

Shore First



Eastern Shore Garden Tour

Annual Home and Garden Tour on Saturday, April 27, focuses on Northampton County

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PHOTO COURTESY DIANE GINSBERG

Shore First

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3257B Main Street
P.O. Box 47
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TELEPHONE: 757-789-7678
FAX: 757-787-7681

JIM RITCH
Publisher

publisher@easternshorepost.com

WILLIAM E. SHOCKLEY III
Editor, General Manager
editor@easternshorepost.com

TROY C. JUSTIS
Manager,
Advertising and Circulation
ads@easternshorepost.com

CONTRIBUTORS

CURTIS BADGER
LAURA DAVIS
NANCY DRURY DUNCAN
JONI HAMILTON
STEFANIE JACKSON
CAROL VAUGHN
JANET BERNOSKY
RYAN WEBB
KIRK MARINER (1943-2017)
CANDY FARLOW (1953-2017)

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www.EasternShorePost.com

Shore First | The arts



COURTESY PHOTO

Poetry winner Ryshekia Allen is congratulated by ESCC President Jim Shaeffer.

ESCC students participate in state poetry, arts competition

Eastern Shore Community College announces the local winners of its inaugural Virginia Community College System Poetry and Visual Arts Competition.

Participating students submitted original poetry and visual art works during February and March interpreting the theme “I belong.”

The program aimed to foster a sense of community and belonging at ESCC and across the Virginia Community College System.

Twenty of the 23 colleges in the VCCS participated in this first year of the Poetry and Arts Competition, which was supported by the VCCS Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Culture.

For the poetry competition, two community judges, Ann Marie Brown and Pedro Gonzalez, judged the final round of poetry selections and assessed the applicants’ performative readings of their themed poems.

Ryshekia Allen was chosen as the winner with her poem, “Don’t Fall.”

On the visual arts side, Julie Nash has announced that the ESCC winner is Jade Saldana with her entry entitled “The Loneliest Girl in the World.”

Saldana was the ESCC featured student digital

artist at last month’s ESCC Art Walk.

“Jade’s digital art is one of a kind and the perfect example of everyone belonging,” Nash said.

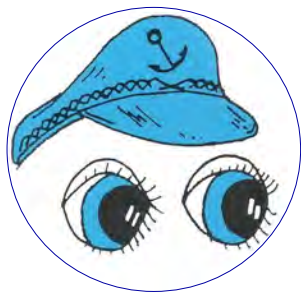
ESCC President Jim Shaeffer said, “Our pride is brimming with the talent exhibited by our participating students, and the way they grasped and embraced the theme of ‘I belong.’ We’re extremely excited for our two winners.”

Allen also won a spot to compete for statewide honors. College poetry winners from across Virginia will participate in a live performance of their original theme-related poems at the Dickinson Fine and Performing Arts Center at Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville on April 6, and a chance to be named “Poet Laureate” of Virginia’s Community Colleges.

A panel of distinguished judges will determine the winner of the competition based on the individual’s original poetry, a private interview, and the Saturday performance.

With the support of Virginia’s Humanities, the winners from all 20 participating colleges will have their poetry and visual arts featured in a book to be published this summer. The

Virginia Humanities grant also supported professional development for the college poet laureates and top visual artists.



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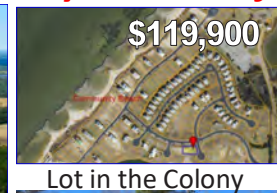
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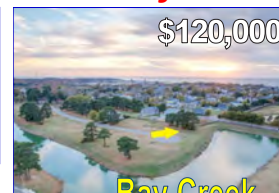


Lot in the Colony



Lot in the Hollies

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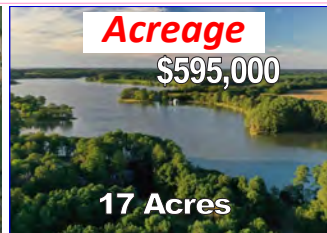
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Broadway comes to Cape Charles

With the record for the longest American theatrical run, “The Fantasticks” is a gem of the American musical theatre.

Featuring timeless classics like “Try to Remember” and “Soon It’s Gonna Rain,” this simple and beautiful ensemble piece is as beloved and as timely as it was when it opened over 60 years ago.

During the first weekend in May, Arts Enter will present “The Fantasticks,” the 1960 musical with music by Harvey Schmidt and a book and lyrics by Tom Jones.

Showtimes are Friday, May 3, and Saturday, May 4, at 7:30 p.m. There will be a matinee on Sunday, May 5 at 3 p.m.

The whimsical, poignant, and romantic play is an allegorical story that focuses on two young lovers, their meddling fathers, and the journey we all must take through adolescent thrills, the growing pains of hurt and betrayal, the highs of passion, the challenges of distance, and the agonies of heartbreak to discover how to truly love.

In a theatrical and inventive fashion, the gallant and enigmatic narrator — El Gallo, played by Richard Williams — introduces us to a pair of young lovers, Matt and Luisa (Emma Philpot and Joey Mock), who experience the magical, moonlit phase of falling in love.

For a time, romance seems perpetually exciting, and heroics seem always to save the day. However, El Gallo leads the young protagonists from the romantic moonlight into the harsh sunshine, where the weaknesses in their relationship are exposed and the reality of the struggles and heartache love brings is revealed.

The characters Henry, Hucklebee, Bellomy, and Mortimer back up the protagonists and narrator throughout their joint and separate journeys.

With the understanding that “with-out a hurt the heart is hollow,” Matt and Luisa manage to find their own identities, and in turn, to discover their



COURTESY PHOTO

Richard Williams, portraying El Gallo, is shown along with cast members of The Fantasticks.

strengths as a couple in times of both darkness and light.

“The Fantasticks” is loosely based on the 1894 play “The Romancers,” by Edmond Rostand, concerning two neighboring fathers who trick their children, into falling in love by pretending to feud.

Virginia Eye Consultants is the Presenting Sponsor for the production of “The Fantasticks.”

Tickets are available at the door, in the Lemon Tree Gallery and online. Adult tickets are \$30 and student tickets are \$15.

On April 20, the theatre will be filled with the sounds of Dancing Dream, an

ABBA Tribute.

This tribute act will harken back to the days when Swedish disco group ABBA ruled the music world with their great pop hits and memorable performances.

Their music is still so popular and alive and resonates with audiences of all ages! Come experience the glitter and glamour of the 1970s.

This band takes pride in being able to honor the original, fantastic performers of the original Swedish music group, ABBA. Tickets will be available at the Lemon Tree Gallery, online and at the door.

The Lemon Tree Gallery is home to

Arts Enter, the Historic Palace Theatre, and Films That Move.

Visit www.artsentercapecharles.org or call 757 331- 4327.

Arts Enter Cape Charles is a 27-year-old nonprofit with a mission to shift from a traditional concept of arts education towards enhancing educational opportunities and performance training for the stage while also focusing on the creation of film and the technology behind the camera. The organization is dedicated to promoting the fine and performing arts, education, technology behind the camera, and theatre performance in our community.

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A delicious recipe for grilling weather

I've definitely been in a mood to grill the past few weeks with all the warm weather we've been blessed with.

This recipe for Hawaiian chicken and coconut rice was one I had bookmarked for a few months before I finally got around to giving it a try. It turned out absolutely delicious — so moist and flavorful.



Laura Davis

It's best when marinated overnight, but if you put it in before you go to work for the day and grill it when you get home, it'll still have plenty of flavor.

