

Back to square one

Fort Monroe's redevelopment was a \$400M dream. It went into the ground.

By Devlin Epping
STAFF WRITER

Four years into implementing a master plan aimed to turn 565 acres of land, 2 million square feet of buildings, and one water meter into a successful real estate project, former Fort Monroe CEO Glenn Oder hit his breaking point.

The Fort Monroe Authority already had spent more than \$25 million by 2017 on reuse and redevelopment planning for the former military installation. That's when Oder found the map.

It showed outlines of where two buildings previously stood along Fenwick Road that had been paved over — living quarters for former slaves and a hospital where Harriet Tubman may have worked as a matron during the Civil War.

Given the historical importance

of the sites, Oder told his Board of Trustees at its next meeting that all land sales would need to stop. No one knew what was underground, said Oder, who served as the authority's first executive director from 2011 to '24.

"I could no longer recommend selling property at Fort Monroe because I had no idea what we were selling," Oder said.

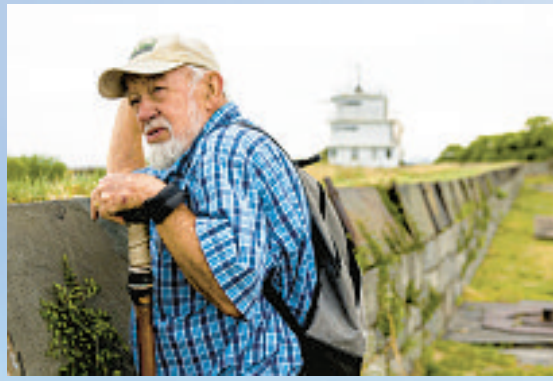
Halting all land sales meant the authority would be unable to implement its redevelopment plans as originally intended, which shattered the authority's pathway to making the site's redevelopment dreams a reality.

A master plan developed in 2013 by international design firm Sasaki Associates had promised an economically sustainable Fort

See **MONROE** on Page A15



Above: Old Point Comfort Marina is seen from The Deadrise restaurant on Fort Monroe. **Left:** Daniel Cudney, 84, takes in the sights and sounds from the top section of Fort Monroe. He is drawn to the fort by the wildlife. **Below:** In this photo illustration, a rendering from the 2013 Fort Monroe Master Plan is held up in comparison to the current landscape along Stillwell Road in Fort Monroe in Hampton.



KENDALL WARNER/
DAILY PRESS PHOTOS



Shipyard struggles: Over budget, past deadline

Aircraft carriers under construction see spiking costs, significant delays

By Peter Dujardin
STAFF WRITER

NEWPORT NEWS — All three aircraft carriers under construction at Newport News Shipbuilding are well over budget and significantly delayed.

The Ford-class carriers are taking over five years longer to build than the Nimitz-class ships they are replacing, according to a review of Navy shipbuilding budget projections over the past 25 years.

They're also coming in at more than double the price.

See **SHIPYARD** on Page A4



The carrier USS George H.W. Bush pulls away from Naval Station Norfolk for deployment in March. The Bush was delivered to the Navy in 2009, about 16 months behind schedule. **KENDALL WARNER/STAFF**

INSIDE

FUEL IN FLUX

Gas prices in Virginia rise over 5 cents a gallon as Memorial Day travel begins. **Page 2**

SOMBER SPIRIT

The death of Kyle Busch casts a pall over auto racing's big day today: The Indy 500 and Coca-Cola 600. **Sports**

PERSONAL STORIES

W&M professor leads project transcribing diaries of late 19th and early 20th century Black women. **Sunday Break**

US, Iran get closer to deal, source says

Officials, diplomats work on draft aimed at ending hostilities

By Munir Ahmed and Matthew Lee
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The United States and Iran are closing in on a deal to end the war in the Middle East, a regional official with direct knowledge of the Pakistan-led mediation efforts said Saturday, as the U.S. has weighed a new round of attacks on the Islamic Republic.


The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the parties have made "significant progress" in talks, but cautioned that "last-minute disputes" could blow up the efforts.

See **IRAN** on Page A15

SUBSCRIPTION

Visit myaccount.pilotonline.com or call 757-446-9000 to sign up for a subscription. To place an ad, visit placeanad.pilotonline.com.

WEATHER FORECAST

 Humid & heavy thunderstorm

INDEX

Advice D2 Lottery A2 Sports B1
Books D6 Obituaries A16 TV D11
Classified C6 Puzzles D10 Weather A20



I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, 'A family like yours.' That's when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



LEARN ABOUT ADOPTING A TEEN YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE REWARD

ADOPTUSKIDS.ORG