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Local & State

Smithfield, Isle of Wight, Surry, Suffolk **section B**

Senate may stall TBT bill

By JOE BARRETT
Staff Writer

After several months of study and legislative wrangling, a bill that would limit the use of TBT in marine paints may have hit a snag that will hold up passage until next year.

The U.S. Senate, during its final weekend of meetings this year, may hold up a compromise version of the bill passed Friday by the House of Representatives, sources said.

Some senators are concerned that the house bill is not tough enough, a source said. House members think the Senate restriction is impractical, said a spokeman for Rep. Herbert Bateman, R-1st.

At issue is the level of TBT allowable in paints used on larger vessels. Both versions of the bill would outlaw the use of the chemical on ships smaller than 82 feet.

TBT, or tributyltin, is a highly toxic pesticide used to control barnacles and other growth on the hulls of ships. The chemical is thought to endanger shellfish and other aquatic life. Recent studies have shown that harmful levels of the substance are present in the Chesapeake Bay and many other U.S. waterways.

In November, the House passed a bill that set the allowable level of TBT that can be released by a treated ship at five micrograms per square centimeter per day.

Early this week, the Senate passed an amended version of the House Bill that set the level at three. Friday, the House passed a compromise bill that set the level at four.

The bill is now on the Senate floor, where it may be voted on this weekend. A Senate source, however, said that the higher level of pollution allowed by the House bill will require further study by the Senate. It was unclear whether that meant the bill would be held up until next year, the source said.

John Rayfield, an aide to Bateman, said that the four level was recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency in a report released this fall. Paints with a rating of four are already commercially available, he said. Paints with a three rating are not.

The ban on the use of TBT on Navy ships, approved two years ago, is expected to be upheld next week during appropriations meetings, Rayfield said.

House has spirit of Christmas past

Staff photo by JOE FUDGE

Dressed in Victorian garb, Dot Boulware decorates one of the house's 15 trees.

Owners deck the halls with old holiday charm

By BRIAN KELLEY
Staff Writer

CHARLES CITY — Decorating for the Christmas season at Edgewood Plantation, an exercise involving about 10,000 lights, 15 trees and a multitude of ornaments, is not for the faint of heart.

Owner Dot Boulware began decorating the Gothic revival mansion, on Route 5 about 30 miles west of Williamsburg, in October. With the decorating completed, she and her husband, Julian, who offer tours and run a bed-and-breakfast in the 138-year-old house, are entertaining the annual stream of curious tourists and guests.

As Dot Boulware explains it, the huge collection of decorations started small five years ago and gradually took on a life of its own, along with a wing of the house upstairs to store them during the off-season.

"It started with four trees, one for each of the downstairs rooms, and I had to start improving it year by year," she said.

Improvements included more trees and decorations in each of the plantation's rooms, centered on a different theme.

The house itself is packed with antiques, reproductions and memorabilia. Many are items Boulware and her husband picked up during trips through Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

"This was a place where we really could fulfill our fantasies and have old things in an old setting."

So today there's the Victorian tree with reproduction cameos as ornaments; a sleigh tree with miniature sleigh ornaments; a tobacco tree in the more masculine "Jeb Stuart room" featuring antique tobacco tins and raw tobacco as decorations; and a tree adorned with small teddy bears. A family of stuffed bears, dressed in Victorian garb, also occupies a prominent position on a banister of the winding, three-story staircase at the heart of the house.

The centerpiece in this whirlwind of Christmas paraphernalia is an 8-foot-high tree in the downstairs sitting room, decorated with 1,000 lights, four brass trumpets, horns and gold ornaments.

Boulware said she has several guests who return yearly. Her favorite comment on the displays was from a woman last year who called the antique decorations and arrangements "a feast for the eyes."

Besides the goal of promoting the house, which the couple bought in 1978 and began operating as a bed-and-breakfast three years ago, Boulware said she likes to get the decorations up early to provide a Christmas stop for visitors who may come to the area before Colonial Williamsburg puts up its decorations.

"You've got people traveling all over the world" to see this area during the holiday season, she said.

In a county that holds many of Virginia's oldest and most famous plantations, Edgewood is atypical. Although most of the others date from the 17th or 18th centuries, Edgewood was built relatively late, in 1849, and by a northerner, Spencer Rowland. The New Jersey man imported the Gothic revival architectural style, which at the time was alien to the region and 30 years ahead of its time, said Dot Boulware.

Over time and through several owners, the plantation has been a restaurant, church, post office, the county's first telephone exchange and a nursing home. A mill built in

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The Christmas Fund is an areawide campaign sponsored by the Daily Press and The Times-Herald to provide toys and food to needy youngsters and families.