Some of my favorite ingredients go into the marinade — soy sauce, ginger, garlic, and pineapple juice meld together to create a perfect harmony of flavors for the chicken.

Then, there's the coconut rice, which couldn't be easier.

It is your basic recipe for rice, but you substitute 1 cup of coconut milk for 1 cup of the water.

The coconut flavor isn't overwhelming, but just enough to really set off the tropical flavors in the chicken.

Served it with some fresh steamed broccoli to round out the meal.

We all really loved this one. I went ahead and grilled more chicken than we needed for dinner that night, as I knew the leftovers would be absolutely divine in some chicken salad — which they were.

Instead of my usual dried cranberries, I added a little bit of fresh diced pineapple for a Hawaiian spin.

It was so delicious and will be perfect for the beach days ahead!



Hawaiian chicken and coconut rice is a great option for grilling season.

PHOTO COURTESY LAURA DAVIS

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*.

Hawaiian chicken and coconut rice

For the Hawaiian chicken

- 6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (or 2 lbs. of boneless thighs)
- 1/3 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup pineapple juice
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 4 scallions, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tsp. fresh ginger, minced
- 1 tsp. of sesame oil

For the coconut rice:

- 2 tbsp. butter
- 1 1/2 cup long grain white rice
- 1 1/2 cup coconut milk
- 1 1/2 cup water

Combine soy sauce, pineapple juice, water, brown sugar, scallions, garlic, and sesame oil in a resealable plastic bag. Add the chicken pieces to the bag, remove as much air as possible, and seal. Squish around to coat the chicken in the marinade well. Place in the refrigerator and marinade for at least eight hours or overnight.

Preheat grill to medium heat. Grill for about 5-7 minutes per side, watching to make sure chicken doesn't get too charred. If you do not have a grill you can use a, indoor grill pan.

To prepare the rice, melt the butter in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat. Add the rice and cook for about 3 minutes stirring occasionally.

Carefully pour in the coconut milk and water, stir to combine. Cover and bring to a boil. Once boiling, stir once more and re-cover. Reduce heat to low and cook for 18 minutes. Remove lid and fluff rice with fork.

Serve the chicken on a bed of the coconut rice. Garnish with additional scallions if desired.

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Remembering the mail bomb that rocked Cape Charles

At “the Hermitage” near Cape Charles, the noises and dangers of the modern world seem far removed.

The old house, built prior to 1783, stands at the end of its own private lane half a mile east of Cape Charles, a handsome structure with a gambrel roof and dormer windows. The front yard is studied with shade trees and lined by a white wooden fence, while at the back the house commands



Kirk Mariner

a lovely view of Kings Creek. To the many visitors who have trooped around and through it during Garden Week, the Hermitage conjures up enviable visions of the quiet country life.

But the modern world once intruded upon this pleasant spot with a horror such as the world had then seldom seen. It was here that, for one of the first times in the world, a man was murdered by the very modern means of a bomb sent through the mail.

In 1936 the Hermitage was owned by Curry S. Thomas, 47 years old, well-to-do gentleman farmer. His first wife died in 1934 when her car was struck by the train at the crossing nearest the house, and he was a widower when he met Elsie Dickinson Salmons, who first came to Cape Charles to visit her brother, attorney



National news covered the bombing, including this piece in the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph.

W.A. Dickinson. Mrs. Salmons was by then divorced, and had for three years been employed as an assistant to Harvey R. Hege, a dentist in Mount Airy, North Carolina. After several visits back and forth, Curry and Elsie were married on June 10, 1936, at her mother's home in her native Hillsville, Virginia, and the newlyweds promptly took up residence in the Hermitage.

On July 22, the 41st day of their marriage, the Thomases stopped by the post office at Cape Charles on their way home from a golf game at the local country club. Waiting for them there was a small package wrapped in brown paper, tied with ordinary string, and bearing a Richmond return address.

“A wedding present!” exclaimed some friends who happened to be in the post

office at the time, and they urged the couple to open it right then and there. But the Thomases resisted, and hurried home. After pulling his sedan to a stop at the Hermitage, Curry Thomas took the package into his lap and broke the string around it.

The explosion that followed could be heard for a mile, and sent parts of the automobile hurtling 100 yards across the property. Elsie Thomas was blown out of the car with shrapnel in her left side and arm, and with injury to one eye. Curry Thomas was killed instantly.

The explosion occurred about 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday. By the end of the day S. Thomas Nottingham, postmaster and former police chief at Cape Charles, had notified Federal authorities of the bombing, and the scene of the crime had been roped off to protect it from the curious. By noon Thursday investigators from the postal service, flown in by Navy plane from Baltimore, were taking charge of the case. Among them were 6-foot, 250-pound B.B. Webb and “a little fellow with a black moustache” named J.B. Sentman; together the two were said to resemble the comic strip characters Mutt and Jeff. By Friday some of the inspectors had been dispatched to Mount Airy and Hillsville, and to Galax, Virginia, where Mrs. Thomas' first husband lived. Curry Thomas was buried on Friday. His widow, meanwhile, lay in the Nassawadox hospital in serious condition, often delirious.

For weeks the investigation moved

(Continued on page 9)

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.”

Bomb

(Continued from page 8)

too slowly for a community frightened and incensed by so horrible and senseless a crime. After four days in the Western Shore towns, the investigators moved on, veiling their work in secrecy and promising a public statement only when an arrest was made. By September, Eastern Shore citizens were growing impatient. “Why have we any reason to believe that we are being protected against this criminal or others of his like?” demanded the Northampton Times of Cape Charles. The county sheriff, his deputies, and the Cape Charles police all stood ready and eager to take up the case, but had been told by the Federal officials that “We’ll handle it.” “But what about results?” stormed the Times.

It took less than three months for the investigators to get their man. At 10:00 p.m. on Monday, October 6, two men from North Carolina walked into the Bluemont Hotel in Galax, unaware that the people in the lobby included three postal investigators (including Mutt and Jeff), an array of local police and state troopers, and, from Northampton County, sheriff George T. Turner and Commonwealth’s Attorney C.M. Lankford. Sheriff Turner presented them with warrants, arrested and handcuffed them, and promptly left for Eastville with his culprits. Charged with the crime were Elsie’s old employer Dr. Hege and his friend and “alibi” Edward Banner.

The investigators had done a thorough job of connecting the bombing to Hege. Through remnants at the scene of the crime they had learned that the bomb had been built from a mousetrap, a small battery, a fuse, and dynamite in a piece of pipe. They traced the battery to its factory of origin in Canada, then to Mount Airy, the typewritten return address to Chicago, then back to the dentist, and even the string that bound the package to Hege’s supply house. There were witnesses from Richmond who placed Hege and Banner there the day the bomb was mailed. As for motive, there were letters from Hege who strongly objected to Elsie’s leaving his employ to get married, and Elsie’s statement that Hege, though a married man with children, had become infatuated with her to such an extent that she had

considered giving up her job — though later, upon meeting Curry Thomas, he had expressed a high regard for him, and wished them both well.

