

Shore First

A close-up photograph of a bowl of oyster stew. The bowl is dark blue with a red rim and sits on a woven placemat. The stew is a creamy, light-colored soup with several oysters and round, golden-brown crackers. A spoon is lifting one of the oysters. In the background, a glass of white wine is partially visible, and the table is covered with a yellow and blue patterned cloth.

It's oyster stew season

Butter, cream, oysters, and a few more ingredients create an iconic Eastern Shore winter delicacy, page 6

Shore First

The Eastern Shore of Virginia's
monthly newsmagazine

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KIRK MARINER (1943-2017)

CANDY FARLOW (1953-2017)

VISIT

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Shore First | Entertainment calendar

Friday, January 5

■ FARMERS MARKET: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Parksley Farmers and Artisans Market, 18444 Dunne Ave., Parksley.

■ BENEFIT DINNER: 5 to 7 p.m., Great Pocomoke Fair, 2037 Broad St. Cheesesteak sub meal, \$10; chicken tender meal, \$8. Call 410-422-9195 to place a pickup order.

■ PIZZA FUNDRAISER: 5 to 8 p.m., drive-through pizza fundraiser at New Church Fire and Rescue, New Church. Pepperoni, sausage, or bacon 16-inch pizzas for \$14, or combination pizzas for \$15.

■ BINGO: 5 p.m. doors open, 6:30 p.m. games begin, Exmore Moose Lodge 683, 15315 Merry Cat Lane, Belle Haven.

■ BINGO: 6 p.m. doors open, 7 p.m. games begin, Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Co. bingo, 5052 Deep Hole Road, Chincoteague Island. \$5 admission, 20 games with \$500 blackout at the end sponsored by Megan Oliver Clarkson, Long & Foster Realtor. Two bingo cards for \$1 with extra cards available for purchase. Food and soda will be for sale. Must be at least 16 years old to attend.

Saturday, January 6

■ FOOD SALE: 8 to 10 a.m., winter frozen food sale at Onley United Methodist Church, Onley, sponsored by the Soroptimist Club of Accomack County.

■ FARMERS MARKET: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Parksley Farmers and Artisans Market, 18444 Dunne Ave., Parksley.

Sunday, January 7

■ LIVE MUSIC: 1 to 4 p.m., open mic and jam session open to local musicians each Sunday at Cape Charles Brewing Company, 2198 Stone Road, Cape Charles. Free admission.

■ CARS AND COFFEE: 2 p.m., Cars and Coffee at Coastal Auto, 3502 Main St., Exmore. There will be custom cars, classic cars, and hot rods — everyone is welcome to bring their ride. There will be free coffee while supplies last. There will be hot dogs and concessions sold and raffles for gift baskets. There will also be a bonfire and music.

Monday, January 8

■ CRAFTS: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., kids' crafts at the Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Library, 24313 Bennett St., Parksley.

■ GAME DAY: 1 to 4 p.m., Game Day Monday at the Island Theatre Annex, 4074 Main St.. Bring a personal drink or snack. Card and table games available.

■ BINGO: Doors open at 5 p.m., first game at 7 p.m., Onancock Elks Lodge, 22454 Front St., Accomac. Info: 757-787-7750.

Tuesday, January 9

■ BINGO: Doors open 5:30 p.m., first game 7:30 p.m., Cheriton Volunteer Fire Co., 21334 S. Bayside Road, Cheriton.

■ BREAKFAST: 8:30 to 10 a.m., the American Legion Post 159, Chincoteague, is having a Veterans Café for all veterans and currently serving military on the second Tuesday of each month at 4023 Main St., Chincoteague.

■ SPEAKER: 5:30 p.m., author Mark Eliot Nuckols at the Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Library, 24313 Bennett St., Parksley.

Wednesday, January 10

■ BINGO: Doors open at 6 p.m., first game 7:30 p.m., Painter Volunteer Fire Co., 17116 Wayside Drive, Painter.

Thursday, January 11

■ BIRD CLUB: 2:30 p.m., The Eastern Shore Bird Club will hold a trip to the Saxis Wildlife Management Area. Join veteran birders Joanne and Hal Laskowski, and Victor Klein, as well as other birding enthusiasts to watch for and identify winter raptors, short-eared owls, and marsh birds, and maybe catch a winter sunset over the beautiful Saxis marsh. Attendees should meet at Hammock boat ramp, located at the end of Hammock Road, Saxis. For more information contact Joanne Laskowski at 410-253-9141.

■ PROGRAM: 6 p.m., STEM Stargazing children's program, at the Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Library, 24313 Bennett St., Parksley.

■ INTERNATIONAL MOVIE: 7 p.m., "The Miracle Club," presented by the Roseland Cinema and Entertainment Center at the Roseland Theatre, Onancock. Tickets are \$8 for single show and \$25 for the season.

Friday, January 12

■ FARMERS MARKET: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Parksley Farmers and Artisans Market, 18444 Dunne Ave., Parksley.

■ PROGRAM: 3 p.m., make beaded flower earrings at the Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Library, 24313 Bennett St., Parksley.

■ SECOND FRIDAY ART STROLL: 5 to 8 p.m., sponsored by the Onancock Business and Civic Association. Businesses and restaurants will be open late with specials.

■ BINGO: 5 p.m. doors open, 6:30 p.m. games begin, Exmore Moose Lodge 683, 15315 Merry Cat Lane, Belle Haven.

Saturday, January 13

■ FARMERS MARKET: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Parksley Farmers and Artisans Market, 18444 Dunne Ave., Parksley.

■ PUPPETS: 10:30 a.m., preschool puppet show and learn how to make your own puppets at the Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Library, 24313 Bennett St., Parksley.

■ OYSTER ROAST: 5 to 9 p.m., Virginia Tech Eastern Shore Alumni Association Oyster Roast at the Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Painter. Proceeds benefit scholarships. Tickets are \$40 in advance, \$60 at the door, and \$25 for current college students or

(Continued on page 4)

Happy New Year! 2024!



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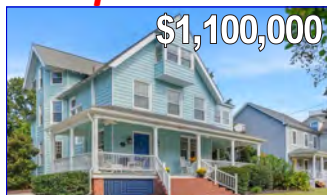
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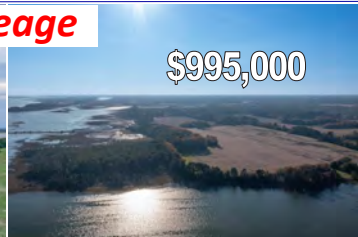
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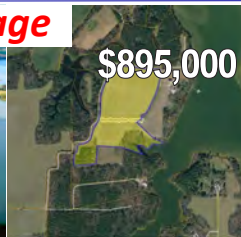
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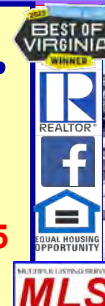
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Information contained herein believed accurate but not warranted.
Owner/Agent Properties are included in this advertisement



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PRIZES
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9403 Camp Lane • Belle Haven, VA 23306

Calendar

(Continued from page 2)

younger. Tickets are available at www.eventbrite.com or at Nutrien Ag in Kelle and Eastville. Call 757-350-9043 with questions.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 7 p.m., the Historic Cokesbury Church and Cultural Center, 13 Market St., Onancock, presents its free concert series with Tony Lu in concert. He will present a solo recital of original transcriptions and classical improvisations.

Sunday, January 14

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 1 to 4 p.m., open mic and jam session open to local musicians each Sunday at Cape Charles Brewing Company, 2198 Stone Road, Cape Charles. Free admission.

Monday, January 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

■ **KING DAY EVENT:** 9 a.m., The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Celebration and Service will be broadcast on 103.3-FM WESR. The event is sponsored by the Northampton County NAACP, Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore, and other groups.

■ **KING DAY EVENT:** 10 a.m., the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Service at Gaskins AME Church, Savageville. The event's host pastor and guest speaker will be Pastor Justin Nick. Following the service, a light lunch will be served. Everyone is invited to attend. An opportunity to join the Accomack NAACP and tickets to the 2024 Freedom Fund Banquet will be available to purchase. Sponsorships are being sought.

■ **KING DAY EVENT:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., "A Day of Service S.O.U.P.: Serving Our Unified People," at Giddens' Do-Drop Inn, 8204 Bayford Road. There will be free soup for senior citizens for take-out and delivery. The event is sponsored by the Northampton County NAACP, Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore, and other groups.

■ **GAME DAY:** 1 to 4 p.m., Game Day Monday at the Island Theatre Annex, 4074 Main St. Bring a personal drink or snack. Card and table games available.

■ **BINGO:** Doors open at 5 p.m., first game at 7 p.m., Onancock Elks Lodge, 22454 Front St., Accomack. Info: 757-787-7750.

Tuesday, January 16

■ **BINGO:** Doors open 5:30 p.m., first

game 7:30 p.m., Cheriton Volunteer Fire Co., 21334 S. Bayside Road, Cheriton.

Wednesday, January 17

■ **BINGO:** Doors open at 6 p.m., first game 7:30 p.m., Painter Volunteer Fire Co., 17116 Wayside Drive, Painter.

■ **STEM NIGHT:** 6 p.m., Let It Snow STEM Night at the Delmarva Discovery Center, 2 Market St., Pocomoke City. Learn about dry ice, the resistance of skates on an ice rink, and how animals adapt to the changing habitat during the cold.

Thursday, January 18

■ **PUPPETS:** 10:30 a.m., preschool puppet show and learn how to make your own puppets at the Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Library, 24313 Bennett St., Parksley.

Friday, January 19

■ **FARMERS MARKET:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Parksley Farmers and Artisans Market, 18444 Dunne Ave., Parksley.

■ **BINGO:** 5 p.m. doors open, 6:30 p.m. games begin, Exmore Moose Lodge 683, 15315 Merry Cat Lane, Belle Haven.

■ **THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE:** 8 p.m., "Losing Alice," by Patricia Walker, at The North Street Playhouse, 34 Market St., Onancock. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students. Visit www.northstreet-playhouse.com

Saturday, January 20

■ **FARMERS MARKET:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Parksley Farmers and Artisans Market, 18444 Dunne Ave. Parksley.

■ **POLAR DUCK DIP:** 11 a.m., Polar Duck Dip to support Camp Occohannock on the Bay. Zeb Barfield will hold a silent auction. Held at 9403 Camp Lane, Belle Haven.

■ **PAINT AND SIP:** 2 to 4 p.m., create a painting in acrylic, sponsored by the Eastern Shore Art League. Must be 21 years of age to participate. All materials are provided seats are limited to 17. To reserve your spot, email info@esartleague.org with a name and contact information. This event is free of charge and all are welcome. It will be held at Historic Onancock School in Studio 104.

