

Shore First



An Eastville sidewalk café

At Buttercups, biscuits, bagels, coffee drinks, and enthusiasm are on the menu | Page 4

Shore First

The Eastern Shore of Virginia's
monthly newsmagazine

Published at the beginning
of each month
since May 2017

A PUBLICATION
OF CAPE MEDIA LLC

3257B Main Street
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Exmore, VA 23350

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CANDY FARLOW (1953-2017)

VISIT

www.EasternShorePost.com

Shore First | Entertainment calendar

Friday, August 2

■ THEATER: 8 p.m., "Films That Move: An Evening of Dance Film" at the Historic Palace Theatre, 305 Mason Ave., Cape Charles. Tickets are \$20. Visit www.artsentercapecharles.org

Saturday, August 3

■ BLOCK PARTY: 9 a.m. to noon, the Eastern Shore Rural Health Be Well Block Party will be held in downtown Parksley. This free event will feature health screenings, community resources, voter registration, vaccinations, giveaways every 15 minutes, and activities for all ages.

■ LIVE MUSIC: 8 p.m., "Sail On: The Beach Boys Tribute," at the Historic Palace Theatre, 305 Mason Ave., Cape Charles. Tickets are \$30 for adult and \$15 for students. Visit www.artsentercapecharles.org

Wednesday, August 7

■ OPEN MIC: 6 p.m. First Wednesday Open Mic Night at The Machipongo Clam Shack. Sign up at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 8

■ FAIR: 5 to 10 p.m., Great Pocomoke Fair, 2037 Broad St., Pocomoke City. Event will feature food and craft vendors, demonstrations, carnival attractions, games, and live entertainment. A special event will be truck drag racing on dirt beginning at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.thegreatpocomokefair.org

Friday, August 9

■ ART STROLL: 5 to 8 p.m., Second Friday Art Stroll sponsored by the Onancock Business and Civic Association. Enjoy an evening of fine art, live music, and dining. Art galleries, gourmet shops, and boutiques feature extended evening hours, guest artists, music, and wine tastings. Live music provided by The Remnants.

Saturday, August 10

■ FAIR: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Great Pocomoke Fair, 2037 Broad St., Pocomoke City. Event will feature food and craft vendors, demonstrations, carnival attractions, games, and live entertainment. A special event will be the 7 p.m. concert by Josh Turner with David Lee Murphy. For more information or tickets, visit www.thegreatpocomokefair.org

■ LIVE MUSIC: 7 p.m., Bryan Russo in Chincoteague's downtown waterfront park, part of the free Music at the Dock concert series presented by Chincoteague Cultural Alliance and co-sponsored by Seaside Vacations. Bring chairs or blankets.

■ LIVE MUSIC: 7 p.m., Cape Charles Central Park. Morgan Lynsey Band performs as part of the Concerts in the Park series. Bring a chair or a blanket.

Sunday, August 11

■ FAIR: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Great Pocomoke Fair, 2037 Broad St., Pocomoke City. Event will feature food and craft vendors, demonstrations, carnival attractions, games, and live entertainment. A special event be the 2 p.m. demolition derby. For more information or tickets, visit www.thegreatpocomokefair.org

Friday, August 16

■ BOOK SALE: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friends of the Cape Charles Memorial Library Book Sale on the corner of Pine Street and Mason Avenue, Cape Charles. Proceeds help fund the purchase of computers, summer reading programs, and more. Held the third Friday of each month through September.

Saturday, August 17

■ LIVE MUSIC: 2 p.m., Historic Cokesbury Cultural Center, 13 Market St. Onancock, presents Ed Satterfield, a troubadour and storytelling musician performing folk music and blues for kids and adults alike. Audience participation is encouraged. There will be instrument demonstrations and giveaways.

■ FESTIVAL: 4 to 8 p.m., Ker Place, Crab Crackin' includes all you can eat crabs, sweet corn and barbecue. Live music provided by Randy Lee Ashcraft. Visit shore-history.org for tickets.

■ LIVE MUSIC: 7 p.m., KG Band Trio with opening act Darren Francis McDowell at Chicoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church Street, Chincoteague. Admissions \$5 for adults or \$2 for kids 12 and under. Cash bar available.

■ LIVE MUSIC: 7 p.m., Cape Charles Central Park. Good Shot Judy performs as part of the Concerts in the Park series. Bring a chair or blanket.

Saturday, August 24

■ PICNIC: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Samuel Outlaw Blacksmith Shop and Museum, Boundary Ave., Onancock. Shoe Box Lunch Festival featuring live demonstrations and a picnic lunch. Bring a blanket or chair.

■ LIVE MUSIC: 6 p.m., Liam Purcell and Cane Mill Road in Chincoteague's downtown waterfront park, part of the free Music at the Dock concert series presented by Chincoteague Cultural Alliance and co-sponsored by Seaside Vacations. Bring chairs or blankets.

■ LIVE MUSIC: 7 p.m., Cape Charles Central Park. Rhythm in Blue performs as part of the Concerts in the Park series. Bring a chair or a blanket.

Sunday, August 25

■ 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.



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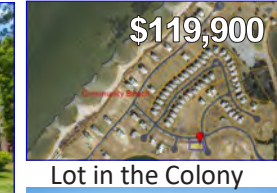
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'I am living the dream here ... and I couldn't be happier'

At Buttercups in Eastville, biscuits, bagels, coffee drinks, and enthusiasm are on the menu

BY STEFANIE JACKSON BOWMANN
Shore First

Buttercups in Eastville is a new cafe on historic Courthouse Road, with a tight-knit family coming together and using a homemade touch to craft fresh coffee beverages and sandwiches served by friendly faces.

"I would not have been able to open Buttercups without my family backing me," said owner Khaki Kinsey, who grew up with restaurant-owning parents and helped with the family business "since I was able to see above the counter."

The story of Buttercups — named after Kinsey's childhood moniker, "Buttercup" — starts in Park City, Utah, where she was born and raised.

Her parents, Penn and Derrick Kinsey, who are admitted skiing aficionados, moved to Utah in 1984 to open a restaurant.

That restaurant, Blind Dog, was such a success that the Kinsey family stayed in Utah for 25 years and continued to grow the business, which started with 65 seats and bloomed to 300 seats inside and 200 seats outside, said family matriarch Penn Kinsey.

Like her daughter after her, Penn Kinsey "grew up in the kitchen" and loved it. Her parents had owned and operated The Seahorse, a restaurant in Rehoboth Beach, Del.

Now she is helping her daughter get Buttercups up and running, along with her husband, Derrick, and son, Ketch.

Unlike his wife, who is a classically trained chef, Derrick Kinsey has no culinary background but was "thrown into" the business and thrived, Penn Kinsey said.



SHORE FIRST/STEFANIE JACKSON BOWMANN

Khaki Kinsey prepares a latte behind the counter at the Buttercups café in Eastville.

Derrick Kinsey, who has been dubbed "chief biscuit maker" by his wife, is helping out in the kitchen at Buttercups, along with Ketch.

The couple became familiar with the Eastern Shore when they were dating because it was the halfway point for them to meet — Penn Kinsey is from Rehoboth Beach and Derrick Kinsey lived between Virginia Beach and North Carolina's Outer Banks.

They came to love the Eastern

Shore, its beautiful landscapes, and its history. Penn Kinsey said she enjoys just driving around on the back roads and exploring.

Khaki Kinsey noted that moving to the Shore was a family decision, and even though being born and raised in Utah led her to love the mountains, "it made me appreciate the salt life even more."

After attending boarding school in Northern Virginia and spending time in Charleston, S.C., "I knew I never wanted to leave the East Coast," she

said.

The Kinsey family settled in Cape Charles, but Eastville was especially appealing as a place to start a new business.

Penn Kinsey called Eastville a "cute little town" with "room to grow." The people "embraced us with open arms," she said.

Khaki Kinsey also recognized the opportunity to bring to Eastville greater "abundance and quality in the

(Continued on page 5)

Buttercups

(Continued from page 4)

culinary respect.”

“I have always had a thing for breakfast, so Chesapeake coffee, New York bagels, and house-made biscuits felt like a step in the right direction,” she said.

Buttercups’ bagels and biscuits can stand alone, served with everyday condiments like butter or jelly or a “schmear” of something a bit fancier, such as smoked salmon or brie cheese spread.

But those biscuits and bagels are also the base for sandwiches at breakfast and lunch, including the “ESVA,” served with lump blue crab, egg, and cheddar cheese. Also on the menu is the “Northampton County Club,” served with smoked turkey, country ham, applewood bacon, greens, tomato, and mayo, all on brioche bread.

Kinsey also serves specialty drinks and coffees, with a particular emphasis on lattes, which are made with espresso and steamed milk and feature flavorings like her homemade chocolate.

Cooking from scratch and clean eating are culinary principles that are emphasized at Buttercups, Penn Kinsey said.

The restaurant is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Business hours may be longer when school starts this fall, and the Kinseys are already looking to expand the Buttercups kitchen so they can start serving dinner on Friday and Saturday nights.

Khaki Kinsey is grateful to her family for helping her realize the aspirations of her youth and start her business on the Eastern Shore.

