

LOCAL

Board backs 11% hike for city teachers

By LYNDIA R. PAGE
Staff Writer

HAMPTON — Beginning teachers in the city may earn more than their counterparts in Newport News and York County next school year, says city School Board Chairman Theodore Bunch.

The School Board tentatively approved Superintendent Don R. Musselman's proposal to give teachers a 11 percent average raise and other full-time employees a 10 percent average pay increase at a budget work session Wednesday.

Musselman's proposal gives starting teachers, who receive the biggest chunk of the average salary increase, a 20 percent raise.

If the board votes for the proposal May 30, a beginning

teacher with a bachelor's degree would earn \$16,500 in Hampton next year. Starting teachers currently earn \$13,500.

Bunch says the raises will put the city's beginning teacher salaries ahead of Newport News' starting teachers, but slightly behind Williamsburg-James City County's. If York County starting teachers get the average 7 percent raise the city board has recommended for next year, they'll also earn less than their counterparts in Hampton, Bunch added.

Hampton's beginning teachers currently earn less than those in Newport News, York County and Williamsburg-James City County.

The board was able to give teachers the 11 percent average raise.

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Storm KO's power

About 2,400 Virginia Electric and Power Co. customers on the Peninsula were without service for up to three hours after heavy rains and high winds combined to knock down power lines.

The storm brought 0.73 inches of rain in 90 minutes to the National Weather Service Station at Norfolk International Airport.

Weather service forecaster Angela Downing said peak winds of about 31 mph were recorded at 8:35 p.m. at Langley Air Force Base.

A fallen tree limb caused about 100 customers supplied by the Hilton Substation, including the Newmarket North mall, to be without service from about 8 p.m. to about 9:35 p.m., Vepco spokesman Fred Ellis said.

Ellis said another 1,800 customers in the area of Lee Hall and Newport News Park were without power for about an hour beginning at about 8 p.m.

About 600 customers in the area of Briarfield Road and Jefferson Avenue, including the Daily Press Inc. and House Towers, were without power from about 8 p.m. to about 10:30 p.m.

Some customers in Phoebus near Port Monroe were also without power because of a downed line.

Coal dust unsettles residents

Tenants group writes governor

By WILLIAM MATTHEWS
Staff Writer

NEWPORT NEWS — A tenants' council at the Harbor Homes apartment complex drafted a letter to Gov. Charles Robb Wednesday, complaining about coal dust that blows from three nearby coal terminals.

"We feel that as American citizens we deserve some consideration," the letter says.

The tenants say they have tried to get the state Air Pollution Control Board to take action against the coal terminals, but the dust problem has not been solved.

The letter asks Robb to prod state and local officials "to minimize the coal dust that threatens our health and safety."

The letter is to be mailed later this week, said Gloria Tabb, president of the tenants' council. The dust can be blamed, at least in part, on inadequate planning before the coal terminals were built, said Iretta Tolliver, manager of Harbor Homes.

"Every time you approach them (the terminal operators) about the dust they say it

is the velocity of the wind" that is creating the problem. "The wind has been blowing in this area for years," she said. The companies, the city and State Air Pollution Control Board should have known wind would create a dust problem, and should have planned ways to eliminate it, she said.

Lorin Hay, regional engineer for the Air Pollution Control Board, said Wednesday an Air Pollution Control Board study was conducted before the terminals were built, but it failed to predict the seriousness of the problem. The board conducted a study

Cadillac accident

It didn't pay for John J. Middleton, 17, of Delta Circle in Newport News to end up early Wednesday morning. He ended up with a truckload of

problems while giving Willie O'Connor's Cadillac a trunkload of truck in the 700 block of Dresden Drive. Police said the O'Connor car was

parked when the 7:23 a.m. accident occurred, but said Wednesday afternoon that little else was known about the accident's circumstances.

City, county plan to get advanced 911

By SUSIE DORSEY
Staff Writer

WILLIAMSBURG — Williamsburg and James City County are making plans to acquire state-of-the-art 911 emergency dispatching systems.

When a caller dials 911 and the dispatcher answers under the "Enhanced-911" system, the telephone number of the person who dialed 911 immediately flashes on a screen. Within seconds, the caller's address and any other information pro-

grammed into a computer flash on a second screen. This information could include handicaps or serious medical problems.

