

LifeStyles **Croquet** Serious backyard fun - C1

Sports **'Skins** Kaufman fails exam - D1

LifeStyles **Tony** Getting into college today - C1

Tuesday
May 10, 1988

© 1988 The Daily Press, Inc.

Daily Press

Final Edition

93rd Year — No. 131 • Hampton Roads' Morning Newspaper • Newport News-Hampton, Va. TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Navy putting warships to test in gulf

By RICHARD FYLE
Associated Press Writer

MANAMA, Bahrain — The U.S. Navy is assigning various types of its more modern warships to the Persian Gulf to put them to the test in a combat environment.

While the Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided missile frigates, small vessels known as "Tigs," will continue to dominate the Gulf-based Middle East Fleet, the Navy has assigned three of its modern Spruance-class destroyers to the waterway, and for the first time in at least a year will have no guided missile cruisers on hand.

The cruisers, none of them less than 20 years old, have shared the brunt of gulf escort and patrol duties with the frigates in the past year.

The emphasis now is to be on more modern ships, primarily the destroyers, which one officer said "will be the backbone of the Navy in coming years."

Assigning these and other types of ships to the gulf will give some "balance" to the overall surface fleet, rather than having the combat experience concentrated in mostly older vessels, said the officer, speaking only on condition of anonymity.

At the time the guided missile frigate Stark was hit and nearly sunk by an Iraqi missile May 17, 1987, the U.S. Middle East Force had four to six members. It more than doubled, then tripled, after the United States began escorting 11 re-flagged Kuwait tankers in July to protect them from Iranian attacks.

More than 40 of the Navy's 230-plus surface combat ships have made their appearance in the gulf since then.

Although it varies from week to week as ships arrive and depart, the Gulf-based force recently stood officially at 14, including six wooden-hulled ocean-going minesweepers, more than 30 years old, and their mother ship, the Trenton.

Several of the Navy's 21 Spruance-class destroyers, 7,810-ton ships armed with a variety of long-range missiles, have served with carrier battle groups supporting the Gulf convoy operations from the Arabian Sea, but none have been in the gulf.

■ Please see Ships, A4



Irvin Wells, FBI special agent, made the announcement Monday in Norfolk.

Flustered FBI offers cash for murder info

By BOB EVANS
Staff Writer

NORFOLK — The FBI took the unusual step Monday of offering a \$10,000 reward for information on a 1986 double murder near Yorktown because no arrest is imminent and the public is in danger, an agency official said.

The reward for information leading to the conviction of whoever was responsible for the murders of Cathleen M. Thomas and Rebecca A. Dowski was announced by Norfolk, FBI office Special Agent in Charge Irvin B. Wells.

The agency offers such a reward only after a thorough investigation has been conducted "in a case that is considered important" compared with other nationwide, Wells said.

"We feel it is an important case because 'the possibility exists that people in the community there remain in danger' as long as the killer or killers remain at large, Wells said.

"Regrettably, it does not mean we are fairly close to solving the murders of Dowski and Thomas, Wells said of the reward. Suspects considered in the case immediately after the bodies were found have been ruled out, but Wells would not comment on whether any suspects remain.

Wells said Dowski and Thomas might have been victims of a serial killer, but added no evidence of that has been determined. He said FBI agents have been comparing notes on unsolved murders with state and local police, but have not found definite connections to those or other cases, including the disappearance of two people last month.

He denied the reward offer comes too late, exactly 19 months since the two were last seen alive on the W&M campus, about 9:30 p.m. Oct. 8, 1986.

An FBI field office must request permission to offer a reward like this one, and only the director of the agency, William S. Sullivan, can approve on, Wells said.

This is the only case with a reward being offered in the Norfolk office's jurisdiction, which covers Tidewater Virginia west to Williamsburg. Wells and FBI officials in Washington, D.C., could not name other cases where such rewards have been offered.

Dowski, 21, and Thomas, 28, were found Oct. 12, 1986, strangled and with their throats cut inside Thomas' Honda Civic automobile. The car was mangled in bushes on a cliff overlooking the York River near the 9 1/2 kilometer marker of the Colonial Parkway east of Chesham.