“I am living the dream here, surrounded by all the things the Shore has to offer, and I couldn’t be happier.”



SHORE FIRST/STEFANIE JACKSON BOWMANN

Buttercups café in Eastville welcomes customers on a recent sunny morning.

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Don't miss peach cobbler before peach season ends

Peach cobbler was always my favorite dessert as a little girl and my mom makes a great one.

I've made her version too many times to count, but it uses Bisquick — and I really wanted to come up with a homemade recipe for the cobbler portion.



Laura Davis

I tried a couple of different recipes, but they were too puffy and biscuit-like for my taste.

I like my cobbler to ooze into the fruit and bake, almost making for a bread pudding-type consistency.

When I stumbled across this version and tried it, I knew I had found a winner.

With all the oppressive dry heat we had during July, peaches are about coming to an end here on the Shore.

But I'm hoping to take one more trip to my local orchard for a peck or two before they're gone for good.

Aside from prepping the peaches, this comes together in minutes.

Who doesn't love that kind of dessert?

It gives us more time to spend outside having fun.



PHOTO COURTESY LAURA DAVIS

Laura Davis likes her cobbler to ooze into the fruit and bake, giving it a bread pudding-type consistency.

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.

Peach cobbler recipe

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups sugar, divided
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- 1 cup whole milk
- 4 cups fresh peach slices (about 5 peaches)
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- Ground cinnamon

Directions

■ Melt butter in a 13-inch by 9-inch baking dish.

■ Combine flour, 1 cup sugar, baking powder, and salt.

■ Add milk, stirring just until dry ingredients are combined.

■ Pour batter over butter and set aside.

Bring remaining 1 cup sugar, peach slices, and lemon juice to a boil over high heat, stirring constantly; pour over batter, don't stir.

■ Sprinkle with cinnamon.

■ Bake at 375 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes or until golden brown. Serve cobbler warm or cool.

■ Top with vanilla ice cream or a splash of heavy cream for an extra decadent treat.

— *Laura Davis*



PHOTO COURTESY LAURA DAVIS

With all the oppressive dry heat we had during July, peaches are about coming to an end here on the Shore.

Love and death on Chincoteague Island's Deep Hole Road

The house is still there at the end of Deep Hole Road, sturdy and comfortable, and silent about the events that stunned the community more than a century ago.



Kirk Mariner

Even the little burial ground next to the yard looks like many another on the Eastern Shore, as ordinary as the next, with no story to tell.

But here occurred the first murder on the island of Chincoteague and one of the most tragic

love stories of the Eastern Shore.

In 1885 this was the house of Timothy and Zipporah Hill. The house was then a farmhouse, for Timothy Hill owned a good deal of land and still engaged in a little farming, as once almost everyone on the island had done.

He was a prominent man in the community, successful in business, a pillar of the local Methodist church, with a family well-known and respected.

Another resident of the farm was Thomas W. Freeman, then a young man of 20. Except for those times when he served as a deckhand on the lightship off Winter Quarter Shoal, Freeman worked around the Hill place doing odd jobs.

And then as fate would have it,

Tom Freeman fell desperately in love with his employer's daughter Emma Virginia.

"Jennie" was "a perfect blond of a bright and happy disposition, in every sense the pet of her entire family." She was also just barely into her teens.

It was soon obvious that Tom Freeman could be persistent. When Jennie spurned his offer of marriage — she was too young, she told him — Freeman stated his case to her parents, who let it be known that they found the whole idea completely unacceptable.

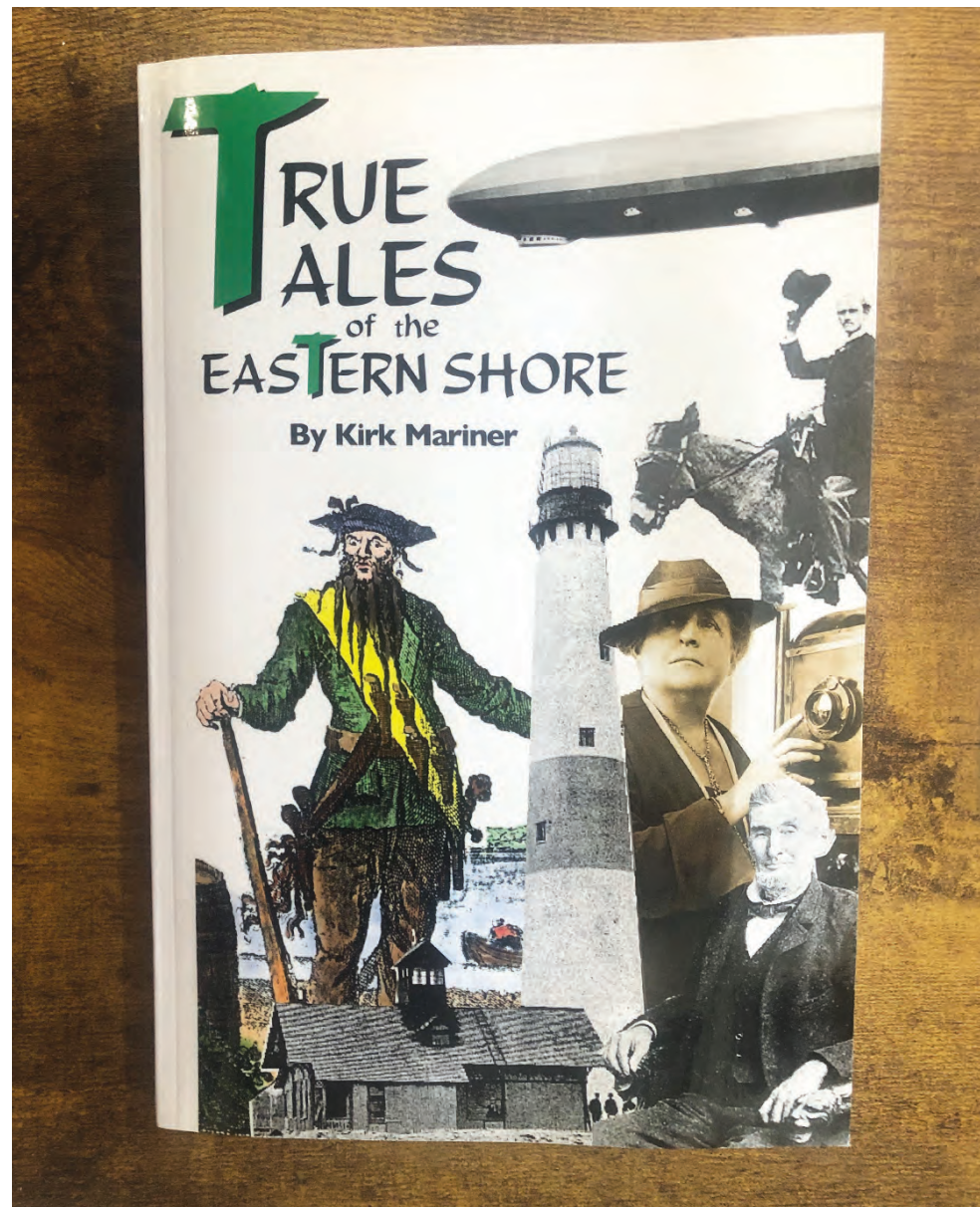
What was not so obvious was that Tom Freeman was also a very troubled man. He spent his spare time pouring out his feelings in letters that he then did not mail.

To Timothy Hill he wrote, "I am going to kill myself on a count of Jennie Hill. We have been courting about eight months and this is the last." And to Zipporah: "You are the cause of me doing so. You said you would not let no one go with Jennie."

On the morning of June 18, 1885, Jennie and her mother stepped out of the house to go to the dressmaker's, and they were met suddenly at the gate by Tom Freeman.

When Tom inquired if Mrs. Hill had changed her mind about the marriage, she replied angrily, and tempers flared. Suddenly and without warning, Freeman drew a 32-caliber pistol and began firing.

(Continued on page 9)



COURTESY PHOTO

This excerpt is from "True Tales of the Eastern Shore," by Kirk Mariner.

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 first appeared in his book, "True Tales of the Eastern Shore."

Mariner

(Continued from page 8)

He aimed first at Zipporah Hill, but his shot went wild and merely grazed her head. Though she fell to the ground, she scrambled quickly to her feet, shouting at him to not shoot again. He fired a second time, with aim more accurate and deadly, and the bullet struck her in the head.

Tom then turned the gun upon the horrified Jennie and fired twice. The first shot grazed her head. The second lodged in her neck.

Incredibly the two women ran a hundred yards to the door of a neighbor, where they fell exhausted and bleeding. As neighbors rushed to the scene, Freeman turned the gun on his own forehead and with his last cartridge pulled the trigger. Now at last his aim was good, and he fell dead almost at the door of the Hill's kitchen.

"Excitement was at fever head" as the news of the shootings spread. "On our streets, in the stores, on the boats, and in the fisherman's cabin, all conversation has reference to the terrible tragedy," wrote the local correspondent to the county paper. Meanwhile, Jennie Hill lingered, at times conscious and coherent and "in the most excruciating agony." She died at 11 that night, having never once uttered "a murmur of complaint against the murderer."