In Eastville, Hege and Banner were lodged in separate cells in the county jail and the considerable evidence against them placed in the hands of Lankford. Within hours, Deputy John R. Womble found Hege in his cell bleeding from the wrists. When Dr. Holland Trower was summoned to stitch up the wound, Hege insisted he must have broken the crystal of his watch as he rolled over on it while sleeping. During the next several days Hege engaged a local attorney, summoned another from Mount Airy, asked his wife to visit him, and steadfastly maintained his innocence. “I may have been indiscreet,” he told his attorney, “but as God is my witness I had nothing to do with that bomb.” On Saturday night, October 10, he complained of headaches and asked that his eyeglasses be returned to him. The following morning he was found dead in his cell, the eyeglasses broken and the glass used to slit his wrists and throat.

Dr. Harvey Hege was buried in Mount Airy on October 14. Elsie Thomas left the Nassawadox hospital on October 20. Before the end of the month Edward Banner had been cleared of conspiracy in the murder, and charges against him dropped. On November 8, Federal authorities announced the closing of the case.

The Cape Charles mail bombing, picked up by the Associated Press and United Press International, was news from coast to coast. It was covered in detail by the Richmond Times-Dispatch, and was frontpage news in the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Evening Herald & Express. Five years later it was featured in True Detective magazine, complete with a photograph of Thomas’ bombed sedan.

Elsie Thomas fully recovered from the bombing incident, and later remarried and moved to Amarillo, Texas. She died in 1981, and is buried there.

Dr. Hege’s house in Mount Airy, built about 1925, was at one time listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It was demolished in 1992 to make room for the future expansion of, ironically, the local post office. Curry Thomas’ house still stands overlooking Kings Creek, as quiet and peaceful as if nothing bad had ever happened there.



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Bennett brothers — blockade runners of Hacks Neck

They say Jim Bennett could move like a shadow in the nighttime forest, never seen and never heard, but always delivering the goods.

Jim Bennett and his brothers were blockade runners in Hacks Neck during the Civil War.



Curtis Badger

They started running shortly after federal troops moved south from Newtown (now Pocomoke City) in November 1861, and then spread out over the bay-

side ports and wharves to block local shippers from sending goods to the western shore.

They kept at it for the duration of the war, until General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. On June 3, 1865, Jim Bennett walked into the office of Captain William B. Brokaw at the federal army headquarters in Pungoteague with his hat in his hand. “I hear that General Lee has surrendered,” he said. “I reckon I ought to do the same.”

Jim Bennett, over a period of about four years, made countless trips from the marshes of Hacks

Neck across the bay to Mathews, Mobjack Bay, Gloucester County, Gwynn’s Island — wherever he could find willing buyers hiding in a swamp that was as dark and remote as Hacks Neck.

Jim was in the smuggling business with two of his brothers, John, the eldest, and Teakle, who was a few years younger than Jim. Over the years, John and Teakle got caught and did jail time, but Jim never saw the inside of a prison.

When Lee surrendered, Jim Bennett was on the Union’s most wanted list, and he was wanted dead or alive. While the Eastern Shore was not the focus of significant battles during the war, the two counties were very much involved in a more subtle form of warfare called blockade running.

Beginning soon after the first shots were fired at Fort Sumter in April 1861, the Union began Project Anaconda, a plan to systematically strangle the South by closing its ports and denying the shipment of materials to support the war effort.

On April 19 President Lincoln signed a proclamation ordering the blockade of southern ports, and on May 1 Captain Silas Horton Stringham took command of a flotilla of gunboats, charged with shutting down ports from Alexandria, Virginia to Key West, Florida.

The blockade project was the

main reason the Union army moved quickly to occupy Virginia’s Eastern Shore. It gave the northern forces a beachhead in the Chesapeake Bay area that was crucial to shipping.

It was the perfect venue to monitor and enforce the coming and going of ships. They might not have predicted that Eastern Shore men and women would band together in a ragtag navy to wage guerilla warfare for four years.

Jim Bennett was something of a Robin Hood figure in Hacks Neck, making probably hundreds of trips across the bay to provide goods to support the Confederacy, and he was one of very few known blockade runners on the Shore never to have been caught.

He was a skillful sailor, a man with pedigree linked to the sea. His grandfather, Captain William Bennett, was a master sailor with the Virginia Navy during the Revolutionary War. Bennett’s close calls were what established his legend, and no doubt some of the Bennett stories, like those of Robin Hood, have been improved and embellished in many re-tellings. Most involve narrow escapes as Federal troops closed in, usually by exiting by a rear window or wearing a clever disguise.

On one occasion the troops entered a home where Bennett was staying. As the owner stalled them,

Bennett jumped out of a rear window, sprinted to Butcher Creek, and swam underwater to safety on the other side. Blockade runners had varying reasons for getting involved in this dangerous, uncomfortable business.

Some were motivated by patriotism, others by profiteering. Many local people stood with the Confederacy, and they had friends and family who had crossed the bay and signed up to fight for the cause.

For others, it was a matter of business. Blockades create shortages of goods people need to survive. When things are in short supply, the value goes up, and prices become inflated. If someone knows the backwoods and is comfortable navigating in the darkness, and is willing to face the music if caught, then there is good money to be made.

For local planters, running the blockade was necessary to get their crop to the market, to recoup their investment. Local runners did not often deal in gunpowder and weapons, but more likely in cornmeal, oats, leather goods, clothing, shoes, salted pork, clams and oysters, and peach brandy.

In other words, it was the usual shipment of goods that had always been sent to market, until the Union blockade attempted to end it.

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.

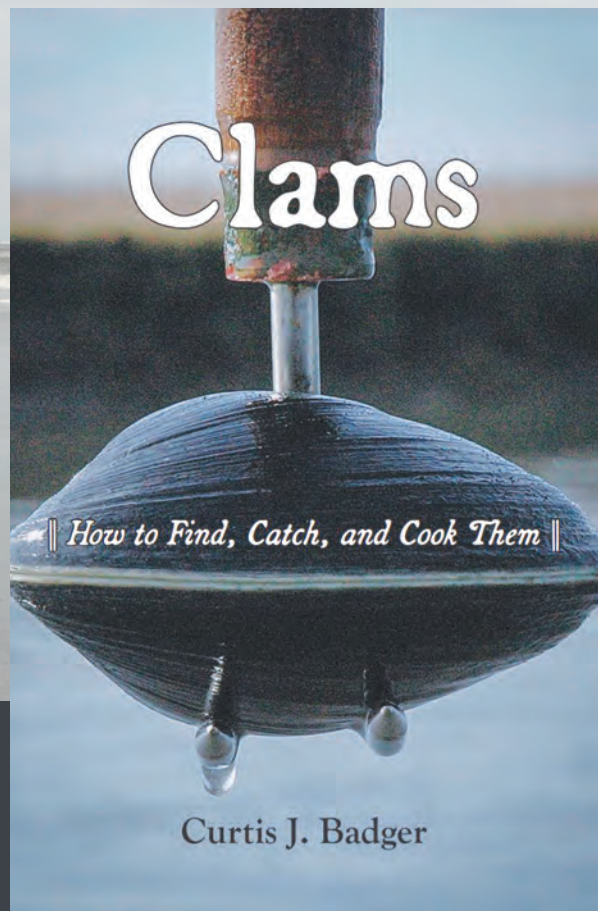
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A new revised edition!

Clams — How to Find, Catch, and Cook Them by Curtis J. Badger was first published in 2002 and has been out of print for about 10 years. A new, revised edition was recently published by Salt Water Media of Berlin, Md. Like the original, the new book leads the reader through the process of finding, catching, and cooking clams. But it also is a book about the places where clams live — the barrier islands, salt marshes, and bays of the seaside.