Please send or bring your contributions to the nearest Daily Press Inc. office or mail them to:

**Christmas Fund, P.O. Box 746
Newport News, Va. 23607**

Here is today's list of contributors:

In memory of our son Rob from Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Cook: $25
Alice Nagel: $100
In Memory of Jerry Pittman from wife and foster daughter: $25
Huntington High Class of '45: $25
LTC. and Mrs. Michael Healey: $20
Ralph and Eunice Cates: $25
The Student Cooperative Association at T. C. Walker Elementary, Gloucester, Va.: $254.30
Desi Powell: $10
Phyllis Anderson: $25
Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Johnson: $45
Ted, Dianne and Mary Beth Wright: $50
Jack, Anna, Julie and Jim Peterson: $25
In Memory of Marion Burgoyne: $10
Merry Christmas to Someone: $5
Mrs. Barbara Moore's boys and girls on bus
583, Yates Elementary and Menchville High and Mrs. Cletis Thornton: $32.45
Ronald and Shirley Blackburn: $20

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Total to Date: $63,271.81

So every child will be remembered

Police remain baffled in double slaying

By PENNY BENDER
Staff Writer

ISLE OF WIGHT — Sheriff B. F. Dixon says he has two suspects in the three-month-old murder of David Knobling and Robin Edwards, but doesn't expect to make an arrest anytime soon.

"The problem is getting enough on them," Dixon said.

"We still don't know why (Knobling and Edwards) were killed. There's been speculation but no facts.

"Someone didn't want them alive. That's the only thing I know."

The 20-year-old man and the 14-year-old girl were murdered Sept. 20, both shot in the head with a high-caliber pistol. Their bodies were left at the Ragged Island wildlife refuge at the entrance to the James River Bridge.

The slayings, the first double killings in the county in over a decade, have led to the formation of a task force linking Isle of Wight County, Newport New and state police investigators. But the task force has not met recently because there is no new evidence in the case, Dixon said. There seems to be no motive.

Knobling and Edwards had met for the first time Sept. 19 through his cousin. She left her home after midnight with Knobling in his black 1986 Ford Ranger. They were never seen alive by their families again.

The two were reported missing that day. The sheriff's department found the abandoned pickup truck early Sept. 21 and the bodies on Sept. 23.

By that day, it had rained twice at Ragged Island and the tides had changed, erasing any footprints that may have been in the sand, Dixon said. There was no evidence on the game preserve or in Knobling's truck.

"We've never been able to establish where the murder took place. We're not even sure the murder occurred in Isle of Wight County," Dixon said. "The bodies and the truck were found over here so naturally that puts the burden on us."

Investigators found nothing in the backgrounds of Knobling and Edwards that would have led to their deaths. Police don't believe the murders are related to drugs, Dixon said.

Karl and Kathy Knobling, David's father and stepmother, are dissatisfied with the police investigation into the deaths.

The police wasted too much time by not acting on the missing persons reports sooner and by not investigating the truck, which police first noticed Sunday afternoon, contends Mrs. Knobling. The truck sat at Ragged Island with the keys in the ignition and the radio playing for nearly a day before police ran a license check.

David's truck was his pride and joy and would never have been left behind if he could help it, Mrs. Knobling said. Police photographed the truck, but allowed Karl Knobling to drive it home, then waited several days before searching for fingerprints, she said.

Dixon said the floor of the

■ Please see Probe, B3

'Miracle baby' comes home

By PENNY BENDER
Staff Writer

CARROLLTON — Grace DePasquale calls her five-week-old son the miracle baby.

So do the members of her church and the medical staff that cared for the infant in a Norfolk hospital's intensive care unit.

Andrew was born Nov. 14 with a hole in his heart the size of a watch face and without a portion of his aorta. He needed complicated surgery to survive.

The odds were against him, but Andrew made it through an eight-hour operation. He also lived through the night, despite doctors' warnings he might not.

To the delight of the medical team at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, Andrew recovered quickly. He came home Friday, less than five weeks after his operation.

"I just knew he was going to live," said Mrs. DePasquale, smiling. "This was the miracle I'd always prayed for."

Andrew's defects completely surprised Grace and her husband, Jerry DePasquale.

Mrs. DePasquale, 36, had a normal pregnancy. The ultrasound examinations turned up no abnormalities. She carried her child full-term and even slept through most of her labor pains.

After she gave birth at Riverside Hospital, she had pangs of dread when they did not bring her son to her.

"They said they had no idea" what was wrong and sent him to King's Daughters, Mrs. DePasquale recounted. He was on the operating table four days later.

The doctors gave Andrew a 25 percent chance of surviving the complex operation, the DePasquales said.

Andrew's condition is not

■ Please see Baby, B3

Staff photo by STEVEN WINGFIELD

Despite doctors' warnings, Mrs. DePasquale said she knew Andrew would live.

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