Methodist preacher J.D. Reese conducted Jennie's funeral in the parlor of the Hill house even as her mother lay in another room "hovering between life and death."

The mourners bore her body a few yards to the family burial ground at the northern edge of the front yard. Her gravestone is still there today:

"E. Virginia Hill, born Feb. 25, 1872, died June 18, 1885."

Zipporah Hill recovered from the shooting, and four years later when the Methodists built a new church on the island (the old frame building opposite the present stone church), she and her husband placed in it a stained glass window dedicated to their daughter's memory.

Tom Freeman died unmourned. So great was the "lack of sympathy for the assassin" that neither friend nor relative would claim his body. The day after the shooting the local undertaker buried him in a "rude pine box" without ceremony or benefit of clergy, with only "a few gaping boys" in attendance.

And then, later, they found the letters Tom had written and never mailed and caught a glimpse into the tortured soul of the troubled man. "My dear friend," Tom had written to one of the crew in the lightship, "I will tell you about my trouble. I am in love with a girl and her name is Jennie Hill. I think too much of her. I will die for love, so goodbye my old friend. Take warning from this. Don't go too far with the girls. This is my last letter from me, so I will die for love."

Years later Freeman's grave, along with others in the small burial ground behind 4211 School St., was moved to the burial ground of the Methodist Protestant church. Frank Bradford (1911-2003) was then a young boy as from a distance he watched the grave-diggers uncover, lift, and then open Freeman's coffin, but fled when they remarked aloud (probably for his benefit) that the bullet hole was still visible in the skull. Freeman was buried in an unmarked grave in what is now the churchyard of St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church.

Ladies Golf Association tournament slated

The Ladies Golf Association of the Eastern Shore Yacht and Country Club will be holding its annual charity golf tournament to benefit the Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence on Tuesday, Aug. 13.

The LGA has been supporting the ESCADV for many years and invites local golfers to join them. The tournament is open to teams of two adult female golfers.

Participants do not have to be a member of the ESY&CC to enter.

For a day on the course and to support the ESCADV, go to ESYCC.com and click on the link at the top of the page.

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Fried spot, drum ribs — Eastern Shore delicacies

Eastern Shore people eat fish that folks elsewhere have never even heard of. Saunter into a restaurant in Big

Stone Gap and order a fried spot. Or belly up to the bar in Radford and order a cold one with a platter of smoked drum ribs. See where that gets you.

My theory is that our affinity for strange seafood is a matter of evolution.

It began many generations ago when our granddaddies were shipping their flounder, striped bass, trout, and bluefish to fancy restaurants up north and getting nice paychecks in return.

They brought home the spot, pigfish, hardheads, and drumfish. Our grandmamas would fry them in bacon drippings in the cast iron skillet and serve them with cornbread, butterbeans, and stewed tomatoes.

And our grandmamas would fry those spot and pigfish whole, with the head and tail still attached. Just scale them, gut them, and put them in the pan. There is nothing like having a crisp fried spot laid out before you, staring back with a clouded eye.

Grandmama left the head and tail on because she believed leaving the head on sealed in the wonderful oily flavor of the spot. (It would be a shame to leave it in the pan.)

And as for the tail, it produced a single crispy bite unlike anything that ever came from a grocery store. When I was growing up, I thought the best part of eating spot came at the end, when you finished it off with a

crunchy bite of fish tail.

I don't remember eating black drum ribs as a kid. We always steaked out the thick pieces to fry for dinner, and then we baited the crab pots with the ribs. Apparently, someone decided to apply the aphorism used in cutting beef to black drum. The closer to the bone, the sweeter the meat.

Several years ago, the Exmore Diner began celebrating the beginning of black drum season with fried drum ribs on the menu. I don't know if the diner pioneered this trend, but it quickly caught on.

We have cooked drum ribs in the skillet with success, but I prefer them slowly smoked on the charcoal grill. We usually cook a roast or chicken first and have that for dinner.

But as we are eating dinner, with the coals mellowed out and cooling, we put on drum ribs that have been sliced with just one or two bones in each rib.

The bones hold the fragile meat together and provide a built-in handle — fish on a stick.

It is very difficult to overcook drum when the charcoal is past its prime. The ribs slow-cook and take on a smokey, salty flavor as the fat renders.

We season with a little salt and pepper and a homemade spice blend. The ribs are good cold for lunch the next day.

Combine a little ketchup, Dukes, and horseradish to make a nice dipping sauce.

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.



Curtis
Badger

Crab Crackin' is Aug. 17 at Ker Place in Onancock

On Saturday, Aug. 17, get ready for one of the most anticipated seafood events of the year.

Whether you are a seafood lover or looking for a fun day out with family and friends, Shore History is excited to invite you to the sixth annual Crab Crackin' at Ker Place.

Presented by Weichert, Realtors Mason-Davis and Accomack Title & Settlement Inc., this signature event promises a feast of the Shore's agricultural and aquacultural bounty as well as live music by beach country

band Randy Lee Ashcraft & the Saltwater Cowboys.

Shore History, headquartered in historic Ker Place, was established in 1957 to preserve and celebrate the history and culture of Virginia's Eastern Shore.

Crab Crackin' is a dedicated fundraiser vital for the preservation and maintenance of the Hopkins and Bro. Store.

This landmark property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a hub for community

activities, with dining at Mallards at the Wharf and outdoor adventures with Burnham Guides.

Crab Crackin' will take place on the front lawn of Ker Place, located at 69 Market St. in Onancock.

The event will be held rain or shine from 4 to 8 p.m. with tickets priced at \$75 each. Each ticket includes all-you-can-eat steamed crabs, steamed clams, oysters on the half shell, barbecue with coleslaw, sweet corn, and a limited quantity of beer and wine.

Additional beverages will be available for purchase. Tickets can be purchased online at shorehistory.org

Business sponsorships are available to support the event.

For more information about Crab Crackin' at Ker Place, sponsorship opportunities, or Shore History's preservation efforts, visit shorehistory.org or call 757-787-8012.

Parking for the event is conveniently located at Market Street United Methodist Church as well as street parking.

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Of peelers, fishing, and a 'little slice of heaven'

Growing up on the Eastern Shore taught me a lot about the changing seasons — not just in the literal sense of weather, but also in terms of life's seasons.

In the spring of my adolescence, when I was still in my teens, a chance encounter would forever change my life.



Barry Mears

I was introduced to a young crabber by the name of Lee Wirth. His office was a crab shanty in a little bayside town called Deep Creek, making him easy to find. Lee taught me about the peeler crab.

Lee is a family man and an expert on crabbing — after all, it is in his blood.

If you remember, I had grown up on the seaside. There weren't many crab-shedding operations. My first encounter with the Chesapeake Bay was about to commence.

In my old wooden scow, I bought my first dozen peeler crabs. Newman Scott Jr. always contended that Lee buried his money in Mason jars. I can neither confirm nor deny that claim.

My knowledge of new waterways like Onancock and Pungoteague creeks began to expand. The beauty was understated but breathtaking.

The channels were wider and the water was clearer than at the seaside. To my surprise, there weren't sandbars every few feet.

I'd develop the habit of fishing off Parkers Island with my newfound bait. A peeler crab is to a large drum what a soft crab is to you and me: delicious.

The following few decades would be spent on the hunt for gamefish like red drum, black drum, and speckled trout.

I felt most at ease bringing the boat up to a marshy island known as a "tump." This is essentially a method of fishing in shallow water from the bank. If the crabs were fortunate enough to escape the fish that were on the prowl, they would take refuge in the eelgrass.

The hard shell of the crabs was able to be shed; this is the process known as molting, which is crucial to a crab's growth.

As I became older and more adventurous, I ventured deeper into the bay and discovered Watts, an uninhabited island that was home to pine trees and sandy beaches.

It wasn't until later that I discovered the island had formerly been occupied by both humans and animals.

Once upon a time, a lighthouse illuminated the path for vessels traveling up the bay, but Watts Island has suffered as a result of erosion and storms, and it has been divided in two.

As you sail along its banks, you'll notice stumps from once-thriving pine trees that are now submerged beneath several feet of water. Even today, you can walk along Watts' beaches and uncover Native American artifacts. It saddens me that a place treasured by so many generations will one day vanish beyond the bay's horizon.

I plotted my course as being due west of

(Continued on page 13)



COURTESY PHOTO

This excerpt is from "Living Shoreborn," by Barry Mears.

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)

Watts Island as I forced my bow into a two-foot chop.

I could make out what appeared to be a small village's skyline off in the distance. Crossing the deeper water of Tangier Sound, a popular channel for large vessels, it always seemed to get rougher.

The water became smoother as I neared the shore. The term for this is "slick cam," as Lee Wirth had previously taught me.

As I approached the first daymarker, I noticed a most-welcoming sight: Port Isobel, a magnificent introduction to Tangier Island.

I felt the same excitement as Captain John Smith must have felt when he first beheld its shores in 1608. My eyes were wide open while an entire city emerged from the water.

