

RHS grad killed in car wreck

Just moved back to help his widowed mom

BY VERA CHINESE | STAFF WRITER

A 28-year-old Riverhead man died early Sunday when his car veered off the road and struck a tree in Calverton, authorities said.

At about 5:30 a.m., Andrew Droskoski was headed north on Fresh Pond Avenue when he lost control of his 1989 Cadillac, crossed the south-bound lane and drove into the tree. Police this week were investigating the cause of the crash.

Mr. Droskoski, a freelance film producer and 2000 graduate of Riverhead High School, recently moved home to be with his mother, Marjorie, after his father, James Sr., died two years ago, according to his older brother, James Jr., of Centerport. He described his younger brother as a free spirit who enjoyed



ANDREW DROSKOSKI

snowboarding and riding ATVs in his spare time.

Andrew's work as a television producer for reality shows, including *The Apprentice*, took him all over the country, following such stars as Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne. He later traveled to Canada, Italy and Nigeria documenting ex-boxer turned kickboxer Patrick A.I. Nwamu.

James Droskoski described his brother as a family-oriented man, recalling how Andrew had tended to him after a recent surgery.

"He was the one person you could always count on," he said.

He noted that Andrew had taken over their father's passion for pickling vegetables, trying to recreate the family's secret, blue ribbon-winning recipes after James Sr. died in 2008. Andrew was also very fond of his three-legged cat, Tripod, James said.

In addition to his mother and brother James, Andrew Droskoski is survived by another brother, Bradley, of Center Moriches, and two step-sisters, Kimberly Ann Kelly Ford and Debra Armstrong, both of Florida.

Visiting hours were Wednesday at McLaughlin Heppner Funeral Home in Riverhead. A funeral mass is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. today, Thursday, April 22, at St. John the Evangelist R.C. Church in Riverhead. Interment will follow at Yaphank Cemetery.

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VERA CHINESE PHOTO

Suffolk County has been dumping sand at an ever-eroding peninsula at Indian Island County Park since 2006, a practice Larry's Lighthouse Marina owner says is narrowing the entrance to the bay. County officials deny the sand is filling in the channel.

Marina owner says county might destroy his business

But Suffolk has proper DEC permit for work and can keep dumping sand near creek's mouth

BY VERA CHINESE | STAFF WRITER

Suffolk County work crews have once again dumped sand along a peninsula in Indian Island County Park at the mouth of Meetinghouse Creek in Aquebogue, despite claims from residents and business owners that the eroding shoreline will eventually choke the channel, making the creek inaccessible.

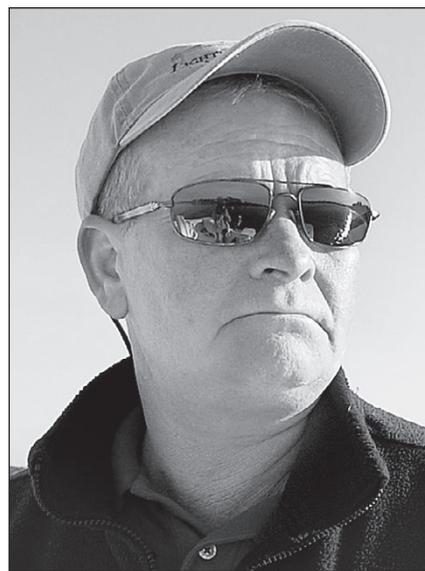
"We can't get two boats by at the same time," Alex Galasso, owner of Larry's Lighthouse Marina in Aquebogue, said of this year's bluff restoration project in the park.

An impassable channel would undoubtedly kill business at the 160-slip marina, which is one of the largest on the North Fork and draws boaters from all over Long Island and as far away as Arizona, he said. Mr. Galasso said the now 80-foot wide channel that leads to the Peconic Bay was 125-feet wide just five years ago.

"The water there is probably a foot deep, maybe," he said, pointing to the area surrounding the channel. He said larger boats need at least five feet of water to pass through.

Mr. Galasso, whose family has owned the marina for 40 years, said he noticed the channel was narrowing in 2006, the same year the county started dumping sand on the bluff. Suffolk County has dumped hundreds of tons of sand since then, much of which is washed away by the next year.

But Suffolk County Parks and Recreation Commissioner John Pavacic



ALEX GALASSO
owner of Larry's Lighthouse Marina

said the county has not dumped nearly enough sand to fill in the channel and claims that it has no adverse effect on the area.

Unsatisfied with Mr. Pavacic's response, Mr. Galasso asked county Legislator Ed Romaine (R-Center Moriches) to contact the commissioner to consider other options.

Mr. Romaine said Mr. Pavacic could not provide him with any concrete evidence or studies to show that what the county is doing does not affect the channel.

"He was making an assertion without any factual claims to back it up," Mr. Romaine said.

Mr. Pavacic, who admitted the

county has not conducted any formal studies of the project, said that it was unlikely the sand was contributing to shoaling in the area, theorizing that it could be caused by major storms and excessive rainfall. He added that the county's current plan is the most environmentally friendly option, as the Department of Environmental Conservation discourages placing permanent structures along the water, a process known as shoreline hardening.

The commissioner said the county will continue to dump sand at the site until its DEC permit expires in 2011, but that it could explore other options in the future.

"We will be reaching out to our department of public works and approaching experts to evaluate the situation," he said.

He noted that the county usually dumps much less than the 1,000 cubic yards of sand allowed by the DEC. He could not say how many cubic yards the county planned to place at the bluff this year.

Still, Mr. Galasso is convinced the county should find another solution, perhaps dredging or making an exception for placing a bulkhead near the shore.

He noted that if a private businessman like himself was dumping sand in the area and affecting the environment, he would probably receive a fine or worse.

"We'd be in handcuffs," he said.

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