■ **THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE:** 8 p.m., "Losing Alice," by Patricia Walker, at The North Street Playhouse, 34 Market St., Onancock. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students. Visit www.northstreet-playhouse.com

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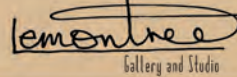
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Winter is time for creamy oyster stew

Now that the chill has set in, we are firmly into oyster season.

While we can enjoy the briny bivalves year-round here on the Eastern Shore, everyone knows that the best time to enjoy them is when the water is cold.

There is nothing like shucking a fresh “salt” on a crisp winter day — they get so fat and plump they take up the entire shell.



Laura Davis

The only thing better is putting all that goodness into a bowl of comforting, rich, oyster stew, a staple here on the Shore.

Years ago my husband and I were enjoying dinner at one of the finer establishments here on Chincoteague Island.

The couple sitting behind us was visiting the area and not yet acquainted with oyster stew when they saw it on the menu.

When they asked the server what exactly it entailed, she replied in a thick Chincoteague accent, “Honey – it’s oysters. With a little bit of milk in it.”

We both laughed, slightly shocked that someone may not have known what it was. Also, the reply was so cut and dry — and perfectly summed up oyster stew.

I still think about it and chuckle every time I see it on the menu at a restaurant. The descriptions are often so fancy and elaborate — designed to make you feel bet-

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PHOTO COURTESY LAURA DAVIS

Oyster stew with plump Eastern Shore oysters is a time-honored wintertime dish.

Laura Davis, of Chincoteague Island, is a food writer and blogger at www.tideandthyme.com. Her recipes have been featured on Huffington Post and www.craftbeer.com, among other publications.

She is a frequent guest on WBOC-TV's DelmarvaLife show, where she showcases her culinary talents for viewers. Her work appears monthly in Shore First.

Creamy oyster stew

- 4 tbsp. butter
- 2 stalks celery, minced
- 1 shallot, minced
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 12 oysters, shucked – meat and liquor reserved
- Kosher salt
- Fresh ground black pepper
- Oyster crackers or saltines
- Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish

Melt butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add celery and shallot, and cook until softened — about 4 minutes.

Gently pour in cream, and bring to a simmer. Add oysters and their liquid into pan, and reduce heat to low. Simmer until oysters plump up and the edges begin to curl; about 5 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Serve immediately, garnished with a sprinkle of fresh parsley and oyster crackers.

Oyster stew

(Continued from page 6)

ter about spending \$15-20 on what amounts to a bowl of oysters and milk, I suppose.

Now, I do like to doll mine up with a few extras. Just like everything else, everyone has their favorite way of preparing it.

I like to use heavy cream instead of milk, because why not? I love the combination of the rich cream and the plump salty oysters. I also add some minced celery, which is pretty conventional – and some minced shallot, which isn't.

Don't be afraid to make it your own, just don't go too crazy. You want to let the flavor of the oyster shine in this simple stew!



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When an elephant visited Tangier Island

Toward the end of her life Vienna Crockett grew increasingly confused, a cause of great concern for her family and her many friends in the close-knit community of Tangier Island. One afternoon in the summer of 1977 she



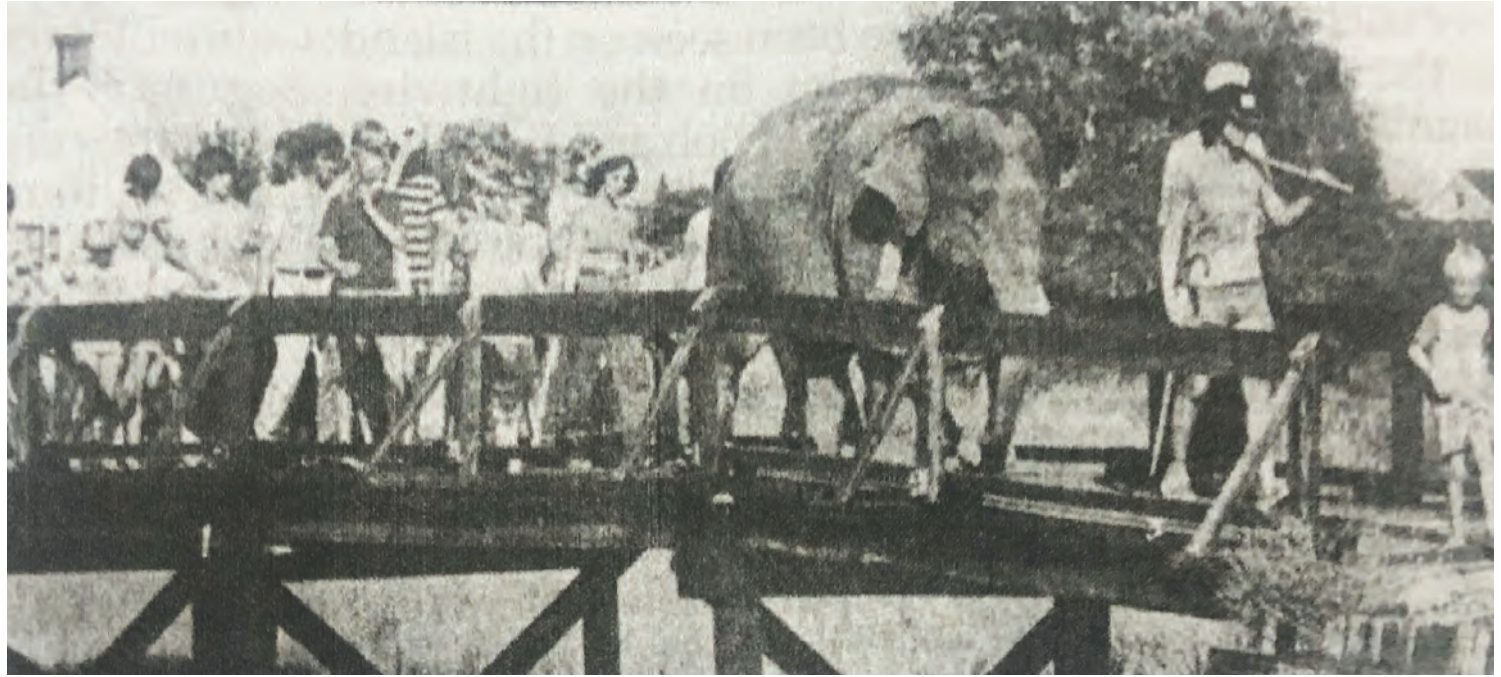
Kirk
Mariner

woke her husband Hobson from a nap to report that she had just seen an elephant walk past their house. Later that day Hobson Crockett called their son to report that “Your mother’s gotten worse. Today she thought she saw an elephant.”

Undoubtedly she did, her

age and confusion notwithstanding. An elephant did walk past her house on Long Bridge Road on Friday, July 15, 1977, when for the first and only time in the island’s history the circus came to Tangier.

Tangier’s date with the circus was born in the mind of Stan Mulford, publicity manager for the Roberts Bros. Circus. Based in Sarasota, Florida, Roberts Bros. was a small circus, fairly new and in need of publicity. Mulford, of Norfolk, was aware that many big-city newspapers had a “love affair” with isolated Tangier Island, and would readily print any “copy” they could find about it. If, he reasoned, he could get the circus to the island, it would



COURTESY PHOTO

Pasha the elephant and her admirers cross a bridge on Tangier Island.

undoubtedly generate publicity and increase bookings. Mulford also had another more personal motive: he himself had always wanted to see Tangier.

Roberts Bros. wintered that year in North Carolina, and come summer would normally have headed straight north for the lucrative regions of rural Pennsylvania and New York State, but to justify the trip to Tangier, Mulford scouted out a route up the Delmarva Peninsula, the first for Roberts Bros. and the first for the Eastern Shore since the Hunt Bros. Circus had closed some years earlier. The week of July 10 found

them scheduled for Chincoteague on Monday, Bloxom on Tuesday, and Cape Charles on Wednesday, and then three days were set aside for Tangier—one each for going and coming, and one for the show itself. With island Mayor Robert Thorne he arranged for two shows on Saturday, July 16, to benefit the local fire department’s effort to build a proper firehouse.

The greatest challenge facing Mulford and his sponsors was, of course, how to get over to the island the equipment and personnel that constituted the circus: one 15,000-pound “big top”

with seats, 3,570 pounds of electrical equipment and props, 30 performers and crew, two ponies, five dogs, and — most challenging of all — one 8-year-old elephant weighing 2,775 pounds. It was the elephant that presented the biggest problem and generated the most excitement. “Pasha” — Mulford had bestowed that name on her for the event; she was really named “Mona” — was not a permanent part of the circus, but rented for the season from a supplier of exotic animals in Oklahoma. Mulford, having recruited her, knew

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The Rev. Kirk Mariner was an Eastern Shore author, historian, and United Methodist minister whose book, “Off 13: The Eastern Shore of Virginia Guidebook,” is an indispensable volume for natives and visitors alike.

Mariner died in 2017. His work appears in Eastern Shore First courtesy of Miona Publications. This story first appeared in his book, “True Tales of the Eastern Shore.”

Elephant

(Continued from page 8)

from his own experience that Mona/Pasha was “an escape artist;” she was also, he insisted, “nosey, no pun intended.”

There were challenges on the island, too. While the Homecoming Ground was available for the circus, the bridges to it were at that time limited to a two-ton capacity: “If the elephant [fell] through,” predicted one islander, “they’d have a devil of a time getting him out of the salt mud, and that’d be it.”

On Friday morning Freddie Pruitt’s 65-foot crabbing boat Anthony Kline arrived at the Crisfield dock for what one local wag dubbed “the Great Chesapeake Bay Elephant Float.” Equipment was loaded first, then the animals, and when her time came Pasha stepped somewhat nervously but calmly aboard — unlike the ponies Bullet and Flicka, who had to be lifted on. The waterborne circus train set out at 4:00 p.m., escorted by the Coast Guard cutter Highland Point. Pasha stood crossways in the Anthony Kline, one leg chained to either side, and with the help of Life Savers candies behaved quite well. The ponies rode over on the bow and two of the dogs in cages while the third, Tanya, roamed and barked excitedly.

The sight of an elephant juxtaposed against the afternoon sun and the flat Chesapeake gave pause to all who saw it. As spectators in Crisfield watched it fade into the distance, watermen returning from work stood in their boats in disbelief. And when, two hours later, the Anthony Kline pulled into Tangier harbor, the reception was unlike any other ever seen there: the harbor was alive with the small boats of excited youngsters, people viewed from windows and rooftops, and a solid phalanx of curious islanders crowded the County Dock and lined Main Ridge Road. As the circus crew unloaded the equipment into waiting trucks and vans, locals volunteered to help with the wheelbarrows. And when at last Pasha stepped ashore, a host of children swarmed around to accompany her down Main Ridge Road, past Vienna Crockett’s house, and over the Long Bridge to the Homecoming Ground at the northern end of the air strip — a spontaneous “parade” like those that had once, but no longer by the 1970s, greeted the circus in hundreds of small American communities.