Crab shanties and docks were connected together. Handcrafted work boats were moored to each captain's dock, and crab pots were neatly stacked in rows — a beautiful location that I



FILE PHOTO

Tangier Island's water tower looms over its school.

had only ever experienced through the vision of artist Willie Crockett.

His incredible paintings came to life in front of my eyes — round sterns, box sterns, and ducks flying over the marsh. It was a sight to behold for a young pair of Shoreborn eyes.

As I idled through the harbor, I noticed that everyone took the time to wave and smile. I tied up my boat to a large dock that had a sign that read "Parks Marina."

asked him for his.

"Mark Crockett, but everyone calls me Moony," he said. He might have acquired the nickname since he was located closer to the moon than most. He was much taller than me — I'm around six feet.

He started teaching me about the island's history. It was his "home," as he put it. Though we had only recently met, I soon realized that Moony and I shared a lot more in common: love of the outdoors, water, our way of life, and the places we both called home.

That was the first of many visits I would make to Tangier. I spent the remainder of the day exploring the island. Similar to Captain Moony, I came to the same conclusions after speaking with each resident: Tangier men and women are kind, hardworking, humorous, and deeply defined by their faith in God.

"God's country" is a term you'll hear me use. Shining examples include Tangier and the Eastern Shore. God appears to have spent a little more time on our little slice of heaven.

The dock where I first set foot on Tangier Island was where I overheard a loud voice saying, "She ain't cold none! I believe it will snow."

Given that it was 95 degrees outside, I was a little confused. I soon came to appreciate Tangiermen's sarcasm and dry humor. Being raised on Tangier allows its people to maintain their distinctive and recognizable accent, which is one of their best attributes.

The man then said, "I didn't catch your name." I told him mine and

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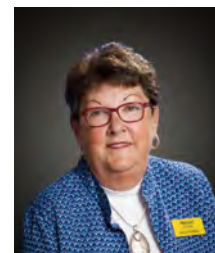
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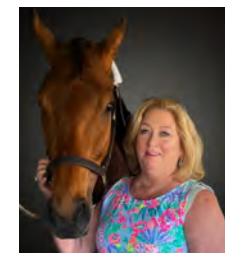
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George Schoolfield
757-710-1871



Linda B Spence
757-999-4503



Catherine Stinson
757-288-4144



Jeremy Ware
908-328-8634

FEATURED LISTINGS



WATERVIEW
of Bogues Bay

11317 Channel Rd Atlantic, VA
3 BR/ 2.5 B
MLS# 60431 | \$699,000
Beth Haines (757) 693-2489



WATERFRONT
on Onancock Creek

15259 Russell Dr Onancock, VA
2 BR/ 2 B
MLS# 60280 | \$599,000
George Schoolfield (757) 710-1871



WATERFRONT
on Gargatha Creek

18825 Seaside Circle Parksley, VA
3 BR/ 2 B
MLS #: 60690 | \$549,000
Cindy Nicolls (757) 710-2934



12 Joynes St. Onancock, VA
4 BR/ 3 B
MLS# 59963 | \$465, 000
Tammy Mason (757) 710-2295



26021 Colonial Dr Onley, VA
3 BR/ 2 B
MLS# 60811 | \$399,000
Susan Beasley (757) 710-1284



5 Center St Wachapreague, VA
4 BR/ 2 B
MLS# 60765 | \$349,000
Michael Baril (757) 710-5200



WATERFRONT
on Burton's Bay

Lot 1A Bellevue Cir Accomac, VA
+/-: 7 Acres
MLS# 59795 | \$349,000
Jane K. Bulette (757) 710-0319



28268 Harbor Rd Melfa, VA
3 BR/ 2 B
MLS# 60745 | \$334,900
Tammy Mason (757) 710-2295



PRICE IMPROVEMENT

29465 Race Track Rd Melfa, VA
3 BR/ 2 B
MLS# 59385 | \$319,990
Leslie Lewis (757) 709-8271



5 Richardson Ave Wachapreague, VA
2 BR/ 1.5 B
MLS# 61872 | \$299,000
Diana Belote (757) 709-4972



15020 Par Pl Melfa, VA
2 BR/ 2 B
MLS# 60799 | \$297,700
Linda Baylis Spence (757) 999-4503



15085 Lee St Belle Haven, VA
4 BR/ 3 B
MLS# 61896 | \$279,000
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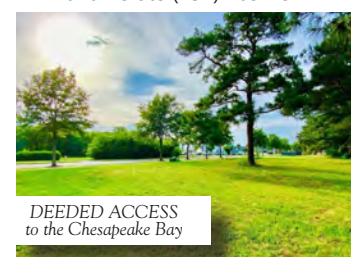
PRICE IMPROVEMENT

34120 Lankford Hwy Painter, VA
3 BR/ 1.5 B
MLS# 59814 | \$249,000
Tammy Mason (757) 710-2295



WATERVIEW
of Leatherbury Creek

Lot 11 Leatherbury Dr Onancock, VA
+/-: 3.33 Acres
MLS# 60803 | \$199,000
Maureen Mackay (757) 709-8590



DEEDED ACCESS
to the Chesapeake Bay

502 Fig St Cape Charles, VA
+/-: .29 Acres
MLS# 60097 | \$185,000
Catherine D. Stinson (757) 288-4144



18010 Northside Rd Onancock, VA
4 BR/ 2 B
MLS# 61876 | \$175,000
Dana Dillon (804) 937-4102



PRICE IMPROVEMENT

35354 Bradfords Neck Rd Quinby, VA
2 BR/ 1 B
MLS#: 60261 | \$145,000
Patrick Daub (757) 777-0159



WATERFRONT
on Folly Creek

Lot 3 Oceanview Court Accomac, VA
+/-: 3.7 Acres
MLS# 57668 | \$140,000
Cathy Salamone (631) 838-5920



WATERFRONT
on Occohannock Creek

Lot 19 Clearview Way Exmore, VA
+/-: 1.17 Acres
MLS# 60743 | \$110,000
Ian Mclean (757) 693-2001



DEEDED ACCESS
to the Chesapeake Bay

Lot 20 Crippen View, Ocean View Parksley, VA
+/-: 1.05 Acres
MLS# 54613 | \$65,000
Bunny Mclean (757) 710-5952



Lot 107 Swan Dr Machipongo, VA
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MLS# 60297 | \$49,000
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Hit the surf during Day on the Bay in Cape Charles

BY SARAH BARBAN

Shore First

Cape Charles is not known for its swells, but that won't stop Spencer Travis from transforming it into a surfing hot spot, at least for a day.

Travis is the brains behind K-Coast Cape Charles' Day on the Bay, which is set to be held on Saturday, Aug. 17, starting at 11 a.m.

On that day, Travis, who manages K-Coast Cape Charles, a Mason Avenue surf and clothing shop, has arranged for a large boat to make waves along the town's normally placid beach, giving everyone an opportunity to surf.

As a child, Travis would sneak off with his father's vintage surfboards and carry them down to the Cape Charles beach just to paddle around in the water, practicing for the day when he got to surf for real.

"This is the manifestation of a childhood dream that I am able to give to the children around town today," Travis said.

"It's wild when you're out there in the water with other people all doing the same thing and having fun. I can hear the laughter and see the joy on the kids faces and the proud parent who can't believe their kids are surfing."

Capt. Thomas Heath is the one who will really be making waves at Day on the Bay. Heath will steer his boat back and forth along the beachfront to create a wake that will form consistent one to two foot waves for boarders of all ages and stripes to ride.

"We've had probably 40 to 50 people surf for the first time in their lives at Cape Charles Beach," Travis said. "Some of whom were 4 or 5, some of whom were 55 or 60. It's a guaranteed opportunity to have a safe and controlled environment where you can feel comfortable. You're not fighting ocean currents and you're in waist-deep water."

K-Coast will have boards available on the beach on a first-come, first-served basis for anyone who wants to try their hand at surfing, but attendees

(Continued on page 17)



PHOTO COURTESY NICOLE HART

Surfers catch a party wave during Day on the Bay in Cape Charles last year.

Day on the Bay

(Continued from page 16)

also encouraged to bring their own ride, whether it's a float, boogie board, paddle board, skim board or just their own body.

Day on the Bay kicks off with a short-distance paddle board race at 11 a.m., followed by a skim board exhibition at noon. The main event starts at 1 p.m., when Heath will begin generating waves.

There will be regular safety patrols and the event will have Coast Guard support, but Travis encouraged parents to assist their kids in the water.

"Make sure that kids are water savvy and safe first," he said. "Parents please join your kids in the water to get the best seat in the house or to ride with them. Please bring adequate

flotation devices and make sure you're helping your fellow surfers."

To keep the surf vibes going, K-Coast is sponsoring a performance by Beach Boys tribute band Sail On at the Palace Theatre that night at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for students. To get tickets visit artsentercapecharles.org

The concert will feature giveaways and special cocktails, and attendees are encouraged to wear their Hawaiian shirts.

The concert and the Day on the Bay are all about giving back to the community and building a surf culture in Cape Charles, Travis said.

"Day on the Bay is a 100% free event," he said. "We just do this for the community as a way of saying thanks and to generate stoke, which is a real thing in a surf community."



