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Middle Peninsula

Local MO MP Obituaries/State B

Locked up, neglected horses go to humane society

By STEPHANIE SHARPE Staff Writer

MATHEWS — Construction workers walking through the woods near Mathews Court house on Saturday discovered three badly neglected horses locked inside a dark, rundown barn.

From the condition of the horses and the barn, it appeared the horses had been locked in the barn at least two years, said Dotie Kowalik, a state animal

welfare investigator. A fenced pasture was next to the barn, but no signs that the horses had been turned out there, she said.

The horses were standing in pasture more than three feet high. There was no water in or near the barn or signs that the animals had been fed recently, Kowalik said.

All three horses were registered, said Anne C. Gowley, president of the Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society,

where the horses were taken. "The owner apparently at one time paid a decent amount of money for them. I just can't understand why they would then turn around and neglect them so badly," she said.

The 18-year-old mare is a registered Morgan. Her son, a 5-year-old stallion, is also registered. The other horse is an 8-year-old Tennessee walking horse.

The owner, whom authorities

and humane society representatives said they could not identify under state law, turned the horses and several other animals he owned — chickens and ducks — over to the humane society, said Mathews animal control officer Philippe Madson.

In exchange for the animals, the county will not prosecute the owner for animal neglect, he said.

When asked why he had neglected the animals, the owner

told Madson that he had fallen on hard times and couldn't afford to care for them.

All of the horses were so thin their ribs showed, Gowley said. Their hooves hadn't been trimmed in years. The mare's feet were grown out so badly that her hooves curled out several inches like Banjo the clown shoes," Gowley said.

The mare is probably permanently lame, but the two young stallions seem relatively healthy considering their lack of care.

Gowley said All of the horses are staying at the Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society shelter until they recuperate enough to be adopted.

The shelter has been inundated with visitors since the horses arrived, Gowley said. People have brought food and hay and money to help with the veterinary bills.

Several people have already expressed an interest in adopting them.

Word power



Jessie Mae Grant, who learned to read two years ago, is among the speakers at the Regional Literacy Congress.

Literacy gives woman new look at life

By MATHEW PAUST Staff Writer

HAMPTON — Two years ago, Jessie Mae Grant was read at herself and the world.

Her life had been a nightmare for as long as she could remember — she'd been abused, raped, kicked out of school, declared feeble-minded and sterilized.

She was 39 years old and felt she had no control over her life.

Then she learned to read. With that, she stepped into a garden of delights that could

have been only dreamed of before: brunch with Barbara Bush, dinner at the governor's mansion, appearances on national television.

This morning, Grant is scheduled as one of five speakers — with Virginia's first lady, Jeanne P. Ballew, and Harold W. McGraw Jr., chairman emeritus of the McGraw-Hill publishing house — at the third annual Regional Literacy Congress, a breakfast gathering at the Newport News Omni Hotel.

Grant gained with her growing reading skills that she also lost more than 40 pounds. "I didn't go on a diet or anything. It was just that the stress was gone," she said. "I felt so much better. Now I'm at the right weight for my height. My whole life has changed."

Grant had wanted to learn to read before, but didn't know how to go about it. "I thought it would cost too much money, but I couldn't get a job to get the money because I couldn't read," she said.

Since moving to Hampton 14

years ago from Potomac, N.C., many times she had passed the building at 1200 Aberdeen Road, where the Peninsula Literacy Council is housed.

Because she couldn't read the sign, she never knew this was the place that could make her smile again.

That's that is a judge gave her the choice of being published for a traffic offense or being committed.

"That was the first time anybody gave me a choice about my life. Up until then I felt

Ideas spin for copter of future

Military's money woes an obstacle

By CHARLES H. BOGINO Staff Writer

WILLIAMSBURG — Industry representatives and military men gathered in small groups in the brown-carpeted conference rooms of the Fort Magruder Inn Wednesday, talking shop and sales.

"Gee, that would be nice, but we really don't have the money for a system like that right now," a Defense Department official in a two-piece suit told one company rep.

Such conversation-stoppers were common at the fourth National Specialist Meeting on Helicopter Military Operations Technology, which is being held at the motel and nearby Fort Dixie this week.