Once at the Homecoming Ground, dozens of island children watched as the crew erected the big (60’ x 150’) white tent and hurried to open the “midway.” Soon the islanders were enjoying refreshments, concessions, pony rides, elephant rides, and a “moon walk,” but not yet the performance under the big top, which was still almost 24 hours away. The crew, bereft of the trucks and the pile-drivers that they used on the mainland, worked for more than four hours



COURTESY PHOTO

Pasha poses with Capt. Freddie Pruitt aboard the Anthony Kline.

to erect the tent, driving the stakes by hand into the sandy soil. By the time all was ready it was dark, and most of the crew, which usually slept in their own trailers, spent the night in the new Community Center; Mulford himself stretched out to sleep on the kitchen counter.

Saturday afternoon found the circus tent filled to capacity with an excited crowd, a great many of them children, some of them tourists from one of the daily boats, but not until 4:00, an hour behind schedule, did the ringmaster blow the opening whistle (some parts of the tent had been left at Crisfield, and had to be retrieved). The sights were such as had never before been seen on the island: Gabriel Flores on the trapeze and Rudolpho on the tightwire, Segunda the Magnificent on the Rolla Bolla, and Bob and Edna high above the center ring on roller skates. Bullet and Flicka performed as Earl’s Military Ponies, and the dogs as the comic Bullfight Boxer Dogs with El Toreador. Mulford, the all-purpose advance man, served as Ringmaster in a tuxedo. There were jugglers and clowns, among them 76-year-old Max Bertel, a parrot who could sing “Rule, Britannia,” and of course music and refreshments and souvenir stands. A second show, scheduled at 6 p.m. so that the island watermen could attend after a day’s work, was also sold out.

At a time when Tangier’s population was about 900, the circus tent, which held 1,200 people, was filled to capacity at both shows by people who had paid \$1 (children) and \$2 (adults). For Roberts Bros., which frequently played to a half-capacity crowd, the event was an unexpected financial windfall. And for once, the well-traveled circus crew was as impressed with the community where they performed as the community was with them. “Something out of a storybook,” said circus member Cleo Miller. Edna, of Bob

and Edna the aerialists, was from England, and was fascinated by the distinctive island accent. “Love,” she asked Mulford, “where did you find all these Cornishmen?”

Sunday morning found the islanders getting ready for church as the circus crew packed up, took down the tent, and prepared to leave. With little fanfare and attention Pasha and her companions marched back to the county dock, where they were loaded about Homer Pruitt’s Bessie L. The return trip was uneventful, except that Pasha was less cooperative in disembarking than before. A Maryland waterman is said to have arrived back at Crisfield that day somewhat in his cups, insisting that he must have been drinking too much because he thought he saw an elephant floating across Tangier Sound. Meanwhile the story of the circus’ coming to Tangier had been picked up by the newswires of AP and UPI and televised on CBS News, and the newspaper clippings that eventually filled Mulford’s scrapbook came from all over the country.

Today a fine modern firehouse stands at 16344 Main Ridge Road in Tangier, erected in part with some of the funds that came from sponsoring the circus. The fire engines inside are full-size, no longer the golf-cart-size engines once used by the firemen, and the bridges and roads of Tangier have long since been widened and strengthened to accommodate them. If Pasha ever returned to the island, the traditional circus parade through the town could now be had without fear of an elephant falling through into the water.

It could happen, for the Roberts Bros. Circus is still playing the small towns of the eastern seaboard. And Pasha is still alive and well at 33, dividing her time between her two homes in Florida and North Carolina.

Honeymoon on Cobbs Island

In June 1933 newlyweds Olin and Eleanor Pettingill went to Cobbs Island for their honeymoon trip.

Cobbs Island had little to offer a newlywed couple, other than peace and quiet and privacy, but the Pettingills

had other reasons for selecting this remote island that 50 years earlier had been one of the most popular beach resorts in America.

The Pettingills were ornithologists, and Cobbs Island was teeming with nesting seabirds, and they wanted to see colonies of terns,

skimmers, plovers, and American oystercatchers.

Olin was the director of development for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York, which today is famous for its Merlin app used by birders around the world to identify birds.

The Pettingills brought with them a canvas tent, sleeping bags, a change of clothing, and enough food to last a week. Their host on the island would be a man they had never met.

His name was George W. Cobb, the grandson of the patriarch of the Cobb family who once ran the island resort.

They caught a ride to the island with a waterman from Oyster, who dropped

them off and agreed to meet them at the same spot in a week's time. He left them with one bit of advice regarding their host.

"Mr. Cobb is a queer old duck, owns the island, lives alone."

The Cobb home was a modest two-story frame structure some distance from the Coast Guard Station, and when the young couple approached, Mr. Cobb met them in the yard.

"He was standing squarely on both feet, hands on his hips, and motionless," wrote Pettingill. "He wore a blue shirt, khaki trousers, and hip boots. His head, though bald, was dignified by a corona of white hair. I was impressed by Captain Cobb's massive build and erect, stiff posture. Though his tanned face had the deep furrows of a man of sixty, his physique possessed the vigor of one many years younger. His expression remained immobile and serious."

The Pettingills broke the ice when they explained they wanted to camp on the island and study birds. At this, Capt. Cobb's expression brightened and he welcomed them.

"Do as you wish," he said warmly. "Anyone who likes birds is welcome. Lots of people come to see them."

It turns out that Capt. Cobb was a warden employed by the National Audubon Society to protect the birds and to study their nesting and migratory habits. He pointed out a flat stretch of beach between two dunes where the Pettingills could set up their

(Continued on page 11)



Curtis
Badger



COURTESY PHOTO

George W. Cobb, the grandson of the patriarch of the Cobb family.

Curtis J. Badger is a Delmarva native who majored in English at Salisbury University and, with the exception of four years traveling as a U.S. Air Force photojournalist, has enjoyed a career photographing and writing about his native coast. His books include "Salt Tide: Cycles and Currents of Life Along the Coast," "Bellevue Farm: Exploring Virginia's Coastal Countryside," and many others. He lives in Accomack County.

Honeymoon

(Continued from page 10)

camp, and he invited them to dine with him the following evening.

The dinner Cobb served was “the best the sea could provide,” wrote Pettingill. It included fried oysters, pigfish, and soft crabs. After dinner the captain, described as a “queer duck,” revealed an unexpected sense of humor.

Pettingill said time meant nothing to Cobb. “He had thrown his watch in the marsh three weeks earlier in disgust. The sun was his clock.”

He did not have a high opinion of his neighbors in the Coast Guard station. Although Capt. Cobb once served in the life-saving service, he described the coast guardsmen as “lazy and careless.”

He pointed out a bullet hole in the wall of his home made “during target practice.”

The Pettingills spent a week on Cobbs Island and became friends with the Audubon warden, who provided them important information on

the nesting birds.

The weather was beautiful all week, until the final day of their stay. The couple awoke to a driving northeast wind, rain, and a rising tide. Capt. Cobb advised them to pack up their gear, take down the tent, and move into his home.

“Minute by minute the wind increased, and each gust seemed stronger than the one before,” wrote Pettingill.

“The captain’s battered almanac estimated high tide at 11:00, but no one had a watch and there was no sun, and the captain estimated the time then at 8 a.m. We had three hours before high tide.”

The ocean passed its normal high tide level and “seemed to raise up,” sending waves over the dunes, and the Broadwater separating the islands and the mainland seemed to be one great lake.

A wave breached the dunes and struck the side of the house, jarring the structure and spraying the windows.

“Eleanor gasped. We turned toward Captain Cobb. Instead of the expected evidence of dis-

turbance, I saw one of his rare smiles. ‘Tide’s turned,’ he said, pointing to water flowing out of the Broadwater.”

Pettingill wrote that on the following morning Cobbs Island lay quiet under a sparkling sun. But the bird colonies were gone and the beach was smooth and empty. “Nature in one great sweep had wiped out that which she so generously fostered,” he wrote.

It turned out that the June storm the Pettin-gills experienced with just the first of a series of devastating storms to batter the Shore that year. Two months later the August storm of 1933 did great damage and took lives. One of the lives taken was that of Captain George W. Cobb, who refused to leave his island home. Rescuers searched for his body for days, without success.

This narrative was adapted from the story “Honeymoon on Cobb Island” by Olin Sewall Pettingill Jr. It is included in the book, “Discovery –Great moments in the lives of outstanding naturalists,” by John K. Terres, published in 1961 by J.P. Lippincott Company.

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Living ‘the dream’

The 1950s were considered by many as the birth of the modern era. Throughout this decade, the presidents were Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower. They were both beneficiaries of a manufacturing boom in the United States.

Surplus from the war was repur-



posed into items that the average family could utilize, and new technology was in place to replace things like the wringer washing machine. Larger and more efficient models were making their way into the ordinary home.

Barry Mears

The old mechanical lawnmowers began collecting dust in the garage corner. Newer models fitted with internal combustion engines could cut work time in half. Every day, more people were using the radio and television, and Buddy Holly and the Big Bopper were becoming more well-known in the music scene.

Humphrey Bogart, Marlon Brando, and Jimmy Stewart were considered darlings of the Silver Screen. The cars were stylish and fast, and the Chevrolet BelAir was as American as apple pie — what an awesome time to be a teenager.

Meanwhile, back on the Eastern Shore, it's Saturday night. Tim Prettyman and the other cool cats are set to meet up at Exmore's Lloyd's Drug Store. When they arrive, Bobby



“Living Shoreborn,” by Barry Mears

Thomas and Arthur Webb are already waiting.

Back in the day, many local establishments had a soda fountain, and patrons loved a chocolate zip while socializing and celebrating their youth. Long-handled dispensers were pulled down to fill frosty glasses with tasty beverages. This earned the clerk the not-so-flattering nickname of “Soda Jerk.”

Every town had a place like this for people to mingle; they were fantastic places for young people to hang out in safety and have a good time. If you were in Cape Charles, you may run upon Betty Lou Marshall Johnson enjoying a chocolate nut Sundae at Griff's. She was waiting for Jean Hunt Steffens and Gwen Alter

to arrive so they could make some after-school plans. Patricia Nock claimed that the Cherry Bon Bons at Savage's Drug Store down the street is the best on the Shore.

In the 1950s, there were joyful events called Sock Hops. Faye Collins recalls dancing the night away at Franktown United Methodist Church. Parents didn't have to be worried since there was always supervision; everything you did that evening made it home before you did. On the Shore, there has always been a strong sense of community and family. Manners were taught, and youth and adults shared mutual respect.

Elizabeth Taylor recalls working at the Candlelight at the time. Local kids were treated as if they were your own, and they were well cared for. Pete Hopkins and the boys were down around Onancock Way, where Cherry Smashes cost 6 cents a pop and were a treat. Comic books were also very popular in that era. Many of the other kids were at Forks Grill and Wise's Drug Store.