PHOTO COURTESY NICOLE HART

Spencer Travis gives Maia Kuester a little help during the 2023 Day on the Bay.

Fall Classes Begin August 26th!



Registration Rally Days during August:
from 10am-8pm on Wednesdays, 8/7, 8/14, and 8/21.



Eastern Shore Community College, 29316 Lankford Highway, Melfa, VA 23410 (757)789-1720

ESCC drone academy reaches new heights

In July, the Division of Rehabilitative Services Eastern Shore office once again partnered with Eastern Shore Community College, Sentinel Robotics Solutions, and the Eastern Shore Community Services Board to provide a one-week career exploration learning experience for students with disabilities and an introduction to Eastern Shore Community College.

The academy was held at the Eastern Shore Community College Workforce Development Center in Melfa from July 15 to 19.

Students learned about the field of aerospace as well as careers involving uncrewed aircraft systems, or drones.

Kaleb Jeffries, a previous DARS consumer, taught the class with Jason Taylor from SRS. Kaleb had observed the DARS Academy previously, which was a turning point in his DARS journey and his career path.

Kaleb's story has developed quickly since his previous visit to the camp. Now an employee of Sentinel Robotics Solutions, he has seen his childhood interest in weather grow into a blossoming career involving drones and more.

Nine students from four Eastern Shore high schools attended the Academy with their family members. Students toured the ESCC campus and learned about programs and services. ESCC provided transportation at no cost.

A graduation ceremony was held and students demonstrated their newly acquired talents and skills.

Students received the FAA Recreational UAS Safety Test, or TRUST, Certificate as well as an extensive resource packet with information on labor market studies on drone operators, community resources, upcoming transition programs, and more.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left, Jason Taylor and Kaleb Jefferies of SRS help Tyler McGowen pilot.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left, Nathan Davidson and his son, Grant, form a team effort with Kaleb Jefferies.

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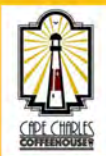
AUG 11



AUG 17



THANK YOU SPONSORS!



Summer has been a hit parade at Arts Enter

Summer 2024 has been a hit parade for Arts Enter at the Historic Palace Theatre in Cape Charles.

The July production of “Lion King, Jr.” was performed for two full audiences who packed the theater and enjoyed Arts Enter’s popular Musical Theatre Summer Camp show.

Over 40 campers between the ages of 8 and 14 learned stage presence, choreography, vocalization, memorization, and other important theater skills.

The camp fostered personal growth for the children by providing a fun and safe educational program.

Over 85% of campers attended in years past, creating a memorable tradition for their families.

This camp is a memorable experience for all — both directors and actors — and at the end of it, campers take home many important skills and lessons.

This camp not only teaches skills but helps campers to work efficiently as a part of a team.

Sold-out performances

The Palace Theatre was sold out for both the ABBA Tribute band Dance Dream and Wilder Horses, a tribute to the Rolling Stones.

Concertgoers were dancing from the first note to the end of each performance.

Tribute bands are popular for a number of reasons, including their ability to bridge generations, create a nostalgic experience, and capture the energy of the original band.

They have become a significant force in the music industry, establishing themselves as popular fixtures of live entertainment worldwide.



The lioness scene from “Lion King, Jr.” at the Historic Palace Theatre.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

(Continued on page 22)

Onancock Second Friday event slated

The Onancock Business and Civic Association celebrates Onancock Second Friday on Aug. 9, from 5-8 p.m.

There will be live music on North Street by “The Rhythm Section,” sponsored by the Onancock Taphouse,

Charlotte Hotel and LaTavola.

The theme is “Harborfest Lite.”

There will be games and vendors, face painting, balloon-tying, and a snow cone machine. There will be live music also at Morphosis Gallery and the Blarney Stone.

Visit all the shops, galleries and eateries throughout town every Second Friday.

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Arts Enter

(Continued from page 20)

These groups are known for their unwavering commitment to one specific artist or band, aiming to deliver performances that truly capture the essence of the original acts.

From costumes and stage setups to mannerisms and musical nuances, tribute bands immerse themselves in the smallest details to deliver an experience that feels authentic to fans.

They go beyond simply playing music — they recreate famous concerts, setlists, and even live improvisations known from the original artists' recordings or shows.

Bands and members often possess the ability to mimic the vocal style and instrumental prowess of the artists they are honoring.

The live music scene has changed significantly with the growing popularity of tribute bands. These dedicated acts have become regular performers, attracting audiences who want to experience the magic of original shows performed by their favorite now-disbanded or hard-to-reach bands.

Unlike traditional concerts, tribute band events create an atmosphere where legendary music eras are brought back to life with incredible accuracy.

Unlike cover bands, which may play a wide variety of songs from different acts, tribute bands focus exclusively on emulating every aspect of a specific group or musician.

Upcoming events

The Films That Move film premiere and “Sail On,” the Beach Boys Tribute, will be followed at the end of the summer on Saturday, Aug. 31 by Queen Nation, the undisputed top-ranked Queen tribute band in the United States, currently reigning as the all-time performance champions and crowned the kings of the Queen tributes and cover bands worldwide.

Over the past two decades, Queen Nation has notched over 1,250 shows and attracted 2.5 million viewers worldwide.

Comprising four musicians to reflect the original Queen, the band performs in detailed 1970s and 1980s Queen-era costumes.

Band members include Gregory Finsley, vocals and keyboards as Freddie Mercury; Mike McManus, guitar as Brian May; Pete Burke, drums as Roger Taylor; and Parker Combs, bass as John Deacon.

As the best Queen tribute band in the world, Queen Nation masterfully recaptures the essence of the original, ensuring every note, chord, and lyric resonates with the same passion Mercury, May, and all of the Queen band members once delivered.

There is an exciting 2024 -25 theater season ahead. Arts Enter is currently confirming presenting sponsors and a full complement of live stage performances of “Cinderella,” “Calendar Girls,” the Virginia Symphony Holiday Brass, and tribute bands featuring the Eagles, Chicago, Dave Matthews, and the Beatles.

The Tidewater Guitar Orchestra and the One]-Act Play Festival are also part of the season.

Arts Enter is a 27-year-old 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization in Cape Charles dedicated to promoting the fine and performing arts, education, technology behind the camera, and theater performance in our community.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The pride rock from “Lion King, Jr.” at the Historic Palace Theatre.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The cast of “Lion King, Jr.” at the Historic Palace Theatre.

100 years ago
August 1924

Cape Charles gets fire motor equipment

After a week's testing out and instructing the local fire company how to operate the machine, the new American LaFrance motor-driven combination pumping, chemical, and hose car with a capacity of throwing 750 gallons of water a minute passed the underwriters' test yesterday and will be formally turned over to the fire company by the Town Council this week.

Cape Charles is now as well prepared for fire emergencies as any town of its size in the state and should be able to cope with any fire which may develop. The local fire company, with W.B. Swenney, chief, will put in strenuous drilling on quick hook-ups and speed in other lines of action and should within a few weeks stand for efficiency among the best fire companies of the state.

— *The Roanoke Times*

Sick man transferred by ships in heavy sea

Taking a sick man off a steamer off Cape Charles under favorable weather conditions is not an easy feat, but it was accomplished yesterday without much difficulty by a boat crew from the Coast Guard Cutter Mascoutin.

The American steamer Vaba, Captain Blake, sent a radio message to the Naval Base early yesterday stating that she had a sick man on board that needed hospital attention and requesting that a vessel be sent to Cape Charles to meet her. The Mascoutin was dispatched on the mission of mercy and the sick man was lowered to a small boat and transferred to the cutter.

He was brought to the Marine Hospital, where it was said he might have to undergo an operation.

— *The Roanoke Times*

Incendiarism in school fire seen

Incendiarism is charged by the county school board for the burning to the ground of Exmore High School building, Northampton County, at 10 o'clock last night. Both the building and equipment is a total loss estimated to exceed \$30,000, besides destroying the building where 300 children should start to school next month.

When first discovered a back room on the upper

floor was in a light blaze, some material resembling inflammable oils being used, it is said, and with no fire fighting equipment, the frame structure was soon a roaring furnace. A short while ago the same building had more than a hundred window lights broken out by unknown parties and it is thought the building was fired by the same persons.

Bloodhounds were secured from Norfolk and started on the trail at 7 o'clock this morning, together with Sheriff Lankford, in the hope of running down the guilty persons.

— *The Roanoke Times*

Scranton man asks court receiver for carnival company

A bill in equity asking that a permanent receiver be appointed to conduct the affairs of a carnival owned by Frank West, of Greensboro, N.C., and now showing in Tasley, Accomack County, was filed in Federal Court here yesterday by Harry O. Staples, of Scranton, Pa., who alleges that West owes him \$3,600 and is now held in an Accomack County jail as an accessory to a murder.

The bill alleges that West is owner and operator of a carnival comprising an exhibit of wild animals and a merry-go-round and like amusements common to carnivals, and he is required to pay substantial forfeits for failure to exhibit in towns in which the show is "booked." It alleges West is now liable for \$25,000 if his show should fail to exhibit in towns now booked and that it is scheduled to open in Marion on Tuesday next.