The new edition also discusses the tremendous growth of clam aquaculture, a tribute to aquaculture pioneer Mike Castagna, and even more clam recipes and cooking tips.

Copies are available from Salt Water Media
29 Broad Street, Suite 104, Berlin, MD 21811.

Price is \$12.99 plus tax and shipping

www.saltwatermedia.com

A childhood spent in the town of Accomac

When it came to feeling safe, Accomac was much like any other community on the Eastern Shore. We were trusted to ride our bicycles down to the drugstore for an ice-cold



Barry Mears

soda pop; this was a gathering spot for old timers to solve the world’s problems.

Another favorite hang-out was across the street at Billy Payne’s Texaco; he ran a full-service filling station. Billy would

check the oil while he filled the gas tank, so there was no need for the driver to get out. With the occasional set of windshield wipers, you were on your way. Locals ran a tab and paid it off at the end of the month.

This was a great time to be alive; everyone trusted each other and shared a mutual respect. I was at Payne’s Texaco on much less official business. He kept candies, cakes, and crackers in his office. Billy also had the hottest atomic fireballs west of Pigger that all the kids craved. I can still remember how they made my eyes water.

Billy was more than just a local businessman; he was family. He was wed to Nancy, Mema’s daughter.

Brenda and Deborah, the couple’s daughters, were all part of a large family that could enjoy this lifestyle. In those days, no matter where we went, everyone knew each other or, at the very least, knew each other’s people.

There was another place that the kids liked to meet in Accomac. There was always something fun to be had around the old sawmill. Huge piles of sawdust covered the barns, and we loved diving into it from the loft, performing backflips and somersaults among other fancy moves. There was always some inherent danger in our activities, but it never seemed to slow us down. After a few hours of playing, everyone became hungry.

There was a sweet aroma blowing across town in a gentle Virginia Breeze. Scoby Duck had his smoker fired up with pork butts, ribs, and briskets. G. L. Smith and his wife, Pat, are well-known for their delicious barbecue. They perfected their sauce, the Accomac Blend, and the rest is history — Scoby Duck’s Chuckwagon was born. To our delight, the boys from the neighborhood and I were able to taste test the smokey sensations. The smell even drew the attention of Ole Hoss, an interesting character we encountered every time we visited Accomac.

He was always wearing a flowered blouse and smoking a cigarette, and his bicycle was as unique as he was —

a giant steering wheel replaced the handlebars, and he had lights and an air horn. His attention to detail was impressive; he even had chrome mud flaps on his makeshift Peterbilt. As children, we assumed Hoss was rich. He was clad with jewelry. He had a ring on each finger and a large gold earring, which was quite a sight for a bunch of 10-year-old boys and girls. One of the rings on his left hand bore the Masonic emblem. When asked if he was a Mason, Hoss replied, “Hell no, son! I’m a Davenport — Jimmy Davenport.”

This man would go on to earn the status of an Eastern Shore icon, with many funny stories about Jimmy and his misadventures.

He once accompanied Lynwood Bundick on a trip to Florida on the semi. Legend has it that an argument broke out on the trip back home. Ole Hoss was told to get out of the truck and was abandoned on the side of the road near the Florida-Georgia line.

Lynwood was always known for making good time, and his next stop was his home in Accomac. As the weary truck driver eased past the courthouse, he had to slow down for a second look — you guessed it, Jimmy Davenport was coming out of the drug store with a cold Coca-Cola. He tipped his cap at Lynwood and said, “What took you so long, Hoss?”

The Shore is blessed to have these great characters living among us.

The town of Accomac has a rich history. The first jail, known as the Debtor’s Prison, was built in 1783. The 18th-century structure still stands today. The courthouse and other municipal facilities were built around the small jail. Accomac is also the birthplace of Henry A. Wise, the governor of Virginia from 1856 to 1860.

I remember getting my hair cut at Al Brock’s barber shop, which was popular among the town’s men for shaves and haircuts. These men told many stories about history from their own perspectives. Many of Mr. Brock’s patrons were quite seasoned, with some being in their 70s and many more being in their 80s or almost 90s.

They shared experiences about the old hotel as well as other local businesses. Time is forever changing the perspectives of those who lived it; these men were World War I soldiers. I can remember listening very intently as stories were passed along from the Civil War era on the Eastern Shore. These old men had fathers and grandfathers who had served during that time period. That is a history lesson you feel down to the core of your soul. I will always have the utmost respect and admiration for those brave souls.

Not every story shared at the barbershop was so serious; I saw firsthand that men are significantly more efficient at gossiping than women.

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)

Even if the subject was a tall tale or two, the men would tease one another mercilessly and then all laugh together. This is small-town America, and I'm sure each of you can recall a place like this in your hometown.

It was getting late, and I needed to get back to Mema's place. I paid Mr. Brock his usual fee of 50 cents for the trim. On my way out, I saw C. Boy, Joe, and Butch Lewis coming in for a trim. When I overheard them discussing an encounter with a grizzly bear while out cruising timber, I was fairly certain that a few more tall tales were about to be told.

With one more bike ride around the block by Accomac Primary School, Val and I headed back. We stopped long enough to speak with Tommy Hines and Jack Lavelle. Like I said, everyone knows your name; it's all part of the Shoreborn charm in a place we call home.

We returned to find Uncle Joe exactly where we had left him. This trip

to the garden netted nearly a bushel basket of carrots. We packed our things and gave everyone a hug and a kiss to hold them over until the next visit. We returned to Greenbush, but we would soon have more visiting to do, as was customary in those days. People came to visit, enjoy each other's company, and break bread together, a tradition that I fear is long gone.

Mama Sara and I spent countless hours on her front porch, she liked to tell these stories, and I was an eager listener. She showed me where the milk bottles were left when Nelson Farms delivered door to door, and she recalled as a child seeing automobiles and horse-drawn carriages sharing the road. She used to tell me that I was born 100 years too late since I was enamored with historical stories. Thinking about it now, I'd say that her assessment was spot on — I wouldn't trade those memories for anything.

Sadly, as time goes on, your memories become all you have. Loved ones leave us and new babies bless our lives; the cycle of life.

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Garden Week spotlights Shore

Rich history, pristine preserved coastlines, and warm hospitality await during Historic Garden Week on the Eastern Shore. The Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, April 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Plan a day on the southernmost portion of the Delmarva Peninsula by viewing the sunrise on the Atlantic Ocean and the sunset over the Chesapeake Bay.

The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore's 2024 tour explores historic and new homes and gardens in Northampton County. Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 on the day of the tour.

Visit www.vagardenweek.com for tickets.

Enjoy perennial tour centerpiece and National Historic Landmark, Eyre Hall, an acclaimed ancestral property displaying some of the country's oldest continuously maintained gardens.

Anchoring the tour to the south, homes and gardens in Cape Charles highlight the renaissance of the Eastern Shore's heralded railroad-turned-beach town.

Presented by the Garden Club of Virginia since 1929, Historic Garden Week tours typically include access to both the grounds and interiors of three to five private properties, which guests walk to or drive to in their own cars. Some tours require shuttle transportation, which is included in the ticket price.

"All properties feature spectacular flower arrangements created by GCV members emphasizing seasonal, garden-grown material and plants native to Virginia," said Debbie Lewis, president of the Garden Club of Virginia.

Historic Garden Week proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of nearly 50 of Virginia's historic public gardens. Additionally, this annual event funds a historic landscape research fellowship program that is building a comprehensive library of the Commonwealth's important gardens and landscapes. Since its inception in 1996, it has documented 31.

