



# The Tidewater News

111TH YEAR, NO. 137

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2016

50 CENTS

## City school board could face legal consequences from deficit Council, Commonwealth's Attorney weighing options

BY STEPHEN FALESKI  
STAFF WRITER

stephen.faleski@tidewaternews.com

### FRANKLIN

The city of Franklin and Southampton County are waiting and watching as Franklin's superintendent and school board attempt to resolve their \$480,000 deficit, and may consider legal action if the issues are not resolved after the next

council meeting.

On Friday afternoon last week, Dr. Willie J. Bell, division superintendent of the City of Franklin's Public Schools, sent a formal letter to City Manager R. Randy Martin requesting funds to cover the deficit reported at the Oct. 3 school board meeting. According to Franklin Mayor Frank Rabil, as of Tuesday this week, Dr. Bell has rescinded his request.

According to Martin, Dr. Bell asked him on Tuesday to hold off processing his request for funds, and believes the delay may be due to the superintendent's office working with a third party to sort through the budget issues.

The superintendent is still required to submit a balanced budget to the Virginia Department of Education. According to Charles Pyle, VDOE's director of commu-

nications, they are already overdue, having been granted one extension to file by Sept. 30, the original deadline being Sept. 15.

The Commonwealth Attorney's in Southampton County is aware of the school district's ongoing budget issues, but has not as of yet decided to launch an investigation. "I am aware of these allegations, which could possibly be deemed malfeasance under the Virginia

Code," said Eric Cooke, the Commonwealth's Attorney for Southampton County and the city of Franklin. "At this point, I am interested in whatever corrective action the School Board and the City Council may take, and will consider that before I determine whether an investigation into these matters is appropriate."

SEE COUNCIL, A8



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Isle of Wight County students who participated in the American Legion's Boys State and the American Legion Auxiliary's Girls State describe their experiences for the school board at their October meeting.

## October is bullying prevention month, IW school board votes

BY STEPHEN FALESKI  
STAFF WRITER

stephen.faleski@tidewaternews.com

### ISLE OF WIGHT

The Isle of Wight County School Board voted unanimously to accept Gov. Terry McAuliffe's proclamation of October as bullying prevention month at their monthly board meeting, held Thursday at the Isle of Wight County Courthouse Complex.

Additional highlights from the board meeting included Jim Abicht's announcement that Smithfield Music will donate a total of \$12,500 to all nine schools in Isle of Wight County to further their music programs, the recognition of this month's Isle of Wight Achievers and Boys and Girls State participants, a presentation on a new Early Literacy Reading Program and recognition of Jan. 2 as a federal holiday and close all schools for that day.

This month's Isle of Wight "Achievers," students who excel beyond the level recognized by individual schools, to include regional state and national levels in academic or athletic pursuits, were recognized at the board meeting, along with students who participated in Boys State and Girls State.

Boys State and Girls State are programs sponsored by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary to teach high school students how government works and to develop leadership skills. Participants run for office, learn public speaking, create and enforce laws and actively participate in creating a working government alongside students from all across Virginia during this summer program.

Lois West and the Windsor High School Art Club were also recog-

SEE BULLYING, A8

## Chilling through chemo puts a cap on hair loss

BY STEPHEN H. COWLES  
STAFF WRITER

stephen.cowles@tidewaternews.com

### SUFFOLK

One of the many unpleasant side effects of being treated for cancer is hair loss. The strength of radiation or chemotherapy attacks not only the disease, but also the healthy parts of the body, such as the follicles. Recently, though, a Walters resident decided not to accept that depletion as a matter of course. Instead, she found a treatment little known in the area that's helped keep up her dignity and spirits.

Barbara Herrala was at the Virginia Oncology Associates wing in Sentara Obici Hospital on Thursday morning. She and her husband, Ted, were waiting to be called to a room where she would get her last dosage of chemotherapy. That day would also be the last for her to use the series of Arctic Cold Caps, which were stored in a large cooler chilled by dry ice.

Looking straight on, Herrala appears to have a full head of hair. Bending down to show the top of her head, she reveals some thinning. But she's still quite pleased.

"I've kept my own hair after five treatments," the petite-sized patient said with a broad smile. "I'm thrilled!"

She has been shedding some hair, but this is far preferable to losing it in clumps, patches or all together.

The need for all this dates back



STEPHEN H. COWLES | THE TIDEWATER NEWS

Barbara Herrala of Walters is bundled in pink-colored blankets and scarves while wearing the first in a series of Arctic Cold Caps. Chilled by dry ice, the head coverings are intended to constrict blood vessels in the scalp and prevent the chemotherapy from damaging the hair follicles.

to as early as June 2015 when she had a mammogram, something Herrala's done regularly for years. Right after Thanksgiving, she performed a self-exam. Doing these cannot be stressed enough in her opinion. Herrala found something to catch her attention, and made a note to pay

attention.

A history of benign cysts was another factor in her life, and so she thought that's what was the questionable area.

Then in mid-February of this year, she went to the doctor's office for a test.

She mentioned and thanked Dr. Brian King at Sentara Obici, who did the biopsy. That test revealed a diagnosis positive for cancer. A lumpectomy, the surgery to remove a lump from her left breast, became necessary in late April. Four lymph nodes were also removed.

Genetic testing also became necessary, and it discovered there's a lot of cancer on her father's side.

A second type of cancer developed, Paget's disease of the breast; this time six more lymph nodes were affected. Twelve days later doctors performed a mastectomy, the removal of all breast tissue as a way to prevent the cancer, became necessary. One of the lymph nodes was also positive; those six were taken out.

"Terrified" was Herrala's initial reaction at the thought of dealing

SEE HERRALA, A6



Barbara Herrala shows that her hair has thinned through shedding. But the use of the Arctic Cold Caps has kept it from all falling out completely.

## Gun stolen from unlocked vehicle

STAFF REPORT

### FRANKLIN

A Boykins woman reported to Franklin police that her firearm was stolen the night of Wednesday, Oct. 11.

According to the police report, the woman had parked her car at Dorchester Square Apartments in the "H" section between 8 p.m. and midnight, leaving the doors unlocked and a Jimenez 9mm pis-

tol lying on the front passenger seat. When she returned, the pistol was missing along with cash that she stored in the center console.

The Franklin Police Department is asking anyone with information about this larceny to call them at 562-8575, or the Franklin Crime Solvers at 562-8599. The police are also strongly urging people to not keep firearms inside unlocked vehicles.

The Tidewater News  
(757) 562-3187  
editor@tidewaternews.com  
www.tidewaternews.com



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2015  
Virginia  
PRESS  
Association  
Award-Winning  
Newspaper

INSIDE	
OPINION	A2
OBITUARIES	A3
IT'S HAPPENING HERE	A4
FAITH & WORSHIP	A7
LIFE	B1
COMMUNITY NEWS	B2-B3
CLASSIFIEDS	B3-B4

DEATHS  
Grace S. Edwards, 94  
Leonard T. Parker, 76



**BEST BET**  
Boykins Car, Truck, Bike and Tractor Show: The Boykins Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor a car, truck, bike and tractor show on today, Oct. 15, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Trophies awarded to all that participate. For more information, call 653-1467 or 376-0603.

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