

Search in river called off

YORK — A search of the York River west of Yorktown was ended Sunday at 11 a.m. approximately 12 hours after a woman told authorities she had seen a head in the water while boating.

The search area was near where the belongings of two Christopher Newport College students were found in an abandoned car at a Colonial Parkway scenic overlook April 18.

Richard Keith Call, 20, of Gloucester and Cassandra L. Hickey, 19, of Gratton were last seen at a party in Newport News earlier that day. The car, a red Toyota Celica, belonged to Call.

U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer R.J. Barrett said Sunday that rescue boats searched the river between the Coleman Bridge and Yorktown Naval Weapons Station after receiving a call at 11:45 p.m. Saturday from the woman.

She reported seeing a head without a body floating in the water about 60 yards offshore at about 3:30 p.m. Saturday, he said.

When she was questioned further, the woman admitted that it could have been debris or another object, Barrett said. Coast Guard and Abingdon-Volunteer Rescue Squad workers in boats searched the area Saturday night and early Sunday, and Coast Guard vessels in the area continued looking Sunday before calling off the search.

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District

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will be how he fares among traditionally Democratic black voters.

Charles E. Jones, a political analyst at Old Dominion University, said Pickett won two years ago because he had overwhelming support from Norfolk's black voters. That edge gave Pickett a 60-32 percent win in Norfolk and enough votes to more than offset the 48-41 percent Republican margin in Virginia Beach.

Jones believes Curry has little chance of cutting into that black vote.

Spray

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The first Air Force spraying this year was May 22 and 23.

Rundfleisch said that broods of salt marsh mosquitoes emerge 30 days after tidal flooding occurs on the marshes. Broods are expected to come out this summer on June 24, July 15, August 15 and September 15. The best time to spray is shortly after the broods begin to emerge.

"We don't spray indiscriminately," said Tom Wittkamp, environmental coordinator with the Air Force base.

The base looks at the target dates and mosquito larva counts to set a range of possible spray dates. They then make a request to the Ohio-based spraying team that services Air Force spraying operations worldwide.

Eleanor Rice, the black Republican from Hampton who tied last year to unseat state Sen. Hunter Andrews, a white Democrat, can attest to the difficulty of trying to win black voters. She failed to win a single precinct in a city that has several predominantly black precincts. "The task is not impossible. But it's a mountainous one," Rice says.

Still Pickett says he is not taking Curry's challenge lightly. "I go by the traditional philosophy that any opposition is serious opposition," he says.

"I'm scared to death of him," says Howard Copeland, a Norfolk Democrat and state delegate who is a political ally of Wittkamp.

The Air Force sprays with Deltamethrin, a quickly broken-down insecticide that kills adult mosquitoes on contact but also affects a number of "non-targets," including honey bees and butterflies.

From a pest-control perspective, it's an advantage to have the spraying take care of the larvae with the mosquitoes.

Rundfleisch said insecticides that do not hurt other insects are available. There are also more effective ways of killing mosquitoes than the adult-killing spray used by the Air Force. "They offer temporary relief, that's all," he said. But alternatives are three to four times more expensive, he said.

Pickett. "The man is articulate and has a distinguished military record — and therefore is difficult to ignore."

As a black Republican, Curry is a relatively rare occurrence. He is being touted by the state GOP as a symbol of its efforts to attract more blacks into the Republican fold.

But, more than his race, the Virginia Beach resident is touted as a candidate with the kind of credentials that bode well in military-oriented Hampton Roads. His Army career reaches back 28 years when he signed up as a private in the infantry. He retired as a major general in 1984 after a stint at the Pentagon as chief spokesman for Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger.

Wilder did an about-face two years ago and endorsed Pickett for the 2nd District congressional seat being vacated by 18-year incumbent Rep. G. William Whitestart, a Republican. Pickett defeated Republican A. Joseph Canada in a bitter contest.

It's a seat we used to have, and a seat we'd like to have back," says J. Kenneth King, campaign director for the National Republican Congressional Committee in Washington.

The state and national Republican parties have already pledged to give the maximum amount they are allowed under federal election laws, about \$20,000 apiece.

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