Parksley was home to Pep Phillips' place which served as a one-stop shop for refreshments and sporting goods. Carter Davis recalls the Pony Ranch in Pocomoke and Claude Linton's on Saxis. Many of these places paved the way for the Crown Jewel of family entertainment.

In 1955, a young man named Jimmy Justice and his wife Mary Lou had a dream in the small town of Wattsville. The Justices believed that if they constructed a building large enough to house a skating rink, people would come for miles to have some good old-fashioned family fun. To make it even better, the couple

envisioned a game room and a small restaurant. They succeeded in creating a spot known as “The Dream.”

In retrospect, we know this establishment was a part of Pop Culture for decades. There isn't a person on the Shore who can't share a memory of when they were open. Many first dates took place on this hallowed ground, and some of them went on to marry and have children. This wasn't your ordinary run-of-the-mill business, the Justices were able to capture a mood.

There were many carefree, joyful days spent in laughter. The unique aspect is that many of the parents who enjoyed skating there now had children old enough to attend. Throughout the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, the business grew to include a bus service that would pick you up at the door and return you to your destination at a designated time. You'd be mistaken if you thought Mr. Jimmy hired a bus driver; that position was far too important for him to entrust someone else.

You guessed it — Jimmy Justice was behind the wheel of the transport bus. He was strict as well as kind, and as long as you respected him and Mary Lou, you were in his good graces. If you crossed that line, he quickly made you aware.

“The Dream” was the first place I saw a neon sign. Walking through the front door was an experience in and of itself, with the sound of billiard balls and guys telling jokes. The aroma of fried onions and cheeseburgers cooking on a flat grill. The red stools were packed with happy customers, and I had a Cherry Coke in my future.

(Continued on page 13)

Barry Mears is the author of “Living Shoreborn,” which was edited by his daughter, Kamryn Mears, and published in 2023. He is also the founder of the popular Shoreborn Facebook page, which delves daily into the history and culture of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Passages from his popular book, which is sold all over the Eastern Shore, will be printed monthly in Shore First. Mears said the name “Shoreborn” actually came from a family member who during conversations quipped as an affirmation, “as sure as you're born.”

Shoreborn

(Continued from page 12)

There was always an age gap between patrons, but it didn't seem to matter because there was something for everyone.

I recall making my way across the game room to the door leading to the skating rink, which was only a few steps down into a hallway. This was an obstacle that gave me a fit trying to negotiate in roller skates. The corridor was lined with Polaroid photos, some of which were recent and some of which were black and white. There was one thing they all had in common: everyone was smiling. As I made my way to the hardwood floor, the sound of the latest tunes was on the loudspeakers. There was a certain art form that proficient skaters displayed. The crossing of the skates and a modest 360 were simply trademarks of the regulars.

The owner himself, Jimmy Justice, was among the best skaters

I've ever seen. He wore so many hats that the kids thought of him as Superman, and he was undoubtedly a father figure to many more people than he realized. Jimmy oversaw the skating and also worked the microphone. He would call for "Couples Skate." This was the cue for the shy boy to come up and take the hand of a young lady for a spin around the rink. There's nothing like watching all the couples sing along to Endless Love while struggling to stand with your wheels on.

There were many different commands while skating, and I'm sure you remember your favorite. Then there came a shout over the speakers that said, "How low can you go?" This was in preparation for the very popular Limbo. The vertical balance of a person would be tested by a series of horizontal obstacles; for some reason, the tallest folks always seemed to win. During the special skating events, several of us would go back up those troublesome steps. The juke box was a thrill all to itself;

for a quarter, you could listen to any tune you wanted. Time flew by at the Dream Roller Rink. Four hours on a Saturday afternoon passed by, and we were back on the bus to Four Corners. Many of us learned much more than skating and socializing. The Dream was a gateway from adolescence to adulthood. Those fortunate enough to experience these special times will cherish the memories for a lifetime.

Coming of age is a special time in everyone's life, and young adults on the Eastern Shore were out and about embracing their freedom. In the good old days, dances with live bands were playing at many different venues. The Legion Hall was a popular spot to shake a leg. Many partygoers made their rounds until they found the right crowd and music genres for them. In places like Daddy Wise and Kinsey's Seaside Club, the blues and jazz were popular. Folks claim that if you were lucky enough to be there on the right nights, you might catch a live performance by some music legends.

Artists like James Brown and Fats Domino frequently traveled through our area on their way to shows in New Jersey and New York—what a thrill that must have been. The Onancock Armory was packed almost every evening. Local bands like Full Sail delighted the audience with southern rock hits. Many couples started their road to matrimony by first meeting at these famous spots.

Twin Towers in Pocomoke even had lodging for those that enjoyed too much of the nightlife. The Trawler was a very popular spot for the people in the Exmore area. The best part about hanging out there and at The Island House in Wachapreague was the incredible seafood on the menu.

The Pony Pines and Captain Fish's were favorites among Chincoteague residents. These names certainly bring back nostalgic feelings for many people. Hopefully, no one will be reminded of a well-deserved hangover.

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Nature Conservancy completes Wachapreague oyster reef

BY STEFANIE JACKSON
Shore First

The Nature Conservancy recently completed a \$1.4 million oyster reef project with the help of nearly 160 volunteers, mostly Eastern Shore residents, who logged nearly 2,200 volunteer hours on the project.

“It’s really, really cool to see how many people in this community, and from even outside the community, want to come here and work with us,” said Bo Lusk, TNC coastal scientist and project lead.

“There’s absolutely no way The Nature Conservancy could’ve done this by themselves, without volunteer help,” Lusk said.

It was the largest volunteer effort that Lusk had witnessed at TNC in 16 years, he said.

The project, which spanned roughly 3.5 years, was planned to reduce the erosion of a marsh island outside Wachapreague, protecting both a wild-life habitat and the town from coastal hazards.

The marsh system once was protected by the south end of Cedar Island. Over the past decade, Wachapreague Inlet has widened, exposing both the marshes and the town to the open ocean.

To help restore this line of defense against storms and wave action, TNC staff and volunteers built approximately 10,000 oyster castles weighing 35 pounds each, a total of about 175 tons.

The workers also created about 1,600 pieces of substrate, a surface to which organisms — in this case, oysters — attach and grow.

That part of the project was done at TNC’s Brownsville Preserve, in
(Continued on page 15)



COURTESY PHOTO
The Nature Conservancy recently completed a \$1.4 million oyster reef project with the help of nearly 160 volunteers, mostly Eastern Shore residents.

Reef

(Continued from page 14)

Nassawadox, using a lightweight, biodegradable material called Oyster Catcher, made by a company in North Carolina.

"This was a fun project for me in that it was a bit of a challenge. ... We couldn't just come up with one way to build these reefs and build them the same (along) the whole 2,000 feet of shoreline," Lusk said.

The substrate provided additional surface for oysters to attach in areas that were too muddy, steep, or uneven for oyster castles to work well.

"One thing I knew for sure from the start, whether or not we actually had a big impact on slowing down the erosion of the marsh, I knew at the very least I could promise to people that we were going to grow a lot of oysters ... and they've even surpassed my expectations," Lusk said.

But not only are there more oysters on the sea-side, filtering the water and providing habitats for fish, there is evidence that the erosion of the marshes has slowed.

By comparing current images of the shoreline to old aerial maps, scientists can see that even though the top of the marsh's edge may continue to erode, its base remains generally stable due to the protection of the oyster castles.

That creates "a more gradual slope" over which waves roll more gently, instead of "a steep wall for the waves to bang into," and cause the marsh land to crumble into the ocean, Lusk explained.

"Long term, we're going to still have a marsh there, even if the top of it's a little bit smaller," he said.

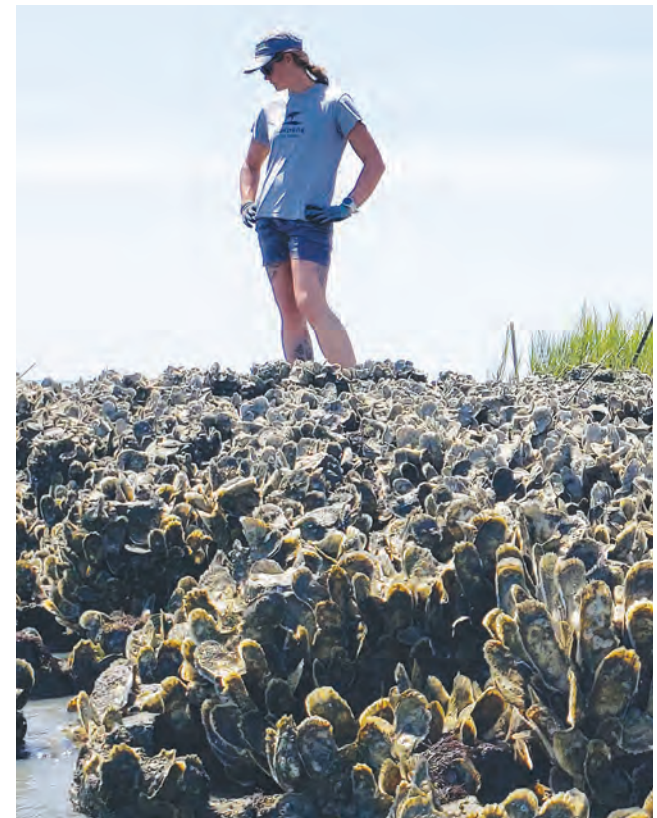
The oyster reef protects the marsh against erosion from normal wave action; in turn, the marsh protects the town of Wachapreague against "big storm high tides," Lusk said.

A University of Virginia student will continue monitoring the project, including wave interaction with the reefs, oyster growth, and the types of sediment that collect behind the reefs.

TNC will monitor the progress of the erosion reduction and do additional work on the project as needed.

The project was completed through the partnership of TNC, U.Va., the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, and the Town of Wachapreague, with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the help of volunteers.

On the record turnout of volunteers, Lusk said, "We ... just happen to have some local folks who ... I don't know, this is just something they like to come do for fun."



COURTESY PHOTO

The oyster reef in Wachapreague took about 3.5 years to complete.

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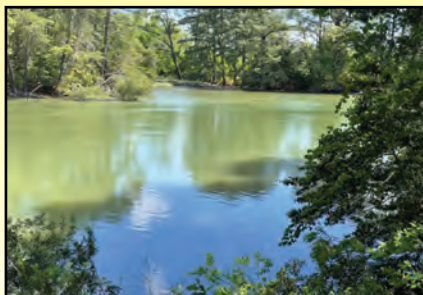
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Women's Wellness Weekend is coming to Cape Charles

Cape Charles will host a spring Women's Wellness Weekend that will focus on topics like self-compassion and body positivity and feature a keynote address by Dr. Michele Davidson, a psychiatric nurse practitioner and author.

