

B2 Daily Press/The Times-Herald, Saturday, April 16, 1988

Boater presumed drowned

By MATHEW PAUST
Staff Writer

GLOUCESTER POINT — A 30-year-old Gloucester Point man is missing and presumed drowned after his homemade boat was found in the York River unoccupied, with its ignition on and throttle open.

The search for Steven Lewis, a resident of the Sarah Creek area, was called off Friday afternoon.

The Coast Guard began its search at 9 a.m. Friday after Lewis' father, James Lewis, reported his son missing, said Quartermaster 1st Class Hank Reids, a spokesman for the 5th Coast Guard District headquarters in Portsmouth.

Reids said the younger Lewis had been expected to return Thursday evening after boating that afternoon to Yorktown beach.

The craft, described as a single-seat, plywood and fiberglass eight-foot hydroplane with a 25-horsepower outboard motor, was seen Thursday afternoon heading out of Sarah Creek, a York tributary, by a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The auxiliary observer reported that the boat's occupant appeared to be wearing a life jacket, said Reids.

A Virginia Marine Resources Commission patrol boat found the craft Friday morning.

The boat was about 100 yards south of Gloucester Point Marina, near the George P. Coleman Memorial Bridge.

"It was reported to be badly beaten and there was water in the cockpit, but there was no evidence it had been in an accident. More like it was storm damage," Reids said.

Assisting the Coast Guard boats were a Coast Guard helicopter, members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and James Lewis, who searched for his son in a private craft.

The search was called off after an area from the York River channel upstream to the Naval Weapons Station was thoroughly scrutinized with no sign of the missing man, Reids said.



Staff photo by JOE FLOCO

Driver hurt

A New Jersey truck driver was seriously injured Friday afternoon when his truck left Interstate 64 in James City County and plunged about 50 feet down an embankment. Samuel Wesley Jr., 26, of East Orange, was driving east 1 1/2 miles west of the Croaker exit about 2:20 p.m. when the accident occurred, said State Trooper J. C. Stevens. The cause of the accident has not been determined. Wesley was taken by helicopter to Norfolk General Hospital, where he underwent surgery for a lacerated liver, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Sand

Continued from B1
ervation, said it's common for nature to give and take the resort beach. He called nature's game "winter cut and summer fill" and said it had two main players: the Nor'easter and prevailing southwest winds.

Some of the sand is lost, however. Nor'easters, like the recent one, kick up waves that crest only a short distance apart. These waves break beyond the shoreline and crash down on the beach. Over a period of time, the waves cut away the shore and pull it into the ocean where sandbars form.

When the storm ends, prevailing winds create gentle waves that push much of the displaced sand back on the beach.

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Family offers reward

YORK — A \$4,000 reward for information leading to the whereabouts of two Christopher Newport College students missing since Sunday has been offered by the family of one of the youths.

Filers announcing the reward were distributed in Newport News and other areas by friends and family of Richard Keith Call, 25, of Gloucester, Call and Cassandra Lee Halsey, 18, of Grafton, have been sought since Call's car was found at a York River scenic overlook off the Colonial Parkway west of the Naval Weapons Station entrance about 7:15 a.m. Sunday.

Richard W. Call, the missing man's father, said he is using \$5,000 of his own money for the reward, along with donations from others.

"Some businesses in the area and quite a bit of the employees where I work," at Ashburn-Busch brewery have donated to

Help sought in finding couple

the reward fund, which might increase with other pledges, Call said Friday.

"Everybody wants to help. I'm trying to stay busy, see if I can come up with something," he added.

The filers ask anyone who has seen his son or Halsey to call the FBI at 625-3111 or 244-1050.

The two CNC students were last seen at a party at University Square Apartments on Warwick Boulevard in Newport News between 1:30 and 2 a.m. Sunday, say friends and relatives.

Parents of the two say they think the couple, on their first date, were abducted somewhere between the party and the Parkway.

"The FBI has been investigating the 'mysterious disappearance and possible abduction'

since Monday, though authorities emphasize they have found no evidence of a crime.

Keith Call is described as white, 6 feet tall, 150 pounds, with short dark blond hair and blue eyes. He was wearing a brown and grey cardigan sweater and white polo shirt, two-tone brown dress slacks and leather shoes.

Halsey is described as white, 5 feet 7 inches tall, 135 pounds, with medium-length Auburn hair and brown eyes. She was wearing two-tone blue acid-washed jeans, a white, front-button blouse with three-quarter-length sleeves and brown, ankle-length, lace-up boots.

Several items of clothing belonging to the two were found in the car Sunday, authorities said.

Purchase of roost uncertain

By KEMA SODERBERG
Staff Writer

With less than a week to go, a conservation group has raised only half the \$185 million needed to buy land on the James River considered to be the largest bald-eagle roost on the East Coast.

"We'd certainly hoped by this time we would be able to raise the money," said George H. Fenwick, the Nature Conservancy's Virginia director. "I really thought more people would come forward because the issue is a national priority, not just a state priority."

The Nature Conservancy is a

private, non-profit group based in Arlington that buys land to save it from development. The group negotiated a 90-day option with Continental Forest Industries Inc. to buy 3,500 acres in Prince George County for \$185 million. In addition, the group needs \$400,000 to maintain the property, Fenwick said.

So far, less than \$1 million has been donated for the project, and the company has refused to extend next Thursday's deadline, Fenwick said.

The Howell timber company is a subsidiary of Continental Land Resources Inc., which rarely grants options to

buy, Fenwick said.

Company spokesmen could not be reached for comment.

Fenwick said the Charlottesville-based chapter of Nature Conservancy may be able to borrow money from the national organization if donations fall short of the goal. He said he hadn't decided how much money would be needed for such a step.

The James River roosting area is said to be as many as 125 bald eagles a night between April and August. The birds, which are on the federal endangered species list, have built two nests on the property.

Virginia Beach Erosion Council has spent about \$13.5 million since 1975, said N. LeRoy Bras, council secretary. The council expects to spend about \$17 million in the upcoming fiscal year.

Bras said the council uses the money to maintain the beach's 100-foot width by trucking in an average of 150,000 cubic yards

of sand each spring. In addition, the council dredges about the same amount from Buxton inlet each year and spreads it on the beach.

Bras said the storm's recent sand shift is something the council has learned to live with.

"Erosion is a natural phenomenon," he said. "We're

mainly trying to keep up with Mother Nature. You can't go out there and 'paste' your sand down."

And you can't just let the beach go, either, officials said. Methuen said \$2.5 million tourists spend the night in Virginia Beach each year and leave about \$20 million.

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