Both Williamsburg and James City County have notified Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co. they want the Enhanced-911 system installed. Enhanced-911 takes up to two years to be programmed into computers. The county sent a letter of intent to C&P this month, and the city applied earlier this year.

The county now has a "Basic-911" system, but the city has no 911 service at all.

C&P's Peninsula manager, Gene Queen, said every Peninsula jurisdiction has expressed interest in installing Enhanced-911.

Queen said Enhanced-911 has been available for some time but was prohibitively expensive for most jurisdictions until the General Assembly passed a law enabling monthly fees of 25 to 30 cents on each telephone bill to

be passed on to residents. Capital outlay costs for the system will be about \$60,000 for each jurisdiction.

Williamsburg's action to move from no 911 to Enhanced-911 would have affected James City County's current central dispatch system, so county supervisors decided to try to catch up.

Williamsburg never installed 911 because the telephone exchanges overlap jurisdictional

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(From left) Stephanie Smith and Mrs. Tabb stand while Mr. Tolliver goes over the draft.

Family files suit over brain damage from 1978 birth

By SUSAN FRIEND
Staff Writer

NEWPORT NEWS — Hampton General Hospital and a Hampton doctor are being sued in federal court for \$7 million in connection with the birth of a brain-damaged boy now 6 years old.

The suits, filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court, charge that negligence by the hospital and Dr. Robert E. Howard Jr., who has an office at 3116 Victoria Blvd., resulted in the child's permanent and total disability.

They are being sued by Julie Greene and her son, Dwayne Greene Jr., now residents of California. Although most medical malpractice suits are brought in state courts, federal courts have jurisdiction in suits where the parties live in different states.

Both the hospital and Howard learned of the suits Wednesday afternoon when they were called by a reporter.

Hospital spokesman Rick Piester declined to comment. Howard said he was surprised "because it's been so long. They tried to bring suit several years ago and it was dropped. I had

really forgotten all about it."

One suit, for \$5 million, was filed on behalf of Dwayne Greene Jr. The other, for \$2 million, is on Julie Greene's behalf. The child was born March 31, 1978.

Both suits charge that the hospital and Howard failed to exercise the degree of care and skill that could be expected from "the average physician engaged in the practice of obstetrics" and the "average general hospital."

Ms. Greene charges that both the hospital and Howard misdiagnosed her condition and her son's and then failed to provide adequate treatment.

The suits were filed in Newport News by Stanley E. Sacks of Norfolk. Sacks said Wednesday afternoon that Dwayne Greene is now institutionalized in California and that his brain damage left him blind and totally disabled.

He said that there were warning signs of problems in Ms. Greene's and that the brain damage would not have occurred on a police officer. The duce and the child had not been carried full term.

Jail windows rewelded for return of escape artist

By THERESA WESTNEDGE
Staff Writer

SUFFOLK — John Howard Carter, convicted robber and escape artist, was returned to Suffolk Wednesday eight months after he sawed his way out of a maximum-security cell at the city jail.

Carter, who has 109 years to serve on crimes committed in Virginia, faces eight charges

each of armed robbery and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony relating to the June 1982 looting of a local beauty salon.

He also has been charged with escape for his getaway last September. Authorities charge he committed crimes in four states before he was recaptured in March in Burgaw, N.C.

Carter will be arraigned in

General District Court today under the name Robert L. Ogle, the identity he used in Virginia during a 1982 crime spree. During court proceedings, the suspect's name will revert to Carter, said Capt. S. B. Chapman. Carter is believed to be his true identity based on fingerprints recorded with his earliest conviction in 1973 in Knoxville, Tenn.

The 26-year-old man, who has several aliases, is being held in the same type maximum-security jail cell from which he escaped Sept. 17. Soon after Carter's escape, however, Sheriff J. Irving Baines had the windows welded again.

"Before the windows weren't welded properly when they were installed in 1979," Baines said.

"He had hacksaw blades be-

fore." Also, local jail officials were unaware last fall that Carter had a healthy escape record with three successful escapes from prisons in Tennessee and Alabama as well as two near escapes from the Petersburg City Jail.

"We know who we're dealing with now whereas we didn't know before. We knew we had

an inmate but we didn't know we had an escape artist," Baines said.

Suffolk sheriff's deputies picked up Carter this week in Burgaw, where he picked up 43 more years in prison for kidnapping, larceny of an auto and assault on a police officer. The charges related to his March 12 capture.