"Visitors can see stately manors, renovated farmhouses, city townhomes and waterfront villas," said Fran Carden, the event's chair. "Gardens range from formal 18th-century terraces to landscaped backyards with outdoor kitchens. There are boxwood mazes, charming courtyards, and cutting gardens. Historic Garden Week offers something for everyone."



PHOTO COURTESY MEGAN AMES

All homes on the Garden Tour feature flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members.

Shore First | Historic Garden Week on the Eastern Shore



Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2022, Chatham was built in 1818 by Brigadier General Major Scarborough Pitts, who named his house in honor of William Pitt, first Earl of Chatham.

PHOTO COURTESY
DIANE GINSBERG

Chatham, Machipongo

■ Chatham
9218 Chatham Road,
Machipongo

Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2022, Chatham was built in 1818 by Brigadier General Major Scarborough Pitts, who named his house in honor of William Pitt, first Earl of Chatham.

The nearly 300-acre farm with a mile of waterfront on Church Creek

was placed in the Virginia Land Trust in 2008, thus perpetually preserving the home's multi-directional views.

The brick Federal-period house has four large rooms with 12-foot ceilings and wide center halls on each of the two main floors.

Originally, a two-story quarters-kitchen existed on the east side, but it is now a ruin.

The connecting colonnade remains

and serves as the kitchen.

Paint analysis was carried out to determine the original colors.

The elaborate wood graining, marbling and plaster work have been restored to set off the original paneling and woodwork.

Scenes of North America, a French scenic wallpaper made by Zuber, adorn the dining room. This wallpaper was created by hand from wood blocks carved in Alsace prior to 1830.

A high-density, European-style vineyard of 32,000 vinifera grapevines has been planted at Chatham.

Chatham Vineyards, a 5,000-case family-owned winery, opened on the property in 2005.

Three generations currently live at Chatham.

■ *The Harrison Wehner family, owners.*

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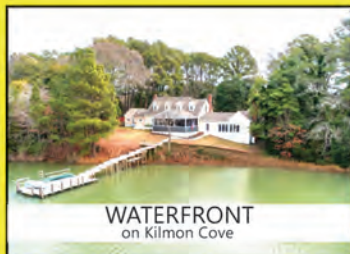
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HELLO *Spring!*





Built in the 1850s, Eyre Rectory served until 1908 as the rectory for both Christ Church in Eastville and Hungars Church in Bridgetown, located near Machipongo.

PHOTO COURTESY
DIANE GINSBERG

Eyre Rectory, Eastville

■ Eyre Rectory
6520 Indiantown Road
Eastville

Built in the 1850s, Eyre Rectory served until 1908 as the rectory for both Christ Church in Eastville and Hungars Church in Bridgetown, located near Machipongo.

It sits on land formerly inhabited

and owned by Native Americans which by the 1850s was owned by Maria Robins and donated for the Rectory.

Funds for construction were donated by John Eyre.

Added to the house is a section referred to by the owners as The Tavern.

The Tavern was built in 1790, relocated, and connected to the original building.

The current owners have continued to preserve the 18th and 19th century historic features of the house while incorporating their eclectic style and collections, including works of local artists.

Bedrooms individually reflect the spirit of Native Americans, African Americans, English and Dutch, all of whom have inhabited the land on which the house sits.

It is rumored the property may have been a part of the Underground Railroad.

An artisan guest cottage sits behind the home and one of the few surviving Eastern Shore elms overlooks a 19th century onion top wishing gazebo welcoming visitors.

■ *Maureen Welch and Arnie Fuog, owners.*



The key to Eyre Hall's remarkable preservation lies in its descent through eight generations of the same family. The gambrel-roofed manor was completed in 1758 by Littleton Eyre, who lavished his home with expansive spaces, superlative woodwork and handsome furnishings.

PHOTO COURTESY
DIANE GINSBERG

Eyre Hall, Cheriton

■ Eyre Hall
3215 Eyre Hall Drive
Cheriton

Honored as a National Historic Landmark, this acclaimed ancestral property offers a rare picture of colonial plantation life.

The key to Eyre Hall's remarkable preservation lies in its descent through eight generations of the same family.

The gambrel-roofed manor was completed in 1758 by Littleton Eyre, who lavished his home with expansive spaces, superlative woodwork, and handsome furnishings.

Before the end of the century, Littleton's son and grandson had, in their turn, inherited his masterwork, adding an eastern wing and laying out a grand rear garden.

Happily for historians, the three early owners were succeeded by stew-

ards who declined to gild their classic legacy with the passing fancies of later eras.

Today, Eyre Hall visitors are delighted to find that the refined but soft-spoken style of its creators remains wonderfully in place.

The past also lives in the garden, where venerable crepe myrtles tower above parterres enclosed by ancient boxwood and set off by colorful mixed borders.

On the west, the recently stabilized remaining walls of an early orangery add a hint of romance to the garden scene.

Beyond the house and garden, broad stretches of open fields and long views over Cherrystone Creek complete the placid panorama awaiting visitors to this perennial centerpiece of the Eastern Shore tour.

■ *H. Furlong Baldwin, owner.*



Tucked away in the Plantation Point neighborhood of Cape Charles' Bay Creek community, 72 Creekside Lane is a sophisticated Eastern Shore "Cottage in the Woods," built in 2022.

PHOTO COURTESY
DIANE GINSBERG

72 Creekside Lane, Cape Charles

■ 72 Creekside Lane
Cape Charles

Tucked away in the Plantation Point neighborhood of Cape Charles' Bay Creek community, 72 Creekside Lane is a sophisticated Eastern Shore "Cottage in the Woods," built in 2022.

The home is a Classic Revival Cottage with traditional proportions. The generous front pediment is one of several classically inspired elements that makes this new construction timeless.

Notable interior features include a first-floor primary suite, lofty 10-foot ceilings, a Chippendale staircase, an

inviting second floor window seat, works by local and regional artists intended to bring the outdoors in, and playful use of patterns and colors throughout.

Abundant filtered light complements the home's floor-to-ceiling bookcases and natural finished

oak floors. Beyond the entertainer's kitchen and equally inviting screened-in porch, the Virginia blue-stone terrace leads to oyster shell garden paths that wrap around either side of the cottage and to the detached potting shed.

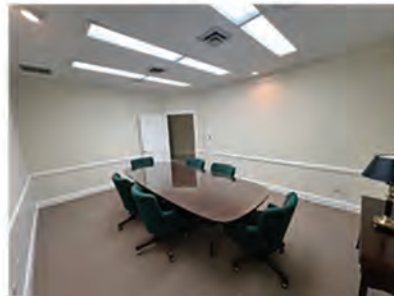
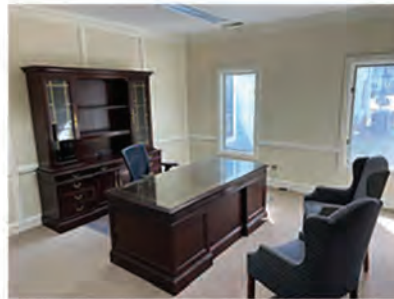
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Located on a quiet street in Bay Creek and bordering Old Plantation Creek, the gardens of 100 Creekside Lane are a lovely Eastern Shore escape.

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MEGAN AMES

100 Creekside Lane, Cape Charles

■ Gardens at 100 Creekside Lane, Cape Charles

Located on a quiet street in Bay Creek and bordering Old Plantation

Creek, the gardens of 100 Creekside Lane are a lovely Eastern Shore escape.

