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Disney Plus subscribers are complaining that they've lost access after hackers seized user accounts to resell them. **In Business**

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Daily Press

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019

PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS IN 'CRISIS'

Nine Va. facilities are operating at near capacity with inadequate funds, state data shows

BY DAVE RESS
Staff writer

The day after the state's top health official clashed, again, with legislators over plans to add beds at a western Virginia state mental hospital to ease overcrowding, the head of Eastern State Hospital thought she'd caught a break. A couple of patients had done

well enough to be discharged, freeing up a couple of beds. But a couple more had slipped into a mental health crisis, with nowhere else to go, and the mental health safety net for Tidewater Virginia was once again full to capacity — 302 people for 302 beds. Virginia's nine public psychiatric hospitals — housing a larger number, proportionately, than al-

most any other state — have been operating at more than 90% of capacity for the past three years. They peaked above 100% this summer and again in September and have been above 95% pretty much every week since February, state Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services data show. Eastern State, just outside

Williamsburg, has hit that 100% or higher level more than once this year. "We are in a crisis," Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources Daniel Carey told the General Assembly's joint subcommittee on mental health services last week.

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A CENTURY AGO, FBI'S BARRIER BROKEN

Son of former slaves in Hampton became first black special agent

BY KATHERINE HAFNER
Staff writer

It was a rocky time for America. Just coming out of World War I, the U.S. economy was on shaky ground, workers were striking and a series of domestic bombings had scared the nation — particularly its authorities.

Against that backdrop, FBI historian John Fox said, a 35-year-old black man from Fort Monroe, the son of at least one former slave, decided he'd work for the still-nascent Bureau of Investigation, which had formed 11 years earlier. He applied on November 19, 1919.

James Wormley Jones was accepted later that month and became the FBI's first documented black special agent. He worked to infiltrate a black nationalist organization led by Marcus Garvey, under the direct supervision of J. Edgar Hoover. Before that Jones had served as a captain in the Great War abroad and as a police officer in the District of Columbia.

Yet there's little to be found about Jones beyond his biography.

"We really don't know all that much about him, even what he looked like," Fox said. (A photo circulating online and used to promote a recent Newseum event is in fact a photo of a different James Wormley, a prominent black D.C. hotelier who died in 1884.)

A century later, the FBI is celebrating Jones as a trailblazer.

"When special agent Jones joined the FBI in 1919, he charted a course for" other black agents, Paul Abbate, FBI associate deputy director, said at a recent event honoring the history of African Americans in the bureau.

"Over the last 100 years, African American special agents

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ROB OSTERMAIER/STAFF

Janice Spruill Hayden will be putting up many of father John Payne "J.P." Spruill's model ships for auction at the Phoebus Auction House on Sunday.

ON THE AUCTION BLOCK

Two collections evoke passion for shipbuilding and the military

BY HUGH LESSIG
Staff writer

If Newport News Shipbuilding hired folk artists instead of welders, it might result in the collection of fanciful model ships now displayed at the Phoebus Auction Gallery.

Each ship tells a story, from the destroyer USS Mitscher to the USS Newport News, a 1940s-era cruiser. With their oversize turrets and tiny accessories, they are unique.

Farther back in the gallery is a different sort of display — hundreds of model soldiers that depict fighting men from around the world and through the centuries: Robert E. Lee to Douglas MacArthur, the Revolutionary War to the jungles of Vietnam.

The collections will be auctioned



Spruill assembled model ships in his own whimsical artistic aesthetic.

Nov. 24. Both are the work of men whose passing left a legacy of history and an eye for detail.

Take John Payne "J.P." Spruill. He loved ships, all kinds of ships. A native of Edenton, N.C., he served six years in the Navy before embarking on a 40-year career at the Newport News shipyard. He died in October 2018.

Starting as a welder, he worked his way up to nuclear mechanical inspector before retiring. That's when he indulged his passion for a different sort of shipbuilding, fashioning wooden models from scraps he picked up in various places.

"My dad loved these and he

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INSIDE

LONG OVERDUE

Israel Wellons led Warwick High's football team to a playoff victory last week, a feat 29 years in waiting. **In Sports**

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