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Local Middle Peninsula Business/State B

Swim story unlikely, student's mother says

By BRIAN KELLEY

Staff Writer
YORK — Though authorities have found no evidence of foul play in the disappearance of two students Sunday, the mother of one student does not believe they simply went swimming and drowned.

They didn't go up there to go swimming, they didn't go up

there to get in trouble," said the mother, Janice P. Haley.

"They're smarter than to go into the water on a night that cold."

Haley's daughter, 18-year-old Cassandra Lee Haley of Grifton, and Richard W. "Tooth" Call, 20, of Gloucester, were last seen about 1:30 a.m. Sunday at a party in Newport News. Call's car was found about 7:30 a.m. Sunday on the Colonial Park

way, parked at the York River

police just west of the Naval Weapons Station.

Officials, who at first thought the pair may have drowned while taking a chilly late-night swim in the river, have as new clues after two full days of meticulous air, water and ground searches. Tracking dogs

traced the couple's scent from the car down a steep, 25-foot

vine-covered slope to a small beach.

The National Weather Service in Norfolk reported the air temperature early Sunday was in the low 50s.

Mrs. Haley finds it unlikely the couple, who were on their first date, would have gone swimming under those circum-

stances.

An air search for the two will resume today, said National Park Service Ranger Kathy

Chasin.

"It's at a point now where we've covered a large area," Chasin said. Officials have searched three miles of shore east and west of where the car was found, and have searched

underwater as well.

Several elements of the disappearance echo the slaying of two Peninsula residents last September. Three days after an 18-year-old Wight County deputy sheriff

found a pickup truck in the

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Staff photo by DAVID KOSMAN

Derailed

Rail cars lie scattered Monday afternoon in Charles City County after a 38-car derailment Sunday. An eastbound train carrying coal from Kentucky to Newport News derailed near Kothbury, spilling tons of coal and blocking rail traffic between Richmond and Tidewater through this morning. The apparent cause of the 5:55 p.m. accident was a wheel assembly that snapped and caused a wheel to break off one of the cars just east of a crossing over state Route 609, CSX officials said. There

were no injuries, and road traffic was not affected. Salvage workers began clearing the tracks early Monday, said Andrea Jost, a company spokeswoman. There was no estimate available of damage to the train or tracks, or of the amount of coal spilled. Amtrak's two trains a day through the area have been blocked, and passengers are being shuffled around the derailment by bus, said Jost. Kothbury is in the northwest corner of Charles City, about 20 miles east of Richmond.

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Tomcats finally allowed to purr away

By ROBERT BECKER

Staff Writer

VIRGINIA BEACH — After nearly 15 years of waiting, the Navy finally got the right engine to power its F-14A Tomcat.

Unveiled Monday in ceremony at Oceana Naval Air Station, the new version of the Tomcat, called the F-14A Plus, uses General Electric jet engines, replacing the Pratt and Whitney TF 30 engines that power the F-14A's now flying off U.S. aircraft carriers.

The GE engines deliver greater power at improved efficiency, by generating 14,000 pounds more thrust, the engines eliminate the need for pilots to use gas-guzzling afterburners during a carrier launch, saving 1,500 pounds of fuel for the flight.

Pilots say the added power will allow them to fly the Tomcat to the limits of its design.

"There's always been a need for more thrust," said Lt. Stuart Haley, who, along with Lt. Carib Norrie, will fly the first Super Tomcat delivered at Oceana. "We're going to get that now with the Super Tomcats."

The present Tomcat is not sluggish. The wing-loading fighter can reach a top speed of over 1,000 mph, and has a top altitude of 80,000 feet.

While the new Super Tomcat



Staff photo by DAVID KOSMAN

The new F-14A sports a more powerful and efficient engine.

won't fly much higher or faster than the current F-14A. It will have new radio equipment and a new landing system.

Said Norrie, "It will be an easier plane to bring in for a carrier landing. It's going to be a better performer."

The Navy wanted a better performing plane from the start.

When Grumman introduced the Tomcat in 1972, Pratt and Whitney, the company awarded the contract to supply the engines, was still at work developing a propulsion unit powerful enough to exploit the Tomcat's

until now."

Why was the engine project

called "Manny and politics?" Vice

Adm. Richard W. Dunseney, commander of the Navy's Atlantic fleet air force, said in an interview after the ceremony.

"It was a situation, way beyond the uniform guy's control. We had to wait to get the engine we wanted for 15 years."

Nearly 800 Tomcats later, the Navy is getting the plane it originally ordered. It plans for the \$2.8 billion F-14A Plus to protect the fleet until a new version of the Tomcat, the F-14D, comes on line in the early 1990s.

The fleet will begin receiving the first of the F-14A Pluses in the fall. Grumman is scheduled to produce 38 more Super Tomcats and modify 22 existing planes to F-14A Plus specifications.

Dunseney did not let thoughts of the 15-year delay dampen his spirits Monday. He thanked the contractors, as well as his colleagues in the "five-sided wind tunnel" (the Pentagon) who had championed the cause of the Super Tomcat.

"This is the plane the air wings have been waiting for," Dunseney said. "This is the kind of aircraft you can strap on and take flying."

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3 Hampton incumbents



Staff photo by DAVID KOSMAN

Baxter Simmons also unpires Little League games.

Simmons: 'Studious' candidate

By PHIL MURRAY

Staff Writer

HAMPTON — His colleagues on the City Council call him "two-questions" Baxter.

But carpet contractor Baxter E. Simmons is not ashamed of his moniker.

In his first term on the

City Council, Simmons, 46, has earned a reputation as one of the most outspoken members of the council and a serious student of city affairs.

He takes criticism from his colleagues for asking questions even on what appear to be routine items.

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Staff photo by DAVID KOSMAN

Brenda Wharton is a reading teacher at Kraft Elementary.

Wharton represents 'people'

By PHIL MURRAY

Staff Writer

HAMPTON — Public school teacher Brenda P. Wharton represents the "people" in the 1988 campaign.

"How can you represent blacks when you can stand on my own two feet?" Wharton emerged from

heres, contributed to her convincing second place finish.

"I said I represent not just blacks, not just whites, I represent people," Wharton, 46, said in a recent interview.

"I am a candidate who can stand on my own two feet."

Wharton emerged from

And her answer, she be-



Staff photo by DAVID KOSMAN

Charles Wornom is a pharmacist in downtown Hampton.

Wornom seeks service mark

By PHIL MURRAY

Staff Writer

HAMPTON — Appearing recently before area labor leaders with some of the City Council candidates in Newport News, Charles Wornom decided to give his counterparts a little history lesson on the lack of cooperation be-

tween the two cities.

Newport News, he says, had a chance to join with Hampton in building the Coliseum and a trash-burning facility Hampton operates with NASA. New Newport News is struggling to find an efficient way to dispose of garbage in the

■ Please see Wornom, B3