A shell path leads through hostas and ground-covering plants including pachysandra, periwinkle, and

lirioppe. Flower accents of daffodil, calla lily, Siberian iris and hydrangea offer contrast against the backdrop of hollies and various conifers. Classic bayside sunsets are viewed through the bordering evergreens from the fire

pit surrounded by reclaimed ballast stones, adding historic character to this serene outdoor oasis.

■ *Mr. and Mrs. Steven R. Bennett, owners.*



Bayfront views captivate visitors to 606 Carousel Place, located in Bay Creek's Bayside Village neighborhood. This traditional style home was built in 2020 and the interior delights with functional space at every turn.

PHOTO COURTESY
DIANE GINSBERG

606 Carousel Place, Cape Charles

■ 606 CAROUSEL PLACE Cape Charles

Bayfront views captivate visitors to 606 Carousel Place, located in Bay Creek's Bayside Village neighborhood.

This traditional style home was built in 2020 and the interior delights with functional space at every

turn.

From an artful, open wood stairway to reclaimed doors turned into cabinetry, the homeowners intentionally created functional spaces throughout the property.

The second floor features the kitchen, dining, living and sunrooms.

New Ravenna mosaics accent several spaces, including the butler's

pantry and powder room. Art plays a starring role in the home's exuberant personality with pieces by many local artists.

On the ground level, an indoor spa space includes a sauna and swim-in-place pool. Just outside is the patio and well-appointed outdoor kitchen.

Informal perimeter plantings include grasses, hydrangea and tri-col-

or willow.

An outdoor dog run for the homeowners' 4-legged friends is accented by a playful border garden, all overlooking sand dunes and beachfront access.

■ *Brent and Kim Geissinger, owners.*

Disc golf on the Eastern Shore: the courses

BY RYAN WEBB
Shore First

The Shore is home to three free public disc golf courses — Indiantown in Eastville, the Historic Onancock School, and Sawmill Park in Accomac. There is also a private course that is pay-to-play in Exmore called Lynwood Forrest.

Indiantown is my home course. It's where I learned the game and the course I have played the most since I started all those years ago.

There are 36 holes and several different ways to play. You could play the North 18, South 18, the Main 18, or the Murray 18.

When I first started playing in the summer of 2011, my friends and I stuck to the Main 18 because all of these holes have gravel and paving stone tee pads and use Innova DIS-Catcher targets.

The Murray holes use older targets that don't catch discs as consistently as the Innova baskets (when someone misses a shot that looks like it should have gone in, it's known as "getting Murrayed.") They also don't have tee pads.

The North 18 and South 18 incorporate holes from both the Main 18 and the Murray 18; half of the holes are Murray holes and the other half are Innova for these two layouts.

At Indiantown, a lot of the holes are between 150 and 300 feet, with a few being shorter and others a bit longer.

Most of the course is heavily wooded, which means there are a lot of trees to miss on your way to the basket, although sometimes trees give friendly redirections that actually



EASTERN SHORE POST/RYAN WEBB

Raul Gildo Barrios putts on the Murray 7 hole at Indiantown Park in Eastville.

reward errant throws. As the old saying goes, "Sometimes it's better to be lucky than good."

But playing at Indiantown will definitely hone your ability to shape shots and hit gaps on your drives and upshots. There are plenty of "gimme" birdies, but there are also some harder holes that will test beginners and seasoned veterans alike.

If you play at Indiantown in late spring or during the summer, be sure to bring bug spray and wear long sleeves, as the mosquitoes, ticks, and chiggers can be fierce down there.

The course at the Historic Onancock School is also fun. There are nine holes with DISCatcher targets, and there are several ways to play a full 18-hole round.

I haven't played at OHS very much, but the times I have played there have been really enjoyable. I like the

way the course is designed around the landscape; it makes excellent use of the hills on the property to create some unique, challenging holes. None of the holes are overly long, making OHS a pretty beginner-friendly course.

However, the most beginner-friendly course on the Shore is Sawmill Park in Accomac. There are nine holes with Innova baskets that you can play twice to make a full round of 18.

All of the holes are between 175 and 315 feet, and there aren't many obstacles to speak of. Most of the shots are wide open compared to a course like Indiantown. Shooting well under par is very doable for experienced players.

On the other hand, Lynwood Forrest, a private 18-hole course in Exmore, is the most challenging on the

Shore.

Shooting well under par at Lynwood is truly a feat and requires basically a professional level of disc golf prowess. It's like Indiantown's bigger and more intimidating brother.

There are plenty of wooded shots but also some wide open lengthy par 3s and 4s. There are no easy sub-150 foot par 3s like there are at Indiantown; the shortest hole is 196 feet and the longest comes in at 725 feet.

The fairways are attackable, but if you find yourself in the rough, par is almost always out of the question. Hole 18 is iconic; it requires you to throw two big shots over a pond if you want to card a birdie.

I've only played Lynwood once, and it was a difficult but enjoyable experience. It's an awesome course, with concrete tee pads, professional targets, and well-maintained fairways, and I'm looking forward to playing it again soon.

If you'd like to play at Lynwood Forrest, text Will Smith at 757-894-8454 with your name, number of people, and tee time. There is a \$5 fee to play.

If you're interested in learning more about disc golf or think you would like to give it a try, check out the ESVA Disc Golf Club on Facebook by searching "ESVA DGC."

The club welcomes players of all skill levels, and its main goal is to grow the sport on the Eastern Shore by introducing new players to disc golf and teaching them how to play. The club also holds monthly tournaments at courses on the Shore. Disc golf is fun alone, but it's definitely more enjoyable with a group of friends, so join the club and get out on the course today.

Trade school scholarships set

Lighting the Way has established a new scholarship opportunity for local students who are pursuing or would like to pursue a higher trade school education.

The cooperative's employee non-profit is promoting a single \$1,000 scholarship for an Accomack or Northampton student.

Applicants must be a future or current student enrolled in a trade school and have resided in either Accomack or Northampton for at least one year.

Examples of trades include, but are not limited to, lineworker, information technology, cyber security, construction, electrician, carpenter, plumber, and mechanic.

The application deadline for the 2024-2025 Trade Scholarship is May 3.

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APR
20 | 7:30
PM



DANCING DREAM
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MAY
3 | 7:30PM
4 | 7:30PM
5 | 3:00PM

The
Fantasticks
A Musical

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JUN
1 | 7:30
PM



WILDER HORSES
A ROLLING STONES
TRIBUTE BAND

Presenting Sponsor HOTEL CAPE CHARLES

Historic Palace Theatre | Adults \$30 & Students \$15



100 years ago
April 1924

High cost of palm reading invades the Eastern Shore

Accomac County recently has had a demonstration how skilled labor has jumped its rates for palm-reading. The price in the olden days when gypsies were one of the attraction of the county fairs usually was 25 cents per palm.

Last Friday at Exmore it cost \$30 for one of the feminine members of this order to make merely a few mystic passes over the money wallet of a kind-hearted business man. It happened thusly:

Traveling north from Cape Charles, a band of Romany people, including the regular flock of children, parked three automobiles near Exmore.

One woman about 20 years of age walked into Pender's store and smiling wanly upon Calvert Ames, who was in charge, said she was hungry. Would he please give her something to eat? Sure he would, and did, and her request was moderate. Only a can of salmon, a box of crackers, and a pound of sugar, thank you.

