

REGIONAL BRIEFS

TALBOT

Two juveniles referred for burglary

EASTON — Two 13-year-old boys were referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice on Tuesday, June 4, on charges of burglarizing Budget Truck Rental, 8480 Ocean Gateway, police said.

According to police, the boys allegedly broke the windows on the business when it was closed, and when police responded to Budget Truck Rental, they found the boys had made entry inside.

The two boys were taken into custody and later released to parents, police said.

Cash award scam

hits area, police say

EASTON — According to the Talbot County Sheriff's Office, there have been incidents in the area in which people are being notified that they have won cash awards or that there may be an entity holding unclaimed money for them.

One approach involves claims of people winning the Publisher's Clearing House grand prize, but with conditions attached to claim it, police said.

The claims and notification of cash awards or contingencies to claim prizes are fraudulent, according to police, who said if for some reason a person is notified or believes they have won such an award, they should



A Federalsburg Elementary School student enjoys some of the fresh strawberries.

Students enjoy local strawberries in school

DENTON — It's strawberry time in Caroline County Public Schools.

In an effort to promote local foods and farmers, the public schools' food service department partnered with Harris Farms, in Preston, to provide fresh-picked strawberries for students the last few weeks of school.

"The kids are eating them up," said Federalsburg Elementary School cafeteria manager Shirley Willin. "They are so fresh and

delicious."

This effort coincides with the new regulation changes enacted by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Act of 2010, promoting more fresh fruits and vegetables in cafeterias, and serve to set a standard for helping students make healthy choices.

"This is a perfect situation of having the ability to support our local farmers, and being able to provide our students with nutritious foods right off the vine,"

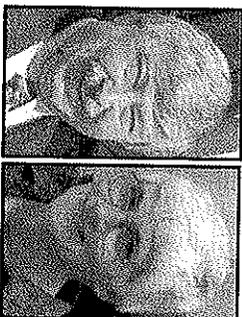
said Beth Brewster, coordinator of food services.

Harris Farms is a sixth-generation farm, with three farm stands in the local area carrying fresh local produce, flowers and other items. The stands are located at Waddell's Corner in Hurlock, in Easton next to Pizza Hut on U.S. Route 50 and in Bethlehem at 5230 Bethlehem Road. That location also has a U-pick strawberry patch open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Caroline commissioners pass 2014 budget

The budget includes a 5-cent property tax increase

By ABBY ANDREWS
Staff Writer



WILBUR LEVENSGOOD MARGARET ROE

DENTON — By a mostly consistent vote of 2 to 1, the Caroline County commissioners at their June 4

meeting approved several resolutions, setting the county's \$42.6 million fiscal year 2014 operating budget in time for the July 1 start of the next fiscal year.

office employees and sheriff's deputies.

All three commissioners unanimously approved resolutions setting the income tax rate, capital budget and municipal tax differential rates. The budget includes a 5-

The budget also includes an increase in the income tax rate, from 2.63 percent to 2.73 percent, but the extra income will not be seen until the county's 2015 fiscal year and will go toward capital improvements.

2-cent increase, largely to cover the increase in the county's portion of teacher pension costs, said Finance Director Margaret Roe in a statement.

The budget also includes an increase in the income tax rate, from 2.63 percent

lowest income tax rate in the state.

While the budget does not include any major service cuts to residents, it does include nearly across-the-board cuts to county departments in the form of filling more full-time positions with part-

time management, the first raise since 2007, Roe said, funded largely by savings generated by a switch in employees' health care coverage.

Summarizing the FY14 budget, Roe said it marks the sixth consecutive year the commissioners have been forced to make cuts, but some of the county's most significant challenges loom just over the horizon, including constructing a new public safety building and the first new school in the county in 30 years, and funding an upgrade for the