETZNER Staff Writer

JAMES CITY — Elizabeth is a girl out of control. She admitted to using cocaine and marijuana, has been sexually active, and has run away from her family and just about every temporary care home in the Virginia Beach area.

Elizabeth is 13 years old and wants to live by herself, even if it means living on the streets.

Judge E. Preston Grissom invented the term, but said Elizabeth's true case on Friday to illustrate the very real problem state agencies have in dealing with chronic runaways, truant and other children known as status offenders.

Grissom, a juvenile and domestic relations court judge from Chesapeake, was part of a forum sponsored by the Virginia Department for Children.

Since 1977, the state's judges and prosecutors have been prevented from auditing status offenders to jail. A network of counseling groups, social service agencies and temporary care homes should be available to handle these children.

But part of the problem is that status offenders know how to get around the system. By the time they are 12, 13 or 14 years old, status offenders "vanish their names at the court, and say, 'You can't do anything to me,'" said Robert Sutton, a director of

youth services for the state Department of Corrections.

People like Sutton have organized the Youth Services Planning Council, which has representatives from a plethora of state and private agencies who deal with problem children. Experts in child advocacy say the state is providing some good services to help straighten out these children and the family problems which often set children on a wrong course from an early age.

But not enough is being done, said Paul McWhiney, president of the Virginia Community Residential Care Association. Children like Elizabeth are slipping through the cracks, and there is no agreement among the experts on how to save them.

Burglaries solved with witness

Continued from Page C1

who had overheard several juveniles bragging about their crime activities, said Evans.

"We began tracking the juveniles and during the investigation located a witness who had firsthand information," Evans said.

Also arrested were Charles D. Stephens, 18, of the 200 block of Monroe Avenue, and two 16-year-old juveniles.

Stephens was charged with 10 counts of burglary, eight counts of grand larceny and two counts of larceny.

One juvenile was charged with five counts of burglary and grand larceny in connection with burglaries that occurred in September at Dean and Don's Farm Market at 12001 Warwick

Blvd. Chaffin Interiors, 2254 Warwick, L&M Plumbing and Heating at 12716 Veltus Drive, Art's Upholstery & Fabric Outlet at 12800 Warwick Blvd. and the home of Steven Simmons on the 12900 block of Warwick Boulevard, said Evans.

Also charged in connection with the Simmons burglary was Steven Anthony Wilson, 19, whose address is unknown, and Albert E. Martin, 18, of Turtletown Road. Both Wilson and Martin were charged Tuesday, with burglary and grand larceny.

Martin was charged Thursday with an additional count of burglary and grand larceny.

The initial arrests came about because detectives intensified the investigation into the series of crimes, said Evans.

Man hurt by 2 trains

By RAY BETZNER Staff Writer

NEWPORT NEWS — A 26-year-old railroad employee was hurt Friday night when he was caught between two slow-moving trains. He was undergoing surgery as of 11:30 p.m., said Sgt. D. Spitzer.

Mike Garner of Richmond was injured at about 7:30 p.m. on railroad tracks between Warwick Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue about 80 yards north of the 29th Street Bridge, Spitzer said.

Garner's condition was unknown late Friday.