Looking at him intently when she had finished the meal, she said: "What do you carry in your left hip pocket?" And Ames, in surprise, as he faced his questioner, replied: "My can of smoking tobacco."

"What is that in your right-hand hip pocket?" But this was getting uncanny from the storekeeper's point of view and he pulled his well-filled money wallet from its hiding place saw the the rubber bands were still in place and kept a tight hold on it. The dark-haired comely descendant of the Indo-Aryan nomads made a few passes in the air with her hands in the general direction of the tempting wallet, but as it did not show any signs of fluttering towards her, Ames remained unperturbed, but waved his visitor out of the store.

But when he had occasion to examine the wallet later, \$30 had vanished. Science, however, came to his rescue, for he phoned to Accomac, and when the caravan reached the county seat it was rounded up and a charge made. The woman in question denied taking the money. But finally came across with \$30, to which was added \$9.50 costs to preserve respect for Virginia law.

In the meantime, as the troupe had passed through Onley, it stopped for a brief rest and the aforesaid dark-haired woman floated into the bank, responding to the law of gravitation, so to speak. She demurely asked for a bag to put her money into. And as Carey Milliner reached around to get one. She sidled through a door and had started to lovingly handle some silver and a few greenbacks when Milliner made a few passes with an automatic persuader and she smiled apologetically and her itching palm let go of the money.

The round-up at Accomac then followed and though no word has been received yet from towns this side of the Maryland line, toward which the outfit was headed, it is possible that some palms have been read or some sleight-of-hand tricks performed which haven't filtered through the regular channels of gossip.

Flames destroy barn and grain

Fire of unknown origin destroyed the barn, stables, and corn stack, together with 800 empty barrels, several tons of fertilizer, a quantity of corn and hay, and a number of farm implements, property of Benjamin N. Scott in Old Town Neck, near Eastville, yesterday afternoon, with a total loss of more than \$3,500. There was no insurance.

The fire was first discovered by some of the farm hands and seemed to be at that time in the second story of the building, which was partly filled with hay. When Mr. Scott and his men arrived, the whole building was

ablaze, which made it impossible to save anything.

Berry crop in Virginia large

Thirty-five million quarts of strawberries will be offered the transportation companies for shipment this season from the Delmarva Peninsula, according to railroad and express officials who have made a careful survey of acreage and prospects from Cape Charles up through Maryland and the lower part of Delaware.

Norfolk barge captain is charged with killing wife at Chincoteague

The trial of Austin R. Melvin, age 38, a barge captain, operating between Norfolk and Boston, charged with the murder of his 22-year-old wife at their home on Chincoteague Island on March 27, is set for Friday, April 23, at Accomac.

Melvin, who has been in Accomac jail since the day of the murder, was indicted by the grand jury on the opening day of the April term, of circuit court for murder, and the arranging of his trial, within 25 days from the time the deed was committed, is the quickest on record on the Eastern Shore.

The shooting was the outcome of domestic difficulties, which has existed for some time, reaching a climax when Mrs. Melvin received a check from the veterans' bureau for a large amount, she being the beneficiary named in the war risk insurance policy of her brother, who was killed in France.

Melvin, it is said, demanded the check and was refused, and the shooting followed. The Melvins have one son, Robert, age four, who is now in custody of his grandmother, Ms. William Lewis, mother of the dead woman.

A strongly contested legal battle is expected. Commonwealth's Attorney

Jeff F. Walters will be assisted in the prosecution by Turlington & Dougherty and Ernest Ruedinger. Melvin will be J. Harry Rew, Mapp and Mapp, the senior bring former State Senator G. Walter Mapp, and Herbert Baines.

— Ledger-Star

50 years ago
April 1974

Accomack to look out for typhoid carriers

A member of the Accomack County Health Department said they are going to keep a close eye on migrant workers moving into Accomack County this year, to watch out for possible Typhoid Fever carriers.

Clarence Stine said the Accomack department has been in touch with the Dade County, Fla., Department of Health regarding migrants who have had typhoid there.

An outbreak of Typhoid Fever among migrant workers in Homestead in Dade County caused a scare across most of Florida this past fall. About 4,000 migrant workers move into Accomack and Northampton Counties each year, many of them coming from a Florida point of origin.

"We're going to keep a close eye on them. Certainly a few might slip by and get up this far and we don't need a typhoid outbreak," Stine told the Accomack County Board of Supervisors this past week.

Surveillance of the workers will be under way in both Accomack and Northampton Counties, the health department has said, to attempt to assure no typhoid carriers enter the area.

Stine said Dade County was running cultures on all the migrant workers affected to make sure no carriers left that area if possible.

(Continued on page 28)

Accomack considers kindergarten

A request to proceed with kindergarten classes in the public school system of Accomack County in 1973-74 was granted by the Accomack County Board of Supervisors this week.

But a request for improvements to

Parksley High School was given only tentative approval, and a request for establishment of teachers' salary scales for the coming year, held in abeyance.

The supervisors argued for several minutes over approving any of the three items, some of them charging it amounted to giving early approval to

the county budget "piecemeal."

School Superintendent P.B. Tankard was called in and said he felt approval of the kindergarten system was necessary now. "The longer you wait the greater your chances of losing good potential teachers. You would not get the teachers you would get" by acting now, Mr. Tankard told the supervisors.

He also urged approval of renovations at Parksley High, so the work could be done this summer, before school opened for the 1973-74 session. Mr. Tankard said work was carried over into the school year on renovating Central High School near Painter last year and caused problems.

On the motion of Paul B. Merritt, the members voted 8 to 1 on a motion to begin the state-financed kindergarten programs, and hold the other two requests in abeyance. Warren Nock voted "No," saying "this is a poor way to do things." He did not elaborate.

Later, the board gave Mr. Tankard general approval to call for bids on the renovation of Parksley High. They acted after being told by C.M. Williams Jr., County administrator, that the budget probably would be solidified by the May meeting of the board.

During the May meeting, members indicated they would decide finally on including the renovation and the teachers' salary scale in the budget. The scale provides a raise of slightly over five percent for collegiate professional class teachers.

The board will consider final action on the renovation at the May meeting. Mr. Tankard said he would have the bids by then. At that time, board members would apparently decide whether they could fit the cost of the renovation in the 1973-74 budget.

(Continued on page 29)

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Shore First | Yesteryears

Northampton seeks executive secretary

The Northampton County Board of Supervisors has voted to hire an executive secretary.

The supervisors' board chairman, Harold Wescoat, at a meeting here Monday, said he felt it was "mandatory" the county hire an executive secretary. He pointed out the county budget was now between \$3 million and \$4 million, and it was generally felt any county spending over \$1 million needed an executive secretary.

No date on when a secretary will be hired has been set. T. Hume Dixon, supervisor from Capeville District,

made the motion to hire the secretary.

Some of the Northampton officials had earlier said such a secretary would also fill the post of county purchasing agent, consolidating all county purchasing. There was no indication if this will be done.

The executive secretary, in addition to handling day-to-day business under the supervisors' direction, would also act as clerk of the board of supervisors.

Some officials had pointed out that the clerk of court in Northampton County was "over-burdened" by also having to serve as clerk to the supervisors.

25 years ago April 1999

Cheriton town treasure to close

More than four years ago, Meghan Rolley began a job she never imagined she'd have — running her late grandfather's hardware store.

The store, which opened in 1947, has been a Cheriton tradition — a small-town hardware shop with selection and character and even chairs for the Rolley's Hardware regulars, of which there are many.