The weekend event, set for Friday, April 5 through Sunday April 7, includes a number of Eastern Shore-based therapists and coaches who specialize in areas ranging from yoga to healing sound.

"The idea came about when a group of the practitioners came together," said Wendy Hubbard, one of the organizers. Hubbard is a somatic experiencing practitioner, helping people feel safe in their bodies while exploring emotions and memories.

"We hope this will be the first of an annual event," she said.

The event also will create awareness about the depth and breadth of wellness and healing services on the Eastern Shore.

"There are all these local practitioners," said Hubbard, who is co-chair with Christa Peachy, a trauma-informed somatic life coach, breathwork facilitator, and meditation teacher.

"No one knows that we offer these wonderful services," she said.

The Cape Charles event is being marketed at all Virginia Welcome Centers. The wellness weekend's website, www.wellnessesva.com, includes information on pricing, lodging options, and the six paths for attendees to choose.

"We've designed them so they would appeal to different people," said Hubbard.

It is limited to 100 participants and scholarships are available for teachers, first responders, and others by emailing wellnessesva@gmail.com.

Hubbard said she is excited to have people who have never been to the Eastern Shore or Cape Charles experience the area, shop, and dine.

"We're really hoping its a win-win for everybody," she said.



Wendy Hubbard, co-organizer of the upcoming Women's Wellness Weekend in Cape Charles, stands next to one of the promotional banners at a Virginia Welcome Center.

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Workshops, party, new classes at Arts Enter, Lemon Tree

After a very enthusiastic December with weekly Festive Friday entertainment, featured artists in the Lemon Tree Gallery, a sold-out Virginia Symphony holiday concert and the inspiring concert by Italian vocalist/pianist Gerry Gennarelli, Arts Enter and the Lemon Tree Gallery are planning for a well-rounded entertainment schedule in 2024.

An actors' workshop held by Gary Manasco on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. for ages 12 through adult will begin the season for the 26-year-old nonprofit arts organization.

In this special workshop, actors will practice techniques for presenting a dynamic performance on stage, approaching work from a place of creativity instead of fear.

Manasco will cover proper breathing and vocal technique, projection and enunciation, rhythm and movement, entrances, character development, script analysis, memorization, being "in the moment" on stage and truthfully relating to others on the stage.

Actors will present scenes and receive constructive feedback from the instructor. Manasco runs Manasco Actor Studio in Virginia Beach and is an experienced actor with a demonstrated history of working in motion pictures, the film industry, and on the professional stage.

Film and theatre acting and booking coach with a proven record, whose students have consistently been cast or won acceptance into prestigious performance art schools and colleges. Arts Enter is proud to offer this workshop to seasoned actors and those who are taking their first steps on stage. The workshop is \$40 and



COURTESY PHOTO

An actors' workshop held by Gary Manasco on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. for ages 12 through adult will begin the season at the Historic Palace Theatre.

reservation can be made through the Gallery.

On Saturday, Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. to noon, Lemon Tree invites friends to join in for a Winter Warm-Up that will include meeting artist Katie O'Shea and having the opportunity to preview her knitwear including pom pom hats, headbands, and cowls.

Coffee, hot chocolate, pastries, live music, and sherry are included in this free event. O'Shea taught herself to knit in 2020 as a way to keep herself busy at the beginning of the COVID pandemic. What started as a hobby, quickly grew into Coastal Knitting Company. O'Shea specializes in adult toques, cowls, and headbands, but

also knits unique wall hangings and other home décor. She and her family have called the Eastern Shore of Virginia home for almost 18 years and reside on Chincoteague Island.

Gather to celebrate Valentine's Day on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. with a festive dance party in the Historic

(Continued on page 21)

Arts Enter

(Continued from page 20)

Palace Theatre. Live music will be provided by the Shoal Shakers, who got their start at the Lemon Tree Gallery during the pandemic. The band's popularity has soared over the past few years and their contribution to the local music scene is significant.

Dancing and a cash bar will add to the fun date night or evening out with friends. Valentine treats are included. The cover charge is \$15 and will help boost the music fund which helps support scholarships and Fridays at Lemon Tree, a regular year-round tradition of free live music and a cash bar.

This will be a precursor to the exciting and high caliber programs that Arts Enter Cape Charles has in store for the coming season.

Among the highlights are The Latin Ballet on March 2 sponsored in part by Rayfield's Pharmacy.

The Latin Ballet of Virginia is a non-profit performing arts organization that enriches and connects communities through Latin cultural dance experiences.

A tribute to ABBA on April 20 and a One Act Play Festival are also being planned along with a Beach Boys Tribute, Lion King Jr. presented by the Musical Theatre Summer Camp and a Rolling Stones Tribute.

Dance, Musical Theatre and music classes for children include Creative Movement, Ballet, Modern, Hip Hop and Tap and begin the week of Jan. 22. Adult Stretch & Move, Tap and Ballet are ongoing.

For more information about any of these events or dance, music and theatre classes for adults and children, please call 757 331-4327. Arts Enter Cape Charles, the Lemon Tree Gallery, the Historic Palace Theatre, and Films That Move help to keep the arts alive in Cape Charles.



COURTESY PHOTO

Fiber artist Katie O'Shea will be in Cape Charles on Feb. 3.

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The Health Resources and Services Administration has named Eastern Shore Rural Health one of the top community health care networks nationwide. Pictured are Senior Leadership Team members, from left, Jody Osbon, Jessica Bonniwell, Kim Savage, Jeannette Edwards, Dr. Joan Lingen, and Kandy Bruno with the Gold Health Center Quality Leader seal.

Rural Health named a top performer

Eastern Shore Rural Health System Inc. has once again been named among the top community health care networks in the country.

On Nov. 6, the Health Resources and Services Administration announced the top 10% of health centers that received a Gold Health Center Quality Leader badge for achievements in improving health outcomes and providing high-quality care for patients in rural and underserved communities.

Eastern Shore Rural Health was also recognized for both its efforts to address social risk factors to health and to advance use of health information technology.

Out of 1,370 health center systems nationwide, 144 earned Gold status, putting Rural Health in the top 10.5% of health centers in the U.S.

In Virginia, out of 26 health care systems Rural Health is one of four attaining gold status, with 15.3% of health centers in the state achieving this ranking.

Rural Health is among nine community health care sys-

tems in the state noted for collecting information on patients' social risk factors, like lack of access to food, and connecting patients to services to help and reduce the negative impact on their health. Nationwide, 27% of community health care systems were recognized.

HRSA also acknowledged Rural Health's use of health information technology, which involves the processing, storage, and exchange of health information in an electronic environment for the benefit of its patients.

In 2022, Rural Health served 30,252 patients, which is roughly two out of every three people on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

HRSA's Health Center Program is a cornerstone of our country's health care system, especially for people having difficulty finding a doctor or paying for the cost of care. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, Rural Health offers discounts to patients who qualify based on income and family size.

Moonrise Jewelry one of 'America's Coolest' stores

Moonrise Jewelry in Cape Charles has been named one of America's Coolest Jewelry Stores by Instore, the magazine for the North American jewelry store owner.

The business took third place nationwide in the Small Cool division and was featured in the September issue of Instore and at instoremag.com

More than 80 stores took part in the 22nd annual contest that highlights the best examples of independent jewelry retailers in North America.

Stores are judged in exterior appearance, interior appearance, store biography, marketing, web presence, and overall individuality.

"Every year, we feel privileged to bring our readers the best of the best in our industry," said Trace Shelton, Instore's editor-in-chief. "From its unique fish leather jewelry collection to its restored 1920s façade and interior, Moonrise Jewelry certainly qualifies. But the store truly stood out with its innovative strategy, creative retail environment, and unique work culture."

"My vision has always been to capture the natural beauty and coastal charm of our beloved Eastern Shore in my designs, as well as the look and feel of the store. It is a true honor to receive this national award, which also recognizes the years of planning, creative thinking, and hard work put in by the entire Moonrise team," said owner/designer Meredith Lusk of the distinction.

A favorite of locals and visitors alike, Moonrise Jewelry is the world's leading designer of Fish Leather jewelry.

The company's colorful line of men's and women's accessories features eco-friendly, exotic Fish Leather made from by-products of the seafood industry.

Michelle Ferebee keynotes 116th Founders' Day event

Jane Cabarrus, Reneta Major, Shelia Walker to be honored

Pi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., will be celebrating its 116th Founders' Day at Eastern Shore Community College.

The event will be held on Jan. 20, 2024, and is open to the public.

The keynote speaker is Michelle Ferebee, deputy director of strategic partnerships at NASA Langley Research Center.

Her office is responsible for advancing partnerships with industry, academia, and other government agencies.

Her office also leads technology transfer and small business innovation research programs.

Ferebee has worked at NASA Langley for 40 years and is a 1983 graduate

of the College of William & Mary with a degree in mathematics.

Mary Jackson and Katherine Johnson, two of the Black women whose stories were chronicled in the book and blockbuster movie, "Hidden Figures," were her mentors when she started her NASA career.

Ferebee is passionate about encouraging minorities and women to pursue a career in STEM fields.

High school students interested in STEM are encouraged to attend.

The sorority is also celebrating the contributions of three community champions, Jane Cabarrus, Reneta Major, and Shelia Walker.

Registration information will be announced.



Michelle Ferebee



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GRAPHIC BY JONI HAMILTON, SHORE MARKETING SERVICES

A license plate depicting retired educator Mary N. Smith could benefit the cultural center in Accomac that bears her name.



GRAPHIC BY JONI HAMILTON, SHORE MARKETING SERVICES

Eastern Shore Community College's very successful fundraising foundation might have a license plate that features the college's "YES" logo.

It's time for some new Eastern Shore license plates

I eventually took a liking to the Eastern Shore of Virginia-themed state license plate, which now has been around for several decades.

I like the outline of the Eastern Shore on the

license plate. Our geographical shape is instantly recognizable and influences our unique way of life.

However, I was disappointed that the Eastern Shore is perfectly centered in the middle of the plate. Because of this, any writing on the plate also must be divided.

And the beach scene in the background is too perfect. The waterline is perfectly straight. The beachgrass is perfectly symmetrical. The horizon is perfectly clear.

The Eastern Shore is known for its natural beauty — but nature isn't perfectly straight, centered, and symmetrical, even if our license plate insists on it.

There should be a piece of driftwood, a crab pot float, or a channel marker somewhere in the scene.

The best thing about the Eastern Shore license plate is that proceeds go to a great cause.

After the first 1,000 plates, \$15 of the \$25 registration fee goes to the Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce Foundation "to support education, charity, and scientific study for the Virginia's Eastern Shore business community," according to the state Department of Motor Vehicles website.



Ted Shockley



EASTERN SHORE POST/TED SHOCKLEY

The Eastern Shore of Virginia license plate.

We all have seen very popular specialized license plates locally — like the plates that feature Virginia Tech and the NASA Wallops Flight Facility.