It is alleged that on Aug. 14, while the defendant was conducting his business in Tasley but had closed for the day, a resident of Accomack "was shot by a person then and there with West's business but not in the course of his employment." In consequence of the alleged shooting, the person who was shot died. West now is held without bail as an accessory to the shooting, the petition recites.

No person other than West now employed by the carnival is competent to conduct its affairs, and in order to fill booking engagements the carnival must move by railroad not later than today to Marion in order to be ready to open there Tuesday, according to the equity suit papers. It is further alleged that the concessions leased by West net a nice sum and those already leased to be operated as side shows will net him approximately \$2,500 per week. It is alleged that more than 100 persons are employed by the carnival and that the employees and concessionaires are becoming disgruntled over the affairs now existing.

On Aug. 15, the administrator of the estate of

the shooting victim brought suit for \$10,000 damages and filed a petition in attachment against the carnival property. Process was issued, but no bond was given, and a levy was made, but the carnival property was not seized and still is in the defendant's constructive possession. The Pennsylvania Railroad was made co-defendant in the proceedings, and the property cannot be transferred over the line until released by court.

Value of the carnival property is placed at \$100,000, but it was stated that it would not yield over \$25,000 on a forced sale. The defendant's property is said to be subject to a \$30,000 mortgage, and Staples is insisting that the appointment of a receiver is necessary to the conduct of the business and the preservation of the property and is the only way in which his claim for \$3,600 may be made safe.

Percy S. Stephenson is counsel for the complainant.

— *The Virginian-Pilot*

Cream freezer a still

A five-gallon ice cream freezer, converted into a still near Machipongo, in Northampton County, was discovered by Inspector Rayfield, of the state prohibition force, who also found two barrels of mash. The still appeared to have been turning out a small quantity of liquor. It was put out of commission.

— *The Roanoke Times*

75 years ago
August 1949

700 attend railroad workers' annual picnic

Division employees of the Pennsylvania Railroad held their annual family picnic on Sunday.

More than 700 traveled by special train, via ferry, or in their own automobiles to the picnic at Cape Charles.

Everyone assembled at the railroad dock for a basket lunch. Then there was a cruise on the Chesapeake Bay aboard the Elisha Lee, a baseball game at Patton Field between Norfolk and Cape Charles, a golf tournament at Northampton Country Club, and games and contests on the beach.

— *The Daily Times*

(Continued on page 24)

Yesteryears

(Continued from page 23)

10,000 fans set record

The Ocean Downs Raceway enters its final week of its summer harness racing meeting tonight, with Friday the final day of activity.

A total of \$151,810 was bet Saturday night, a new record for the meet. Close to 10,000 people saw the eight-race card, also the largest for the 20-night event.

The feature event, the seventh race, a mile pace, was won by Shamrock Thoughts, owned by Norman S. Lynch, of Frankford, Del. Driven by the popular Joe Hylan, the speedy Delaware pacer won by a length over Chum B., owned by Marty Burke, of Troy, N.Y. Both horses paid \$4.20, \$4.00, and \$3.20. Gypsy Scott, who came in third, produced a payoff of \$3.60. The crowd wagered \$24,460, the largest for any single race since the meet opened July 25.

The secondary feature went to Dr. Richards, owned by M.J. Duer, of Exmore. The winner stepped the mile in the sixth race, a mile trot, in 2:10 2-5 for his first victory in 11 starts. Billy Myer, of Bridgeville, drove the winner, which paid \$5.20, \$4.00, and \$3.40.

— *The Daily Times*

Grand jury clears Acree in Maryland crabber slaying

An Accomack County special grand jury has refused to indict David Acree, Virginia Fisheries Commission deputy charged with slaying a Maryland crabber in Chesapeake Bay on July 5.

The six-man jury submitted its report, clearing Acree, 26, of a murder charge in Virginia yesterday.

Immediately came the question of what action, if any, Maryland intends to take in the case.

Maryland holds a warrant for Acree, charging him with murder in the fatal shooting of the crabber, 50-year-old Earl Nelson, a former Crisfield, Md., chief of police.

Maryland says the shooting occurred in the free state's Somerset County. On Aug. 5, Maryland asked for Acree and for George Colonna, pilot of the Fisheries Commission plane from which Acree boarded Nelson's boat, in extradition proceedings in Richmond. Virginia's Governor Tuck denied the request.

Attorney General Hall Hammond, of Maryland, said "the only door Governor Tuck left open was if the shooting did not occur in Virginia. It appears that the grand jury made a specific finding that it

did. In that case there would be no grounds for any further recommendation for extradition."

Maryland holds a warrant for Colonna as an accessory after the fact to the shooting. No charge was placed against the pilot in Virginia.

— *The World-News*

Sailor defeats Baltimore foe

Whipping out a stinging left jab and a deadly right cross, Clyde Wagner, popular sailor from the Chincoteague naval air station, scored a three-round decision over Jack Taylor, of Baltimore, last night at Memorial Field before 1,500 fans. This marked the windup of the Salisbury Lions Club bi-monthly AAU card.

Wagner, a stylish fisticuffer, went about his work as if his Baltimore Police Boys Club rival were made to order for his left jab. He scored a two-count knockdown in the second round and held the lead throughout. Both contestants weighed in at 155 pounds.

Donald Parkinson, of Deal Island, slated to battle Wagner but who withdrew because of an injured eye, was available to give assurances to local ring officials that he would battle the bluejacket in two weeks.

The semifinal skirmish found Robert King, 162, also of the Chincoteague air station, registering a 15-second knockout over Earl Taylor, 168, of Graham A.C., Baltimore. This is believed to be the quickest KO in Eastern Shore AAU boxing history.

— *The Daily Times*

Man, asleep under truck wheels, killed

Maryland state police reported tonight a Virginia man died beneath the wheels of a truck under which he apparently had fallen asleep.

They said the man was tentatively identified from papers he was carrying as Charles Coleman, of Lawrenceville.

Maryland officers said Virginia state police had told them a truck driver reported the incident. They quoted the driver as saying he felt the truck roll over an object as he started it off in Chincoteague.

When he investigated he found Coleman beneath the vehicle.

The body was taken to a funeral home after being brought to Peninsula General hospital.

Police at the Salisbury state troopers' barracks said Virginia authorities had not been able to locate any relatives of the victim and details of the case were lacking.

— *Danville Register and Bee*

50 years ago
August 1974

Bridge-tunnel doing well

Despite the threats of gasoline shortages and other plagues, toll revenue continues to climb at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel.

The bridge-tunnel executive director, J. Clyde Morris, told the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel Commission Tuesday that August should be a record month if the first 12 days are any indication.

Morris reported that July was the second best month in the 10-year-history of the 17.6-mile span linking Tidewater to the Eastern Shore.

According to his statistics, 197,432 vehicles crossed the bridge-tunnel last month, bringing in \$1,261,806 in revenue.

— *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

Measles reported in Northampton

Dr. Belle D. Fears, health director for Accomack and Northampton counties on Virginia's Eastern Shore, reported Friday an outbreak of measles in Northampton County.

She said eight cases have been reported in the last week.

Dr. Fears urged all parents in the county to examine their children's immunization records and, if necessary, have the youngsters immunized before they begin school.

— *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

Store owner is robbed of \$800

Northampton County authorities and state police are investigating a robbery at a grocery store in Chertont during which the victim was severely beaten.

Deputy Sheriff Tank Belote said that Joseph Etz, owner and manager of the store, was severely beaten and robbed of between \$800 and \$1,000 when he closed his store at 9 p.m. Friday and was walking to his pickup truck.

Etz received lacerations of the right eye, forehead, left ear, and temple.

Belote said that Etz was later able to unlock the store and call police.

Several suspects are under surveillance but no arrests have been made.

— *The Daily Times*

(Continued on page 25)

Yesteryears

(Continued from page 24)

Virginia fire loss estimated at \$100,000

A fire caused when lightning struck the Smith-Douglas Farm and Chemical Warehouse in Machipongo Saturday night was still smoldering Tuesday, according to William R. Shannonhouse, farm chemical sales supervisor.

Shannonhouse has valued the building and contents at more than \$100,000, “but that’s just a guess,” he commented. Building and contents were destroyed.

Shannonhouse said six fire companies fought the blaze and in his words, “did an excellent job.” He said the fire companies were able to contain the fire to the Smith-Douglas warehouse. A house is located about 20 feet south of the building and another about 50 feet north of it. “Neither of the houses was even scorched,” Shannonhouse said.

The warehouse was of frame construction, 165 by 48 feet.

“I don’t think we will rebuild here at Machipongo. Instead I think we will probably occupy the R.B. Mapp sweet potato storage building in Exmore,” Shannonhouse said.

— *The Daily Times*

25 years ago
August 1999

Postmaster leads effort to create cancellation honoring old rail lines

It was “All aboard!” for train lovers and stamp collectors Thursday when the U.S. Postal Service introduced its new stamps commemorating rail service across America.