Even at a conference where helicopter aficionados like to dream of fancy choppers of the future, the realization that the days of fat city are over were evident during a number of the hearings.

Anthony M. Corgiat, chief of advanced concepts for the Army's Aviation Systems Command, gave a little presentation showing artists' renditions of future helicopters not yet on the

engineers' drawing boards.

Some depicted helicopters that looked more like jets, with rotors built into the wings. One would lift more weight than cargo craft in the air now; another would fly at nearly 400 mph — nearly double the fastest helicopter now in the Army's force.

Others would stay in the air for 30 days at a time, use solar or microwave power, or be operated by remote control.

"The battlefield of the future seems not conducive to human beings operating in it," Corgiat said.

But these are just ideas, Corgiat admitted. It's not his job to figure out if they will be needed or how much taxpayers should be willing to spend.

"You have to look at the future requirement," Corgiat said. "Second, you have to look at the cost involved. Then you have to get realistic. You have to decide 'Do I need to develop a new system?'"

The nearly 400 people in attendance got breakfast Wednesday morning on two controversial

I-64 body found to be of young black woman

By RONNIE CROCKER Staff Writer

NEW KENT — The badly decomposed human remains found near Interstate 64 here Monday were those of a black woman between the ages of 18 and 25, an autopsy has determined.

"That's the extent of it," Tom Stanley said of the autopsy results, which did not indicate how the woman died. "The time of death has not even been at-

tempted,"

Police thought they were

China expert predicts U.S. to retain its ties

By MARK FELSENFEL Staff Writer

WARSAW — Instilling Henry Kissinger's gravely accented voice and stinging snippets of 19th-century slang, an expert on China said the United States is far from breaking off relations with the Asian superpower.

Despite America's outraged public reaction to the measure of student protesters by Chinese army troops in Beijing in May, American policy is likely to be influenced by pragmatism, according to John Israel, a professor of Chinese history at the University of Virginia.

America's policy toward China has always swung back and forth between emotional reactions and attitudes influenced by pragmatic self-interest, or "realpolitik," said Israel, speaking at Rappahannock Community College on Tuesday night. The United States is unlikely to scrap the dialogue with China that began with pingpong diplomacy in the early 1970s, he added. Though recent events upset Americans concerned with human rights, President Bush took "a minimalist approach" toward expressing disapproval, Israel said.

The president believes that relations between the two countries are so important that the painstaking process of improving relations cannot be "sacrificed on the altar of American sentiments," Israel said. "He made just the right number of statements in just the right degree of outrage; he invoked the minimum amount of sanctions."

Israel is a student of the man many consider the dean of American scholars on China, Harvard University professor John King Fairbank. Israel



John Israel of U.Va. described U.S. China policy to community college audience.

argued that American opinion of the Middle Kingdom was colored by emotional opposition to communism following World War II.

In 1972, President Nixon and national security adviser Kissinger made the first overtures to China after decades of chilly silence. Part of the purpose of the rapprochement, Israel said, was to balance a perception of threat from the Soviet Union.

Now, in a switch, American perceptions of the

A moving silver anniversary

Quake punctuates pair's celebration of wedding vows

By MARK DI VINCENZO Staff Writer

WILLIAMSBURG — What a way to celebrate a 25th wedding anniversary.

A section of the bridge the husband and wife were driving on collapsed, they abandoned their car and ran for their lives, back at the hotel, they worried whether a "tumbling fire" too blocks away would reach them.

Patrick W. and Betty Ann Brophy of Williamsburg had planned and saved for the trip to San Francisco for 10 years. They were there last week during the earthquake.

Mrs. Brophy said she wants to go back — but not anytime soon. She joked that she and her husband are thinking about celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary at Mount St. Helens, an active volcano in Washington state.

The Brophys wouldn't have been on the Bay Bridge when a section collapsed, but they decided to visit a cousin in Oakland. The double-decker bridge has four one-way lanes on the bottom that lead to Oakland and four one-way lanes on top that lead to San Francisco.



Betty Ann Brophy, a teacher at Greenwood Preachbrook, was on the Bay Bridge with her husband when the quake hit.