Virginia has a very wide selection of choices. Danville Community College has its own specialty license plate. And the FFA, once known as the Future Farmers of America, which traces its roots to Virginia, has a distinctive blue-and-gold license plate.

A group called "Friends of Coal" even has its own specialty plate. Another advocates the adoption of greyhound dogs.

I think it is time for the Eastern Shore to have even more license plates. And our area has many other very worthy groups that could benefit from funding raised from their own specialty license plates.

In addition, the license plates raise a group's profile. It is built-in marketing on vehicles. These specialized plates raise awareness and community pride.

I came up with some rough ideas and the talented Joni Hamilton, of Shore Marketing Services, made them look authentic. Hamilton does a fantastic job designing advertisements for the Eastern Shore Post.

A Northampton County Public Schools Alumni license plate, for example, would help fund the Northampton County Education Foundation.

(I think members of the Accomack County School Board should also start an education foundation in Accomack that could receive the license plate funding.)

An Eastern Shore Community College license plate could provide funding for the college's very successful foundation, which helps many students.

Many people across the state would love to have a State Pony license plate, with proceeds benefiting the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Co.

A Cape Charles license plate could help fund its summer concert series. An Onancock license plate could help fund the Historic Onancock School.

Proceeds from the Parksley specialty license plate potentially would go to help the Eastern Shore Railway Museum.

A Mary Nottingham Smith specialty plate — I think one bearing her image would be very neat — would honor the esteemed Eastern Shore educator and provide funding for the cultural center that bears her name.

What are your ideas about new Eastern Shore of Virginia-related specialty license plates? You only need some creativity and effort — and maybe some General Assembly lobbying. And 1,000 like-minded automobile registrants.



GRAPHIC BY JONI HAMILTON, SHORE MARKETING SERVICES

A Parksley license plate could provide proceeds for the Eastern Shore Railway Museum, one of the town's jewels.



GRAPHIC BY JONI HAMILTON, SHORE MARKETING SERVICES

The Chincoteague Pony recently was named by the General Assembly and Gov. Glenn Youngkin as the State Pony. A license plate featuring it would be popular.



GRAPHIC BY JONI HAMILTON, SHORE MARKETING SERVICES

Cape Charles' famous gazebo and time-honored logo could adorn a Cape Charles license plate — along with its slogan, "Virginia's Cape."



GRAPHIC BY JONI HAMILTON, SHORE MARKETING SERVICES

The Historic Onancock School would be a perfect image to have on an Onancock specialty license plate, which could raise money for school upkeep.



GRAPHIC BY JONI HAMILTON, SHORE MARKETING SERVICES

A Northampton High School Alumni license plate could raise money for the Northampton County Education Foundation.



GRAPHIC BY JONI HAMILTON, SHORE MARKETING SERVICES

An Accomack County Public Schools Alumni license plate could raise money for a potential Accomack County Schools Foundation.

100 years ago
January 1924

Man caught after 8 years

For more than eight years a fugitive from justice, Clarence Satchell has been taken back to Accomac county, charged with attempted murder.

It was on December 30, 1915, that Satchell, a farmhand, became enraged with his employer, Clarence Simpson, a farmer of near Onley and emptied the contents of a 12-gauge shotgun into Simpson's right shoulder and arm. He disappeared.

The shooting resulted in Mr. Simpson's right arm being paralyzed. Authorities were unable to learn of Satchell's whereabouts until a few days ago, when the news reached Accomac that Satchell was in Philadelphia.

The police of that city were instructed to make the arrest. Extradition papers were issued by Governor Trinkle to the Pennsylvania authorities and Constable T. G. Kellam left Sunday night, bringing his man back to the County Jail to await trial at the February term of Circuit Court at Accomac Court-house.

— *The Worcester Democrat*

Injured in car collision

Pinned under his car when it was overturned as a result of a collision on the Chincoteague-Wattsville Road, William H. Walters, Jr., of Pocomoke City, is at his home suffering with a broken collar bone, fractured rib and multiple contusions, Williams Daisy attempted to pass the latter, causing it to turn turtle.

— *The Roanoke Times*

Northampton Country Club merged into its successor

After an existence of twenty years, the Northampton Country Club in Cape Charles passed along with 1923, into history. In its stead is now found the Norfolk Division, P. R. R. Athletic Association, with all the old and many new interesting features for the near future.

On New Year's Eve thirty-five of the fifty-two members in good standing of the old club celebrated the passing thereof by an elaborate "stag" banquet and as the old year passed to be followed by the new, also passed the Northampton Country Club to

be followed by the Railroad Athletic Association, which in taking over the old club, takes it all, membership and chattel.

While the newly formed club will be under the management of Norfolk Division, Athletic Association, and open to railroad employees it will also be open to membership of other than railroad employees with the nominal fee of \$3 per annum dues.

Various committees have been appointed and are planning a membership drive the coming week. The membership is expected to reach 500 before the end of the year.

— *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

Parsons gets another trial in murder case

Charles W. Parsons, of Cape Charles, was granted a new trial and half a dozen other cases of interest in Norfolk were disposed of in decisions handed down late yesterday by the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals at Richmond. Parsons shot to death George R. Lewis, brakeman, during the railroad strike in Cape Charles in 1922, and was sentenced to a life term in the penitentiary. He has since been in jail at Eastville awaiting decision of the Supreme Court on his motion for a new trial. He is now expected to get a re-hearing at the next term of court. Mr. Parsons was rated as one of the wealthiest men in Cape Charles, and the first trial attracted wide attention.

In the decision yesterday, which was by Judge Prentis, it was held that two jurors were improperly accepted, and that the lower court erred in excluding evidence to show that Parsons was afraid of Lewis. It was held that the lower court further erred in excluding evidence that a Ku Klux Klan sign had been posted on Parson's office door without first ascertaining the time of this occurrence. Parsons was suspected by Lewis and other strikers of being a spy for the railroad company, it was said.

— *Ledger-Star*

Better sanitary systems sought

Sanitation and all that bears upon it is being closely followed by the more progressive towns on the shore and county health officers are kept active investigating queries as to sewerage plans and pure drinking water.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week, A. Wagner, engineer for the state health depart-

ment, visited the Shore and, in compliance with requests from Parksley and Chincoteague, inspected both towns.

The former town wants a modern sewerage-disposal plant and with its excellent topographical map, the only one of the Shore, Dr. Wagner and the county health officers and sanitary engineer were able to determine quickly the most practical plan.

There will be a septic basin which will drain into Bagwell's Creek and thence into Hunting Creek. As soon as the plans are furnished by Dr. Wagner, the town will commence the installation.

Chincoteague's problem is not so simple, for its oyster industry would suffer in consequence of any emptying of waste near the shore line. It will probably have to have a water system connected with wells driven on the mainland, where a good supply of excellent water is available.

The town has given Dr. Wagner a free hand in drawing up plans, and it is expected that one of several modern systems of water supply and sewerage disposal will be installed.

At Onancock Dr. Wagner found much to praise the water supply and sewerage disposal being all that could be desired.

— *The Roanoke Times*

Miss Pretlow speaks at Eastville today

Miss Mary Denson Pretlow, librarian of the Norfolk Public Library, will address the Northampton Woman's Club at Eastville this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock on "The Modern Novel." The club has been particularly anxious to hear Miss Pretlow's discussion of the subject, and it is expected that there will be a large attendance of members and their friends.

— *The Virginian-Pilot*

75 years ago
January 1949

Junior Eagles triumph in Chicken Bowl

Breaking loose for three touchdowns in the first half, the Lafayette Junior Eagles, of the Norfolk Community Junior High League, walloped the Chincoteague High School eleven, 27-0 in the first Chicken Bowl game.

The running of Bobby Howerin and Ralph Everton sparked the visitors who were awarded a gold

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Yesteryears

(Continued from page 26)

trophy for their victory. Howerin chalked up two touchdowns and a like number of extra points, while Everton accounted for one six-pointer and an extra point. Gene Reynolds tallied the other Eagle touchdown.

Scoring on their first running play from scrimmage, the Eagles completely dominated the play. Everton streaked 40 yards for the marker. Howerin crossed the goal for the second score of the first quarter for a 14-0 lead.

Reynolds notched a six-pointer in the second period, and Howerin completed the scoring with a touchdown in the final quarter.

Outstanding for Chincoteague were Don Babish, Bob Conkin in the backfield and Dick Rogers in the line. For the visitors, in addition to Howerin and Everton, linemen Gerald Bonny and Brock Nelson played a brilliant game.

The Eagles racked up 11 first downs to four for Chincoteague, and completed three of their six passes, while the opposition connected for only one of 11. The Eagles pulled two of these out of the air for interceptions.

— *The Virginian-Pilot*

Virginia fire damage \$25,000

Damage estimated at \$25,000 resulted when a fire destroyed a poolroom, a barber shop, a grocery store, and an upstairs apartment here yesterday.

Firemen from the Chincoteague Navy base and the island’s civilian department, New Church, Tasley, Parksley, Onancock, and Pocomoke City fought the blaze for more than two hours.

Several buildings across the highway and others were endangered as high winds fanned the flames.

Firemen said the fire apparently started about 10 a.m. in the poolroom near a chimney and spread to the store and barber shop.

The store operators, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Groton, were driven from their apartment above the store by the smoke and heat. They were unable to save their household goods.

Traffic on Route 13 was held up for almost an hour while firemen battled the flames in the wooden structures.

Firemen said the store and poolroom were owned by H. L. Chase, Mappsville, and the buildings were not insured. The barber shop, owned by Sherwood

Lewis, Mappsville, was covered by \$500 in insurance, firemen said.

— *The Daily Times*

Pocomoke has diphtheria case

A case of diphtheria was reported in Pocomoke City today.

Dr. F. S. Waesche of Snow Hill, Worcester County health officer, confirmed the report. He said the woman who has it is on the road to recovery.

Hearing of the Pocomoke City case, Dr. Seth H. Hurdle, Wicomico health officer, joined with Dr. Waesche in urging inoculation of pre-school age children not already immunized.

Most Wicomico school children have been inoculated, Dr. Hurdle said. It’s the younger ones who need it for prevention purposes, he added.

Dr. Hurdle said there was no cause for alarm because one or two cases come to light. One adult in Wicomico has recovered from diphtheria this month. There were no cases in Wicomico in 1948 or 1947, Dr. Hurdle said.

The highly infectious disease, frequently fatal if not caught in time, is on the increase in big cities, Dr. Hurdle reported.

It can be caught from the breath of a person suffering diphtheria or by using drinking glasses or silverware after the ill one.

— *The Daily Times*

Ferry corporation gets Nottingham Beach permit

Judge Jeff Walter of the Northampton County Circuit Court today gave the green light to the Virginia Ferry Corporation application for the franchise to operate from Nottingham’s Beach to Little Creek.

