



**FREE
TAKE ONE**



GERRY GENNARELLI WILL BE TRAVELING FROM ITALY FOR A RETURN PERFORMANCE IN CAPE CHARLES | PAGE 10

SWEET-POTATO PIE A SHORE TRADITION

Laura Davis shows you how to create the ultimate Thanksgiving dessert | Page 12

**November
2024**

FAMILY LITERACY MONTH



757-789-1761

activity ideas excerpted from Books by the Bushel, VocoVision, Reading Rockets, NCFL, NWT Literacy Council

<p>Plan a Scavenger Hunt</p> <p>Place clues around your home and have your children look up information in books.</p>	<p>Story Telling</p> <p>Tell your children a story and have them write their own ending.</p>	<p>Different Shapes</p> <p>Draw different shapes on a piece of paper and have your child color and cut them out. Write the name of the shape on it.</p>	<p>Movie Night</p> <p>After reading a book together and talking about it, watch the movie version of the story together.</p>	<p>Host a Story Chain</p> <p>Write "Once upon a time" on a large roll of paper and ask each child to add one sentence to the story.</p>	<p>Check it Out</p> <p>As a family, visit the local library. Ask for a tour and discover all the offerings. Use your library card to check out a new book.</p>
<p>Word Jar</p> <p>Put words in an empty jar. Have your child pick a word each day and use it throughout the day as many times as they can.</p>	<p>Letter of the Day</p> <p>Over breakfast work together to choose a letter of the day. During the day look for objects that start with that letter.</p>	<p>Be Generous</p> <p>For a set amount of time, give your child your whole attention. Play with them, read to them and put your phone away.</p>	<p>Picture This</p> <p>Ask your children to draw a picture of a family activity. Have them write a sentence about it below the picture.</p>	<p>Over the Moon</p> <p>Take time to look at the night sky together. Look at the moon and see how it changes size and color from day to day.</p>	<p>Helping Others</p> <p>Take your child with you to donate some canned goods to a local food bank.</p>
<p>Got a Newspaper?</p> <p>Ask your child to find and cut out words in headlines. Paste them on a piece of paper and practice reading them together.</p>	<p>Grocery Store Literacy</p> <p>Put your child in charge of the grocery list. As items go in the cart ask your child to cross it off the list.</p>	<p>Imagination Vacation</p> <p>Imagine today you were going on vacation. Where would go? How long would you stay? What should you pack? What will you do?</p>	<p>TV Talk</p> <p>Watch a TV show as a family. Ask your child what he/she liked best and why. Talk about your favorite show as a child.</p>	<p>Who's Important</p> <p>Tell a story about an important adult from your childhood. Ask your child to do the same. Share the stories out loud.</p>	<p>Sharing and Caring</p> <p>Gather some books on sharing and caring to read with your child.</p>
<p>Lights Out</p> <p>Pretend there is no electricity and read by flashlight. Take turns reading to experience how different it is. Talk about what it was like.</p>	<p>Convince Me</p> <p>Choose a topic you don't agree on. Have your child write a letter trying to convince you to change your mind.</p>	<p>Sing Before a Meal</p> <p>"We are thankful for this meal. Good food makes us strong, our family sings along. We are thankful for this meal"</p>	<p>Poetry Jam</p> <p>Have each member of the family choose a favorite poem to share. Set aside a special time and have each person read their poem.</p>	<p>Sunday Memories</p> <p>Share with your children what your Sundays were like as a child. What traditions did your family have. Ask your child to retell the story.</p>	<p>Thankful Placemat</p> <p>Make a placemat using a large piece of paper. Help your child cut out and glue pictures from magazines of items they are thankful for.</p>
<p>Dreamland</p> <p>Before bedtime, read your favorite children's story to your child and tell them why it's your favorite story.</p>	<p>Be Grateful</p> <p>Make a list in words or pictures of three things you like about each member of the family.</p>	<p>Table Talk</p> <p>Write topics on a small slip of paper, put them into a bowl. Have each family member pull a topic and talk about it each night.</p>	<p>Listen</p> <p>Listen to audio books while traveling to visit family, cooking for the holidays or wrapping gifts.</p>	<p>Family Scrapbook</p> <p>Use an inexpensive photo album to keep souvenirs of things you do together. Have your child write the date and a line about it.</p>	<p>Family Day</p> <p>Spend the day reading your child's favorite books, dancing to their favorite music and watching their favorite TV show or movies.</p>



"You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children." —Dolly Parton

Support received from



- 11/1 National Family Literacy Day
- 11/11 National Young Reader's Week Begins-Register your child for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- 11/15 I Love to Write Day
- 11/18 High-Five a Librarian Day-Visit a local library
- 11/25 National Book Week Starts



Looking for Prime Eastern Shore Property?