So Rolley put her English degree to work peddling lawn tools, wrenches and fertilizer, carrying on a family and town tradition.

Rolley, now 27, was holding her own in a decidedly male world.

But Friday, her tenure as the town's hardware lady ended when she locked the store's doors for the last time. Rolley has taken another job in the county, and Rolley's Hardware closed, despite efforts to sell the business.

It's not an easy move.

There have been tears and self-doubt and a good dose of wondering whether she's doing the right thing, closing this town treasure.

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Send those university research dollars her way

Well, here's my nomination for stupid research project of the year.

Straight from the Indiana University School of Medicine comes the astounding pronouncement that men listen with only half their brain.

Well, duh!

I don't know how many millions of dollars were spent on the study, but for a small percentage of whatever the cost, I would have been glad to confirm the suspicion.

Take this week for example.

I started laying the groundwork Wednesday evening.

"Honey-Do," I said to Hubby.

"What is it this time?" he said.

"Sometime between now and Sunday would you get the boxes of Christmas down off the garage shelves?"

"Okay," he replied.

Thursday came.

"Honey," I said. "Don't forget to get the Christmas boxes down."

"Yeah, right."

On Friday, I mentioned it again. But I got the feeling he wasn't listening.

Saturday morning, I was still half asleep as Hubby kissed me goodbye, on his way out the door to go hunting, of course.

"Don't forget the Christmas decorations," I muttered.

"Sure," he said, slamming the door behind him.

Sunday came and, of course, Hubby went out to play with his friends.

I, of course, went to the garage and drug out the step ladder — to better reach the Christmas

decorations.

Fortunately, Hubby returned home before I had finished the project.

Fortunately, he immediately went to the garage and brought down the remaining boxes.

"Thanks," I said as he left the garage, headed for the warmth of the house."

Minutes later, as I was sorting through years of accumulated Christmas items, Hubby returned, obviously upset.

"Where have you put my satellite book," he hollered as he charged through the door.

"What do you mean," I said.

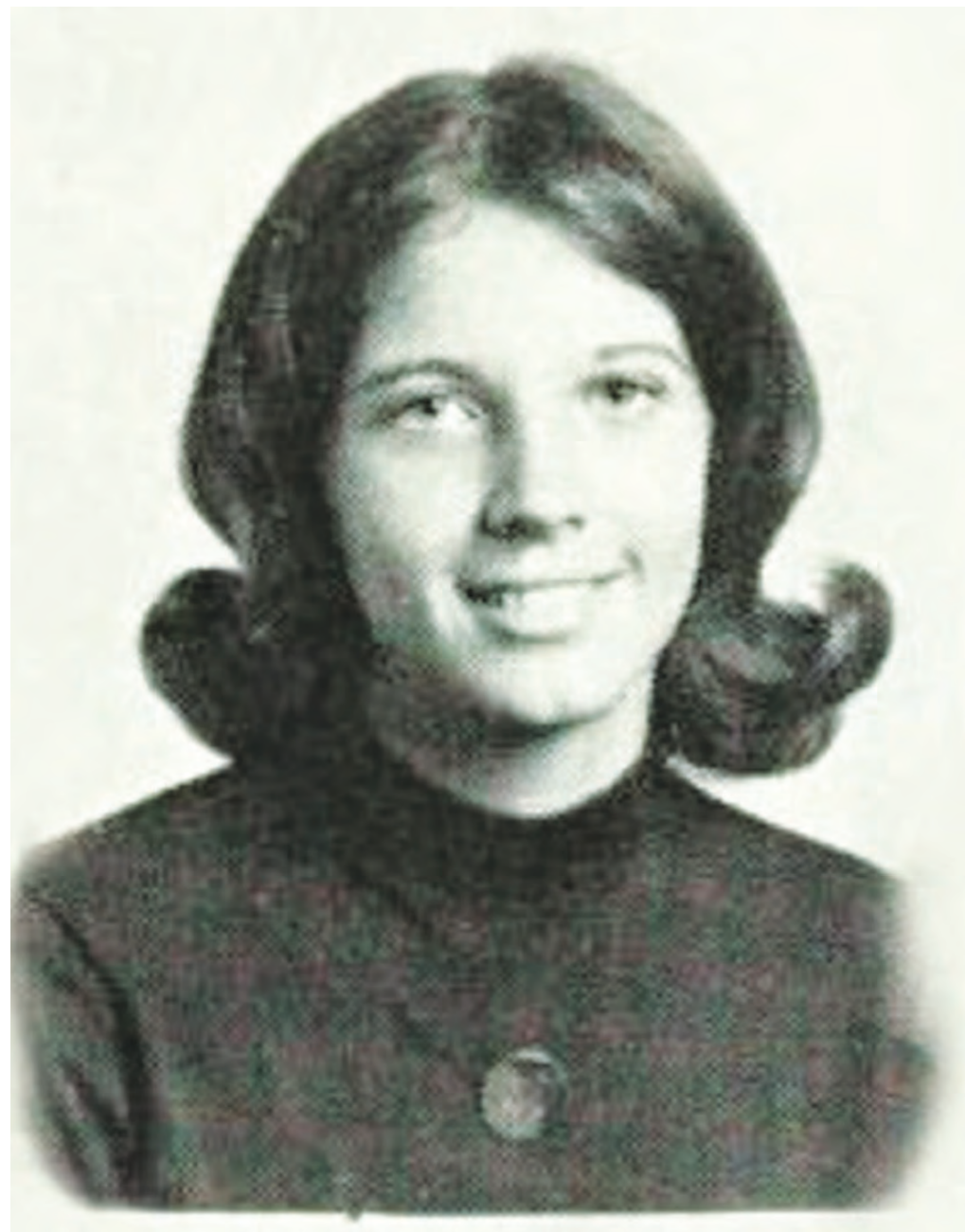
"My satellite book — the one I wrote all the station numbers on. I'm trying to find the Redskins game and I can't get the right channel. What do you do with my book?"

Feigning a calmness I did not feel I pushed by him and went out to the garage door. Marching into the house I picked up his precious book from its obvious resting place and handed it to him.

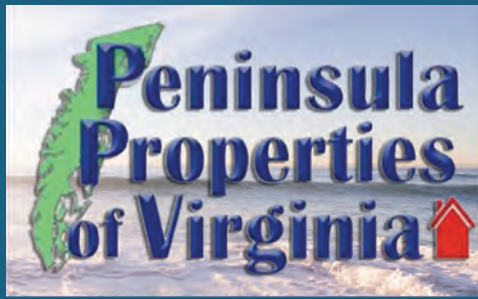
I wonder what university is going to "discover" that men only look for things with half a brain as well.

Send those research dollars this way. I've got the proof.

This piece was originally published in the Dec. 6, 2000, 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 a community relations director for Shore Memorial Hospital. Her former columns will be printed monthly in Shore First.



Candy Farlow



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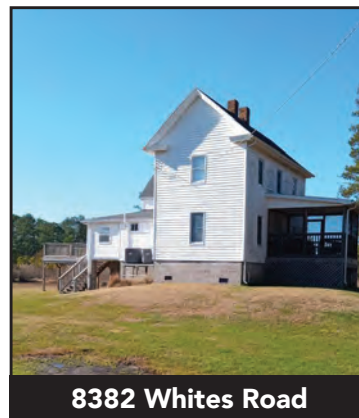
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