The franchise was granted in the Northampton court “without qualification.” In the request for franchise the ferry company asked for rights to continue their franchise at Cape Charles to be used in event of emergency.

Raymond M. Grimmer, mayor-elect of Cape Charles, replied “no comment” when asked his reaction to the decision.

At a four-day hearing on the franchise request in Circuit Court in September, the State Highway Department opposed the proposal on the ground it would have to build a new roadway to Nottingham’s Beach to handle the traffic to the

new ferry terminal.
The department contended such a roadway would necessarily divert funds allocated to other projects on the Eastern Shore.

— *The Virginian-Pilot*

Head-on crash near Accomac fatal to four

Four persons were killed and another injured today in a head-on truck-car collision on Route 13 near the Chincoteague road intersection.

State police said:
Evans C. Lore, 73, and his son, Raymond E. Lore, 49, believed the driver of the automobile, died at the scene of the accident. Both were from Newport, N.J.

Mrs. Carrie Kinkle, of Bridgeton, N.J., also died at the scene.

Nassawadox Hospital said Mrs. Kinkle’s husband, Edward Kinkle, died there about an hour and a half after the 4 p.m. accident.

Howard West, of Tasley, Va., driver of the truck, was hospitalized with minor injuries.

— *The Roanoke Times*

Killed in plane crash

A 28-year-old former B-17 bomber pilot was killed and another man was slightly injured at Weirwood this afternoon in the crash of an Ercoupe light plane.

Dead was Harry W. McCann Jr., commanding officer of the American Legion Post at Exmore, Va., and a partner in the operation of the Kellam Airport here, near which the crash occurred.

Northampton County Sheriff George T. Turner said the other man in the plane was Robert Rosenberg, of Washington, hospitalized at Accomac for minor injuries. He said Rosenberg flew back to Washington in another plane after he received treatment.

— *Daily Press*

Plane victim’s funeral held

The funeral of Captain Harry W. McCann, Jr., 28, whose death occurred Saturday afternoon as a

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Yesteryears

(Continued from page 27)

result of injuries received in a plane crash at Kellam Field, Weirwood, was conducted from the Holland-Grimmer Funeral Chapel, Nassawadox, at 1:00 o'clock Monday.

The Rev. C. J. Bright and the Rev. C. R. Wagstaff officiated. Pallbearers were George Colonna, James Charnock, Robert E. Shockley, Scott Walker, R. E. Burton, and H. M. Arnold. Burial, with full military honors, was in Girdletree, Md.

In the plane, a light Ercoupe, at the time of the accident, was a pilot who had brought it from Washington as a demonstrator. He was treated for minor injuries and dismissed from the hospital.

Capt. McCann, Commander of Eastern Shore Post No. 236 of the American Legion, was a veteran of fifty missions with the Fifteenth Army Air Force as operations officer and group leader. He was twice wounded in flights over the Ploesti oil fields. On his 42nd mission he was shot down near Munich, escaping into Jugo-Slavia where he joined the Partisan Army. Later he returned to Italy with his entire crew to resume regular flying missions.

Following service in Rome, Arno, Normandy, East Africa, the middle east, and the Balkans, Capt. McCann returned December 5, 1944, and became war informant and education officer at Tyndall Field, Fla. He had for several years been manager and flight instructor at Kellam Field.

Capt. McCann was awarded the European theater of operations ribbon with seven stars, the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Presidential Unit Citation. Before entering the service he taught in Montgomery County. He was a graduate of Western Kentucky State College at Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Surviving are Captain McCann's wife, who was Miss Carolyn E. Powell, of Frankford, Del.; a son and daughter; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. McCann, of Franktown, and a sister, Mrs. Dorothy McCann Linton, of Fort Lewis, Washington.

— *Ledger-Star*

Fire Company honored by Ladies' Auxiliary

The Ladies' Auxiliary to the Cape Charles Fire Company entertained at its annual banquet for the members of Cape Charles Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 Wednesday night in the fellowship hall of

Trinity Methodist Church. The tables were decorated with evergreens and lighted with candles and covers were laid for one hundred and thirty, including members of the Town Council and their wives, Mayor and Mrs. Raymond Grimmer, State President, Mrs. Florence Andrews, of Chincoteague, Mrs. Katherine Dye, of Temperanceville, and Mrs. James Willing, of Pocomoke, representing the Del-Mar-Va Woman's Auxiliary.

Mrs. Otto Etz welcomed the guests and Dr. H. H. Hemming pronounced the Invocation. Following dinner Mayor Grimmer spoke briefly in appreciation of the work of the Fire Company, and S. Roger Ames, president and Charles R. Adkins, chief of the company also were heard in short addresses.

Mrs. William F. Horner, Jr., sang a solo, accompanied by Mrs. Joseph Groppenbacher, and there were accordion and piano numbers by seven-year-old Ronald Nalligar, of Norfolk. Mrs. Andrews, who was introduced by Mrs. Etz, recognized several former state officers, including Mrs. Hurley Scott, former chaplain, Mrs. T. G. Gaskill, past State president and past president of the Del-Mar-Va Auxiliary, Mrs. Andrews addressed the guests on the work of the auxiliary.

The Honorable Walkley Johnson, clerk of the United States District Court, then was introduced by W. A. Dickinson, and gave a timely address on the value of civic mindedness.

Mrs. Groppenbacher then rendered a piano solo and the program closed with Benediction by Dr. Hemming.

— *Ledger-Star*

Parksley pilot, 2 passengers walk from crash landing

A privately owned, low-winged monoplane made a successful emergency crash-landing at the Navy airfield about 4:45 p.m.

Neither the pilot, James L. Fletcher of Parksley, nor his two passengers, W. Johnson or E. Leckner of Onancock, sustained injuries, the Navy reported.

The plane had taken off from Parksley airport about two hours earlier for a 15-minute sightseeing passenger flight.

When preparing to land at Parksley at the end of the flight, the pilot found his landing gear was not operating properly.

Unable after repeated attempts to lower the left wheel and fearing the possibilities of serious crash in landing, he flew to Chincoteague. He said he knew that fire truck and ambulance would be available for such an emergency.

After calling the Navy field control tower by radio and advising the control personnel on duty of his predicament, Fletcher circled the field for approximately an hour to use up extra gas and reduce the possibility of fire.

Just before dark, he crash landed, wheels up, on the grass just off the runway. The plane skidded in on its belly smoothly that only minor damage to the craft resulted.

Mr. Fletcher, who flies regularly out of Parksley, is an experienced pilot with approximately 2,000 hours flying time.

— *The Daily Times*

Suspect is arrested in thefts on Shore

William S. Togus, 27-year-old man, who recently served a two-year term in the Federal Penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., on a motor vehicle theft charge, is being accused of the automobile robberies and thefts around Rehoboth Beach and Lewes since the first of the year.

State police at Georgetown reported today that Togus had been apprehended at Accomac, Va., for car thefts and robberies of parked vehicles in Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia since his release from the Atlanta Penitentiary in November.

He is being held, they said, by the FBI and will perhaps be brought to trial in Federal Court at Richmond, Va.

— *The Daily Times*

50 years ago January 1974

Bridge-Tunnel traffic cut by shortage

The gasoline shortage during the December holiday period was blamed for an 11.5 per cent decrease in traffic across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel for the month.

J. Clyde Morris, executive director of the facility, told its commissioners Tuesday that "This is a little hard to talk about, traffic has been down in all categories."

The traffic count has been fluctuating so badly, Morris added, that it is hard to analyze what is causing the decrease.

But, he said, "I believe the gas shortage scare kept travelers at home. It's not good, but I don't

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Yesteryears

(Continued from page 28)

know what we can do unless we strike oil.”

The 11.5 per cent decrease in traffic usage between this December and December 1972, resulted in a 10.3 per cent decrease in toll revenue for the same periods.

The 17.6-mile span connects Virginia’s mainland with the Eastern Shore.

— *The Danville Bee*

Metal fabrication plant to build in Virginia

One of the world’s largest engineering companies will build a plant here for the fabrication of large metal structures and components.

This was announced Thursday by Gov. Mills E. Godwin Jr. of Virginia and Harry G. Austin, executive vice president of construction of Brown and Root, Inc., Houston, Texas. No financial details were disclosed.

Brown and Root has purchased the 2,000-acre Hollywood Farm adjacent to Cape Charles. Initial plans, reports said, are to use only 10 to 20 acres of the land for manufacturing at this time. The remainder will remain in farm land and as a golf course.

An announcement described the location here on Chesapeake Bay as suited to the firm’s needs. It provides access to the Atlantic Ocean without having to go through bridges. Some of the firm’s fabricated plants are quite large. They include platforms for offshore oil and gas well driller, offshore power plants, storage tanks and modular plants.

Brown and Root had sales of \$975 million in 1972. It is a subsidiary of the Halliburton Co.

The announcement said that an onsite sewage treatment plant and an incinerator would handle the plant’s wastes. Potable water will probably be developed on the site.

Austin, in thanking the Governor’s Office Division of Industrial Development for assistance given on the project in the past 18 months, said that “development of the property is dependent on our ability to obtain contracts completely unknown at this time.” He added that no contracts are in hand at this time.

No dredging will be needed in the immediate future, he said, though an additional slip may

be needed on the property.

— *The Daily Times*

Indians change ... seven OTs later

Cape Charles and Parksley High Schools might be still playing their Friday night basketball game if Cape Charles coach Butch Travis, either exasperated or maybe just sleepy, hadn’t revised his strategy.

As it was, Travis’ Indians finally defeated Parksley 72-68 in a Group A Eastern Shore District game that went seven overtimes, matching the apparent state record set several years ago by John Marshall and Benedictine in a game in Richmond.

“We were both holding the ball, trying to get the last shot,” said Travis. “In that last overtime we just decided to stop stalling and go back to our regular game plan.

“We sort of ran away with it there at the end.”

Cape Charles tied the game at 51-51 on Andrew Wiggins’ shot at the buzzer ending regulation play. After the first six overtime periods, the score was tied at 54, 54, 56, 58, 61, and 64.

“I’m not real emotional, but I got a little emotional last night,” Travis said Saturday, “In that sixth overtime we were down by four with less than a minute to go.”

But Bobby Heath scored for the Indians, a press produced a turnover with six seconds to go and Wiggins, who had 31 points – 11 in the overtimes – hit to produce another deadlock.

“I’ve never been involved in a game like this before,” Travis said.

“You ought to see this scorebook. It’s unreal.”

— *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

Metric film to be shown in Va.

As a Community Service, Eastern Shore Community College will show the film “Metric America” at the Onancock High School tonight at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

According to Dr. Stan Rola, associate professor of chemistry at the College, the United States will be operating principally on the metric system within the next seven years.

He said the film deals with the why of converting and its importance to the American economy and that it is not technical.

Dr. Rola will answer questions after the 45-minute film, which was produced by the U. S. Bureau of Standards.