For the Eastern Shore of Virginia, it was a day to make national history. Various stations around the country celebrated by issuing special cachet envelopes and stamps with their own one-of-a-kind postmarks, said Belle Haven postmaster Thelma Gillespie.

Of all the former lines in the nation, only one — the old Delmarva Division — has been honored by having each former station along its line offer a special cancellation.

“We are the only one doing all the stops on a complete railroad line,” said Gillespie. “The Cassatt

Line South started at the Maryland-Virginia line north of us and went all the way to Cape Charles.”

On Aug. 16, 1899, trains stopped daily at New Church, Oak Hall, Hallwood, Bloxom, Parksley, and Tasley. They continued south to Onley, Melfa, Keller, Painter (Mappsburg), Exmore, and Nassawadox, weaving through the countryside to Birdsnest, Machipongo, Eastville, and Cheriton, and terminating the land line in Cape Charles.

The unveiling was set to coincide with scheduled train stops as they would have occurred a century ago this past week. As for Gillespie, her post office didn’t come into existence until about 1903, missing the century anniversary mark.

It was a day of celebration for railroad buffs especially, as ceremonies were held at the Parksley, Exmore, and Cape Charles railroad museums to introduce the stamps and cachet envelopes.

And it almost didn’t happen.

The project was the brainchild of Gillespie, who thought postmasters on the Shore should get together to offer something really different and unique.

“I was sold when Roy Ballard, of the Exmore Railroad Museum, took me through the station while we were working on the project and showed me all the things here and the history behind them. I knew then I was sold on the idea,” she said.

Eastville postmaster Johnny Stevenson and Gillespie teamed in February. They volunteered their time for the once-in-a-lifetime event, Gillespie said.

“I just wanted us to do something for the Eastern Shore that we could do collectively,” she said. “For me the best part was the ceremony at the Exmore train station, a basically unrestored period station with atmosphere and character.”

The envelopes feature three different cachets in blue noting three phases of the railroad’s operation.

— *The Daily Times*

Educator offers tips

“If all children had a safe harbor, none would be at risk, and on the Shore that’s important. A lot of our kids don’t have safe harbors.”

Dr. E. Berkley Ashby read the quote from his new book, “About 400 Tips for Teachers from the Experts,” a personal project for the assistant superintendent of Northampton County schools, who spent three years compiling brief, reader-friendly tips for today’s educators.

“These are practical little tips for teachers to use in the classroom,” says Ashby, who gathered the advice by sending questionnaires to Eastern Shore teachers and to about 30 school divisions in and around the state.

Ashby’s aspirations for the book are to aid teachers and students.

“I hope they (teachers) will get some insight into ways of working with students that will be uplifting to the students and hopefully put all kids on a level playing field.”

— *The Daily Times*

Mayor, council cut own salaries

The Exmore mayor and Town Council have decided to balance the budget by cutting salaries — their own — down to nothing.

Faced with the prospect of raising real estate taxes 2 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation to make up a \$8,475 budget shortfall, the mayor and six-member council decided Monday during a work session to put their combined salaries — totaling \$8,700 — in the town’s general fund.

The remaining \$225 will be included in a fund used to buy gas for town police cars.

The decision was a consensus among the mayor and five council members. They will vote on the \$341,309 proposal during their regular August meeting Monday.

Exmore’s mayor and council have historically given their salaries to help fund extra town projects and committees. This would be the first year, however, that this council has ever used the money to make up a budget deficit.

Another savings was Mayor Guy Lawson’s decision to relinquish the salary paid him by the town as a part-time police officer. That amounted to a \$6,396 savings, meaning Lawson will stand to lose \$8,000 in mayoral and police salary to help Exmore stay solvent.

Lawson said he would volunteer his time as a policeman if the department needed him. Lawson has been criticized because he is not a certified policeman — but as mayor, he is the town’s police commissioner.

Exmore has been operating without a budget since the new fiscal year started July 1.

Exmore’s first budget proposal included a controversial 214% increase in real estate taxes that drew the ire of many in the town. After budget cutting, the proposed tax increase was pared down to 16 cents, a 4-cent increase.

— *The Daily Times*

(Continued on page 26)

Yesteryears

(Continued from page 25)

Mysterious calls frighten woman

Peggy Bruce had either the biggest singular historical and scientific event of the millennium happen to her recently or she received the mother of all prank phone calls.

Bruce thinks it's the latter of the two.

And she's not laughing.

"I think it's a bad joke," she said.

Bruce returned home to find over 20 calls on her caller identification machine — a device that records the name and phone number of people calling her home and the dates and times they called.

But when she ran down the list, it read like a high school history book.

In the period of a day, Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, Ronald Reagan, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Jackson, Ulysses S. Grant, Hank Williams, Charles Dickens, Samuel Clemens, Edgar Allan Poe, Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, and Herbet Hoover all called Bruce.

Or the caller identification box said they did.

And all are deceased, except Reagan.

All the calls had different dates, different times, and left different phone numbers — with different area codes — on the identification box.

"Those are not the people I normally talk to," Bruce said.

As if things weren't spooky enough, Bruce then had to sleep through the torrid Friday morning thunderstorm knowing that a bunch of dead people were trying to contact her.

Bruce did not return the calls. Instead, she chewed off all her fingernails and called the Accomack County Sheriff's Department.

When a deputy arrived, they called the phone company, who Bruce said did not believe what had happened.

Their best advice?

"They suggested that I change my phone number," she said. "They're puzzled because they wanted to know how one person could have been in all those (area code) areas."

When a few of the numbers were called later, a voice recording said the calls "cannot be completed as dialed."

The area codes ranged from Sacramento to New Hampshire and from San Diego and Ana-

heim to Pittsburgh and Trenton.

Even if she had been home, Bruce said she would not have answered.

"Would you pick up the phone if Albert Einstein called?" she asked.

— *The Daily Times*

Pony swim just a way of life for Saltwater Cowboys

As crowds began lining up along the island's marshy shores, Wesley Bloxom sat on his horse, squinting at the sun beneath his ballcap and waiting to embark on a hard day's work.

Bloxom watched his fellow "Saltwater Cowboys," including his son, John Wesley Bloxom, prepare to drive a herd of wild ponies into a narrow channel.

The spectacle of about 130 horses making their famous annual swim from Assateague Island to Chincoteague is all most of the estimated 50,000 tourists who packed this small island town last week will ever know about the pony swim.

For the Bloxoms and the other volunteer Chincoteague firefighters who stage the event, it's the culmination of a year of hard work well away from public fanfare.

For most of the year, the ponies roam free on the neighboring coastal barrier island of Assateague. At least a couple of times a week all year long, firefighters on horseback check on the herd. They also round up the animals each spring and fall so veterinarians can examine them and vaccinate them against rabies and other diseases.

There's a whole lot of work that people don't know about," said John Wesley Bloxom, chairman of the fire department's pony swim committee.

That's not a complaint. "It's a joy to do it," he said.

Pony swim week begins with the herd of about 150 horses being rounded up and temporarily penned in corrals the weekend before by the firefighters. On the sand flats beneath a hot, hazy sky, the cowboys girded themselves in blue jeans, heavy boots, cowboy hats, long-sleeved shirts, and bug repellent against the mosquitoes that thrive in Assateague's marshes.

On Monday, work began at dawn in an effort to avoid midday heat in the upper 90s. The firefighter-wranglers drove some ponies from the north corral seven miles down a beach so

the horses could join the rest of the herd in the south corral.

As the ponies walked slowly down the beach, an orange sun broke through the clouds, and mist rose above the ocean. Dolphins leaped in and out of the water.

"This is the gravy part of it," fire department spokesman Roe Terry said. "This is what they've been working all year for."

On Tuesday, veterinarians examined the horses and cowboys clipped their hooves. It took six men to wrestle one kicking pony to the ground to submit to the ordeal.

The cowboys also separated the foals too young to swim and took them, along with their mares, in trailers to Chincoteague. About 20 ponies were driven over this year.

The stocky Chincoteague ponies only grow up to 5 feet tall and have thicker coats than other horses. They range in color from chocolate to red to buckskin. One pony this year was all white with blue eyes. The paint ponies — those with big splashes of more than one color — are the most prized.

Nobody knows how the ponies originally got to Assateague.

One theory is that Colonial settlers hid their horses on Assateague to avoid paying taxes on livestock. The cowboys prefer to believe the animals are descended from ponies that survived a 16th-century Spanish galleon wreck just offshore.

The shipwreck legend is recounted in Marguerite Henry's 1947 novel "Misty of Chincoteague." The book, which made the pony swim famous, is about a brother and sister who dream of owning a wild pony and her filly.

The roundup and swim date back more than 100 years, when residents let their livestock roam free on Assateague Island, Terry said.

The tradition has been kept alive by the fire company, formed in the 1920s after two fires burned much of the town, now home to 3,500 people.

The pony swim and auction take place on the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday each July.

The cowboys have done the work every year since 1924, except for 1944, when most of the town's men were off fighting World War II.

The day after the swim, firefighters auction the foals to raise money to buy equipment for the department and pay for the herd's upkeep. This year, 86 colts were sold for \$139,000, with \$4,100 the highest bid for a pony.