■ Please see Reward, A4

Council races, issues on ballots

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. across Virginia today for registered voters to select city and town council members and mayors.

Issues ranging from growth and taxes to trash disposal and quality of life, the localities from West Point to Newport News to Suffolk, will be on the minds of voters.

In Newport News, 10 candidates are competing for three seats on the City Council. Democrats need to win only one of those seats to hold onto their current 4-3 majority.

The candidates are Democrat Woodrow M. Brown Jr. (incumbent), Joe S. Frank and Woodrow L. Holmes Jr., Republican Robert E. Hawkins, Barry E. DuVal and W. E. Fitzgerald, and independent Joseph C. Ritchie (incumbent), Steven J. McAffrey, Stuart J. Pleshman and Bobby E. Lynn.

In Hampton, Mayor James Eaton, seeking a third term, faces Barry I. Epstein.

Three council seats will be decided in a seven-way race that includes incumbents Baxter E. Simmons, Brenda P. Wharton and Charles A. Wootton. The

challengers are John E. Cules, Raymond S. Erickson, Thomas J. Gear and Rudy Langford. In a special election to fill the vacant term, incumbent Turner Spencer faces John W. Clark III.

In the city of Poquoson, the three candidates for mayor are Cornell Burcher, James Cottee and Eugene H. Desautels. In the Central District, incumbent L. Harold Quinn faces Herman L. Howard. Candidates in the Eastern and Western districts are unopposed.

In the city of Williamsburg, incumbents Gilbert Granger, Stephen Harris and John Hedges are being challenged by political newcomer Tim McConnell for three seats.

In the city of Suffolk, a council representative from

■ Please see Vote, A4

Furious first lady plans to continue stargazing

By OWEN ULLMANN
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — First lady Nancy Reagan, described as furious and upset over the way she is portrayed in former chief of staff Donald T. Regan's new book, intends to keep consulting an astrologer for help in planning her husband's schedule, White House officials said Monday.

White House spokesmen made no attempt to deny Regan's allegations — that a

strump-willed first lady interfered in a passive president's affairs with help from an astrologer and ruthlessly ordered the firings of top officials.

Instead, they accused Regan of exploiting his confidential relationship with the first lady "for personal anticlerest."

And Nancy Reagan said in a statement issued by her press office that "I was taken aback by the vengefulness of the attack. It's come through to me

that Don Regan doesn't really like me."

White House spokesman Martin Flaherty said the first lady was "very upset," and other officials said privately that both the president and his wife were furious at Regan. Although they have not yet seen the book, they were provided with excerpt published this week in Time magazine, the officials said.

In his book, "For the Record," released Sunday, Regan's allegations — that a

Army has lost track of funds

By NEIL BOLAND
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Despite a four-year search, the Army has been unable to trace \$11.5 million improperly spent on spy operations throughout the world in the early 1980s, according to Army officials and internal reports.

Second of two parts

Army officials have initiated steps against seven individuals to recover \$10,000 in lost or stolen funds, and an eighth could face criminal prosecution for shredding key documents during an internal investigation, a Pentagon spokesman said.

Military officials said the Army's routine destruction of accounting records, on orders

■ Please see Army, A4

Kepone ban may end today

By KEMA SODERBERG
Staff Writer

RESCUE — Watermen are pleased that a 15-year-old ban on finfishing in the James River could be lifted today by the State Board of Health, but some said Monday that commercial fishing may not be economical until other restrictions are eliminated.

Robert Strube, deputy commissioner of community health services, said the health board is expected to vote today to let the finfishing ban expire June 30. Advance approval was given by Gov. Gerald L. Baliles in March.

The ban was imposed in 1973 when it was discovered that Life Science Products of Hopewell had dumped a pesticide called Kepone into the James River, contaminating it. Plant workers

■ Please see Kepone, A4

Index

Ann Landers	CS	LifeStyles	C1
Astrology	CS	Local	B1
Business	B6	National	A3
Classified	D6	Obituaries	D4
Comics	CS	Sports	D1
Editorials	A6	Stocks	B7
Entertainment	C3	Television	C3

Today's weather: Thirty percent chance of afternoon rain, high in upper 70s. A2.

Education secretary announces plans to leave Cabinet. A3.