— *The Daily Times*

Rebuilt store in Onancock ready

Harry Gaskill, vice president of Meatland announced the reopening of the new Meatland grocery store Wednesday at 9 a.m.

The old store was completely burned May 30, 1973. The fire was caused by a light fixture in the ceiling Mr. Gaskill said. The cost of rebuilding the store, according to Mr. Gaskill was \$300,000. It will employ about 20 people. The manager will be Allen Russel.

The Onancock store is one of four owned by Richard Gaskill of Jamesville, Va.

— *The Daily Times*

25 years ago January 1999

Publication released 3 decades following Shore historian’s death

Susie May Ames was one of the Shore’s first historians and a founder of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Historical Society. Although she died three decades ago, her reputation persists with the recent publication of her last completed manuscript, *The Company’s Garden: Dale’s Gift*.

Ames, often called the Shore’s first true historian, was born in 1888 in Pungoteague. She graduated from Randolph-Macon Woman’s College in 1908 and later received her master’s and doctorate degrees from Columbia University.

In 1926 Ames was among fewer than 3,000 women in America who received a master’s degree; she was one of fewer than 500 women to earn a doctorate in history when she completed her coursework in 1940.

After teaching a quarter of a century at Randolph-Macon Woman’s College, Ames retired to the Shore, where she dedicated much of her time to analyzing its history.

According to historian Brooks Miles Barnes, Ames was noted for her “deep research into the primary sources and rigorous analysis of the evidence” in addition to her ability to decipher the intricate handwriting used in 17th and 18th-century documents.

— *The Daily Times*

(Continued on page 30)

Yesteryears (Continued from page 29)

Summer island beckons

Long after the summer tourists have gone home, the weathered Virginia islands of Chincoteague and Assateague continue to beckon. And why not?

The leaves may have dropped and the golf course “palm trees” may be wrapped tightly in plastic, but the lure of the historic Virginia islands has not.

The wild ponies immortalized in Marguerite Henry’s “Misty of Chincoteague” still can be seen on Assateague, awaiting next summer’s roundup and auction, flounder still bite in the quiet back bays, and many of the restaurants that packed ‘em in all summer still serve up some of the freshest seafood in the region.

The only thing missing is the onslaught of people that during tourist season engulfs the rugged islands off Virginia like a swarm of mosquitoes.

But who’s complaining?

Many commercial establishments are open without noise or congestion, retail clerks have time to answer questions, parking is never an obstacle and restaurant reservations are unnecessary.

A fishing village and resort island, Chincoteague is famous for its clam shoals and oyster beds. It serves as the gateway to Assateague Island National Seashore and Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge, both on Assateague and connected to Chincoteague by bridge.

“We’re a step back in time,” says Margie Christensen of the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce. “Many of the houses on Main Street used to be on Assateague. They were brought over here by barge and are well over 100 years old.”

Nearly 4,000 people live on Chincoteague year-round, she says, and about 1.4 million visitors pass through town annually. And if you’re the type of vacationer that doesn’t mind a nip in the air, this might be the time to come calling.

— *The Daily News Leader*

Fax machine proposal defeated

A motion to purchase personal, take-home fax machines for each member of the Board of Supervisors was defeated recently. County Administrator Tom Harris did a cost analysis of the request and found the fax

machines would be between \$149 and \$700, with an additional \$80 cost for each machine to cover installation of separate telephone lines at each supervisor’s home. Suzanne Wescoat, who made the request as a means to improve communications, said it was not necessary to have a second phone line because she had used a single line at her house to accommodate both phone and fax, but admitted she did not remember how she had it done. However, the motion still did not pass.

— *The Daily Times*

Norwegians give lift to Cape Charles

An international manufacturing company is coming to the Eastern Shore and bringing some well paying jobs. Gov. Jim Gilmore told a crowd of about 100 people who arrived Friday at the Port of Cape Charles Sustainable Technologies Industrial Park to hear the announcement.

Energy Recovery Inc. of Norway will hire about 35 area workers at \$35,000 a year as part of a plan to relocate its North American headquarters and research-and-development operations to Northampton County, said company president Leif Hauge.

The company plans to manufacture pressure exchangers, which company officials said are cost-effective devices to remove salt from water.

The company will lease most of the Sustainable Technologies building, except for a business center and conference room.

Gilmore also gave a \$170,000 check from the state’s Opportunity Fund to the industrial park for roads and other infrastructure.

“Energy Recovery’s decision to locate in Northampton County will enhance Virginia’s position as a leader for companies involved in the most advanced 21st-century technologies,” Gilmore said. “This is a great area for the commonwealth – the Eastern Shore. I feel so good about the future of the Eastern Shore and the part it will play.”

Gilmore presented a Virginia flag to Hauge, who said the park provided the ideal environment to showcase the company’s products and evolving technology.

“We’re pleased to be part of America’s first eco-industrial park,” said Hauge, who added he expects the company to occupy the industrial park by summer.

— *The Daily Times*

Shelter policy draws criticism

County officials are reassessing their decision not to open a shelter for residents who were left without heat and water when a Christmas Eve ice storm

left thousands without power.

The reassessment comes in the wake of criticism by an Accomack supervisor and the former coordinator of emergency services in the county.

Supervisor James Payne said he was “very concerned” that Accomack County did not open a shelter because many residents were without water and heat. However, Payne said he did not call Donald Hart Jr., the county director of emergency services, or Public Safety Director Rob Glover to ask that a shelter be opened.

Former Emergency Services Coordinator Joseph A. DeMarino of Accomack recently asked for an investigation into why a shelter was not opened.

DeMarino said the storm left many citizens with no electricity, heat or access to medication, and some residents were without electricity for four days.

“Accomack County has never opened shelters for (ice storm),” Hart said. “Of course, it caught everybody off guard.”

Hart said the situation was discussed with other emergency services officials who decided not to open a shelter, believing that families without electricity would be taken in by family members who were not affected. He also said that trying to get residents to a shelter over iced-over roads might be hazardous.

“In hindsight it might have been good to open one, at least to have one available,” Hart said. “But I’ve been on the board (of supervisors) 20 years and we’ve never had this before, and we may never have one again.”

Hart said he would raise the issue at the next board meeting to see whether supervisors wanted to change the emergency services contingency plan.

Glover said his department began assessing the ice storm Christmas Eve and based on Emergency Services reports decided shelters would not be opened, but would stay in a standby status.

Mobilization of a shelter team would have been time-consuming, Glover said. “And we also considered it would pose a lot more hazard to many people trying to get to the shelter.”

More than 5,000 Accomack-Northampton Electric Cooperative customers lost power at the height of the ice storm. Conectiv said about 4,500 customers lost power, including 1,700 around Onley who lost power for about two hours when a limb fell on wires near the Tasley substation, said Conectiv’s Richard Work.

While most residents used their fireplaces and stoves to stay warm, others reportedly rode around in their cars until bedtime. Many residents also collected rain water to flush toilets, and bought bottled water for drinking.

— *The Daily Times*

A nicotine addiction: 'Don't let it happen to you.'

Phillip Morris, the nation's largest cigarette maker, has said that smoking is addictive and causes lung cancer and other deadly diseases.

No duh!

Here's another news flash.

I am an addict.

I first realized that fact several years ago when I snuck a peek at my medical chart while sitting through one of those interminable waits in an exam room.

Under the heading "diagnosis" I found scrawled in the doctor's so-called handwriting the notation "nicotine addiction."

At first I wasn't very happy about that label. But after thinking about it, I knew it was right.

I am an addict.

Now I know there are lots of folks out there who think that's hogwash — that people smoke simply because they want to. That if a person really wants to quit, they can.

I beg to differ.

I have wanted to quit.

I have wanted to quit so badly that I have spent hundreds — maybe even thousands — of dollars on things like nicotine gum, nicotine patches, prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, support groups, and even hypnosis.

I've gone the reduction route, the cold-turkey route, the rubber band route.

Still, I continue to spend hundreds of dollars a year on a habit that is unhealthy, dirty, dangerous, and socially unacceptable.

Why?

I am an addict.

I first experimented with smoking when I was a pre-teen. My older brother, Tim, and I would sneak one



Candy Farlow: "Despite the fact that my Mom is no longer here, she is still teaching me lessons."

of Dad's unfiltered Camels out of his pack and try it.

Fortunately, Tim gave it up after a few tries.

I, on the other hand, thought it was cool. And I enjoyed the feeling it gave me.

I guess I had been hooked on smoking for about seven years before I became aware of the dangers.

Now, I am only too well aware

of the potential health risks from smoking.

I see Dad, a non-smoker for 20 years, paying the price for the earlier decades of smoking.

I see him coughing incessantly, short of breath and using inhalers.

And still I smoke.

Stupid? Yes. Addicted? Yes.

And I wonder: How far would I go to support my habit?

I remember as a teenager, getting in my third-hand Ford Galaxy 500 and driving out of town, just so I could sneak a smoke.

I remember the time I was doing just that when I dropped the lit cigarette and, as I reached for it, drove the old Galaxy into a ditch.

As a young mother, I remember going upstairs to the bathroom, turning on the exhaust fan and blowing the smoke directly into it, then flushing the evidence of my habit down the toilet.

I remember the day I had outpatient surgery, and still groggy, lied to the nurses, telling them I wasn't woozy and that, yes, I had been to the bathroom — just so I could get out of there and have a cigarette as my husband drove me home.

I also remember the day I woke up so disgusted with living this way that I decided that was it — no more. Seventeen hours later I was lying on the sofa sobbing uncontrollably. My husband saying, "I can't stand this," headed out to the store to buy cigarettes.

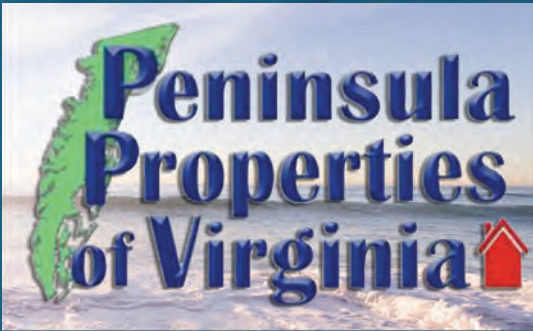
It's hard to take such failure.

The hardest thing to take, however, are the grandkids. Being much smarter about the hazards of tobacco than I was at their age, they have all, at one time or another, asked me why I smoke.

I always tell them, "Because Nanny is stupid. Don't you be stupid, too."

What I really need to tell them is, "Because I'm addicted. Don't let it happen to you."

This piece was published Nov. 10, 1999, in the Eastern Shore Post. Candy Farlow, a founder of the Eastern Shore Post weekly newspaper and a longtime journalist on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, died in 2017. Among other endeavors she worked for a time as a telephone lineman, reporter, columnist, radio DJ, and as community relations director for Shore Memorial Hospital. Her former columns will be printed monthly in Eastern Shore First.



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