(Continued on page 27)

Yesteryears

(Continued from page 26)

The auction at the town's carnival grounds also keeps the herd to about 150 animals — the maximum that can be supported on grazing lands in the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on Assateague.

The ponies that aren't sold swim back to Assateague the day after the auction.

Thus far, the cowboy tradition remains all male. Some of the men, like Wesley Bloxom, have done it for decades. Bloxom, 60, began riding with the cowboys at age 16.

Why? Don't ask.

"That's a foolish question," said Bloxom, a man of few words. "I enjoy it."

John Wesley Bloxom, 40, has been helping out with the swim since he was 13. He and his dad are the lone father-son Saltwater Cowboys.

As pony committee chairman, the younger Bloxom organizes the swim. He also checks the herd several times each week, even in the biting winter winds that blow in from the Atlantic Ocean.

"I love it," he said. "I love messing with the horses and riding on the beach."

Come July, another couple dozen or so horsemen — mostly from Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, and Delaware — show up to help Chincoteague's 24 firefighters.

And then it's pony swim day.

As the sun climbed higher, a dozen or so cowboys on horseback drove the wild ponies into the Assateague Channel, then moved aside as the ponies swam to the other side.

Part of the way, only the ponies' heads bobbed above the water. It took them about five minutes to make the 80-yard swim during slack tide, the period between high and low tides when the current is still.

Along the marshy shore and in boats, a delighted crowd clapped and cheered.

A short time later, a small barge with a sign reading "World Famous Saltwater Cowboys" took the men and their mounts from Assateague back to Chincoteague.

A whole year of work had ended, but John Wesley Bloxom knew it only meant the start of another year just like it.

"Good job, boys," he called out to his men. Like his father, he's a man of few words.

— *The News and Advance*

GHOTES hosts genealogy conference

For four days at the end of June, Parksley was a hive of activity as the new Eastern Shore of Virginia Heritage Center hosted the Genealogy and History of the Eastern Shore 2024 conference. All 75 attendees were either residents of the Eastern Shore of Virginia or visiting descendants of Eastern Shore families.

The GHOTES organization was founded in 1996 by Barbara Goffigon Cox and grew from an email list to an active email and Facebook group with a website of local history and Eastern Shore family information.

Chris Pote, Eastern Shore Public Library System director and archivist at the Heritage Center, welcomed the group in the conference's first session. He gave an overview of the new center with its state-of-the-art archive room, which offers access to sources of non-printed Eastern Shore family history.

Several presentations in the conference explored new directions of genealogy research and heritage in the six years since the last meeting, especially dealing with DNA analysis. Dr. David Scott, with the Northampton Historic Preservation Society, explained how analysis of male y-DNA can confirm or reveal surprises as

it connects to family groups.

DNA researchers Marie Rundquist and Wesley Revels presented research about DNA analysis of early indigenous groups on the Shore and family history tracing James, the "Indian Boy."

M.K. Miles, creator of the MilesFiles, a database of Eastern Shore families including 120,000 names, spoke about how DNA confirms information about family lines that couldn't be found in other searches.

Crystal Castleberry, public archaeologist, and Evan Bell, a curator, both at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, spoke about a project that closely analyzes archaeological data from the John Custis family at Custis Square in Northampton County. By building a comprehensive database of names of enslaved people mentioned in legal documents only by first name, researchers are bringing family stories and narratives to light for African Americans who are searching for information about their ancestors.

Dr. David Scott presented a photo tour of old homes on the Eastern Shore and arranged an evening group visit to Eyre Hall. Retired ESPL director Cara Burton



SUBMITTED PHOTO

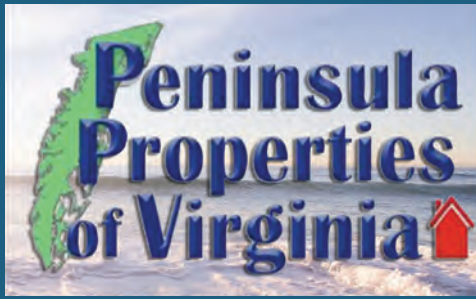
GHOTES conference speakers enjoy informal conversation during a break. Pictured from left are Jean White Raleigh, Jenean Hall, and Crystal Castleberry.

rounded out the topics with recommendations for taking family history beyond the genealogy of names and dates with projects that help engage other family members in GHOTES and preserving family archives.

GHOTES conferences always include an opportunity to socialize with each other

and the local community. This year's banquet dinner was held at Historic Onancock School. Dennis Custis, retired educator, entertained with a history of the school.

There is no fee to join GHOTES. For more information, go to ghotes.net or the GHOTES Facebook page.



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3183 MAIN ST, EXMORE MLS 59823 \$284,900

Three bedroom, 2.5 bath Colonial with attached carport and one car detached garage on .313 acre town lot. Original shiny wood floors throughout. Tall ceilings, crown molding. JES restored basement, walk up attic, large bedrooms. Large dining room. Fireplace in living room. Kitchen updated in 2014, ample counter space. MOVE IN READY. Yard is big enough for garden or boat and trailer parking. Small pond. Exmore is a great little town that is mid-shore allowing for easy commuting. Auto repair, restaurants, and downtown shops within easy walking distance. Grocery and hardware store 2 minute drive away. Only 17 minutes to Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital.

CHRISTINE FLYE 757-286-3569
JASON RESTEIN 757-620-1532



1 SEAY COURT MACHIPONGO

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6.60+/- acre point lot on Hungars Creek. The last one available in the Harbour Pointe subdivision. Incredibly priced. Come see the panoramic views and perfect location for your waterfront dream home. 1000+ LF of water frontage! Electric post present on the property.

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24234 MARY ST. PARKSLEY

MLS 60347 \$339,000

"Homeplace" as it was so lovingly named when built circa 1903, is an elegant brick Victorian on 3 town lots. Quality craftsmanship abounds in this 3 bdrm 1.5 bath home. The foyer greets you with hardwood floors. The "parlor" has the original mantle with fireplace and built-in bookcases. All rooms downstairs have crown molding, chair rail, gorgeous inlay wood flooring and pocket doors. Front and back staircases! Upstairs you will find all large bedrooms with hardwood floors, and crown molding. A floored attic, basement, screened side porch, brick walkways, water feature, Trans heatpumps (2), Boiler replaced in 2016. 50 year roof, septic new in 2013, HUGE barn/garage with brick flooring and loft, paved driveway. Alley access. Walk to the playground, Farmers market. MUST SEE.

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9358 BRANCH LANE NASSAWADOX

MLS 60628 \$379,000

This is the Eastern Shore's Finest Traditional style "Farmette." Situated on five acres. Wholesome and loving care revealed throughout. New updates at every glance, including an expansive new deck, new well, fresh paint throughout, new hot water heater, and of course, the quintessential "Red Barn" revealing ultimate functional utility (boat/tools, stable/horse space, chicken/ducks/geese-endless potential. Locational perfection configured by open space just on edge of Town yet proximate to the best of the Eastern Shore's services and amenities.

JASON RESTEIN 757-620-1532



35431 OCCOHANNOCK DR BELLE HAVEN

MLS 60761 \$425,000

22.1 acres with waterfront on Occohannock Creek. Farmhouse with great bones and a new roof, and windows. 3 bdrm 1.5 baths, 4.5 acres of woods. Floating dock will accommodate up to 20-foot boat, just minutes to the Chesapeake Bay! Bring your crab pots! 10 mature Pecan trees line the driveway (a couple in the tree line). Yummy. Several outbuildings, one with brand new roof. Fenced area with building for animals. Fish/crab, hunt, grow food, have a horse/animals. Do it all on this property.

CHRISTINE FLYE 757-286-3569



3494 JUSTIN LANE CAPE CHARLES

MLS 61898 \$369,000

Rare opportunity to live at the entrance of Kiptopeke State Park. 3BDRM/2BATH One car attached garage. Brand new kitchen cabinets and granite countertops in large kitchen. HUGE great room. Two bedrooms downstairs with one having direct access to beach allowing for another primary downstairs. Tiled floors throughout downstairs for easily cleaning the beach sand, because you will spend all of your time at the beach, as it is a walk away! Upstairs you will find the primary with a HUGE walk in closet, HUGE bathroom with double sinks, jetted tub, 4 foot shower and toilet closet. Large storage room could be finished as a workout room or office! Two decks. Exterior closet for bikes and outdoor equipment. Exterior and interior piped for gas grill and fireplace

CHRISTINE FLYE 757-286-3569



7 KERR ST, ONANCOCK MLS 60786 \$425,000

This 3 bedroom 1.5bath Dutch Colonial Charming is in walking distance to restaurants, shops, movie theatre, dock, or if you prefer; hop on your golf cart. This home is move-in ready. Kitchen with Viking appliances, soap stone countertops, hardwood floors throughout, wonderful sunroom with tons of windows. Large laundry room. Home has a great flow. Upstairs bath is spacious. New roof 2020. Screened porch and beautiful new brick patio for outdoor entertaining. Minutes to the hospital, Walmart and Food Lion. This is the perfect location for THE BEST OF EASTERN SHORE LIVING.

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