Call Blue Heron Realty Co. for a free copy of our **Waterfront Catalog** 757-678-5200 or 757-331-4885

Blue Heron Wishes a Happy Thanksgiving to All!

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Cape Charles

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DUPLEX! 2 very upscale, 4 bedroom, 2½ bath homes. Total of 4,235 sq. ft. in the heart of Cape Charles. Close to Beach & Park. Furnished.

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Newly renovated 3 bedroom, 2 bath, one-story home on .8 acres with deck overlooking fields. Cape Charles 5 minutes.

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2022 VIRGINIA LIVING BEST OF VIRGINIA WINNER
2021 VIRGINIA LIVING BEST OF VIRGINIA WINNER
2020 VIRGINIA LIVING BEST OF VIRGINIA WINNER
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Bayfront Cottage

\$319,000



Chesapeake Bay Cottage. Cute, cozy and furnished! Excellent opportunity to own a bayfront 3 bedroom, 1½ Bath home directly on the Bay. 1,060 sf. Eastville.

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\$649,000



Beautiful beachfront 2½ acre lot in very upscale beachfront area offering a mile & a half of very pristine beach. Located just south of Cape Charles.

Willis Wharf

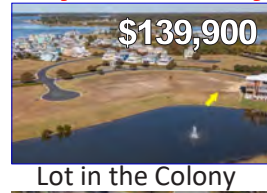
\$399,000



Coastal Living 1 block from water! 3 bedroom, 2 bath Home in waterfront village w/marina accessing Barrier Islands. Original details throughout. Dream kitchen

Bay Creek Golf

\$139,900



Lot in the Colony
\$89,900
Lot in the Hollies

Featured Home – Town & Country



3 bdrm, 3½ bath, 2,880 sf Victorian home in Cheriton. Thoroughly renovated and updated. Large rooms, high ceilings & plenty of charm! All on 1.2 acres. Great home!

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2.5 Acre Peninsula

Dock, boat lift, 600'+/- of waterfront. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3,894 sq. ft. with great elevation, nice woods, 2½ acres and access to beach, pool, tennis, etc.

Acreage

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Waterfront Farm perfect for boating, having horses, orchards, vineyards or just enjoying the nature!

Beachfront Lot

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.8 acre lot w/spectacular & unobstructed views of the Chesapeake Bay, just south of Cape Charles. Great sunsets!

Commercial

\$389,000



Mason Avenue- Cape Charles

In the heart of the business district, 655 sf of retail, office or professional space. Recent & attractive. Great Location!

Beachfront Home

\$1,950,000



Exquisite Beachfront Estate! 5944 sq.ft, 5 Bdrm 4½ bath home on 4½ acres with 200 feet of prime, private beachfront in Bay Ridge, just south of Cape Charles.



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Machipongo, VA 23405
757-678-5200

Licensed In Virginia



Cape Charles Office
113 Mason Avenue,
Cape Charles, VA 23310
757-331-4885



Blue Heron Realty Co.

"Specializing in Prime Properties
On Virginia's Scenic Eastern Shore"
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800-258-3437 757-678-5200 757-331-4885

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



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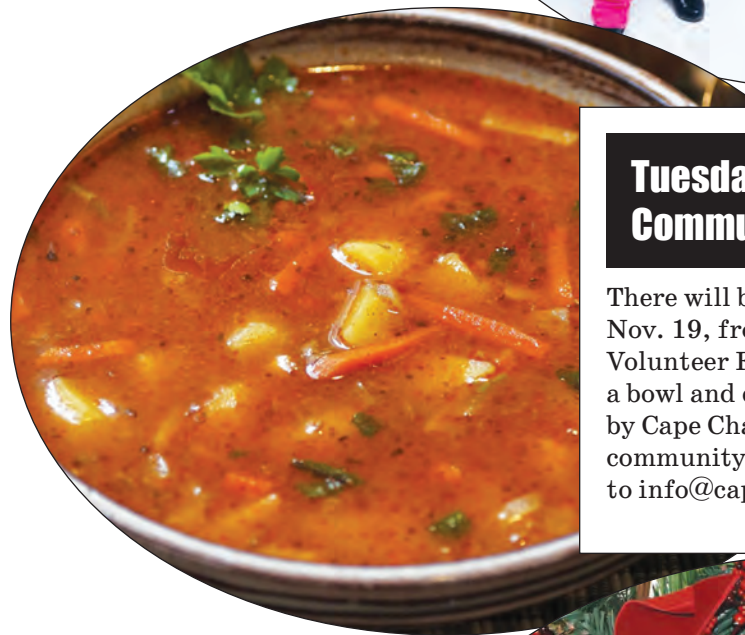
VISIT

www.EasternShorePost.com

Shore First | Entertainment calendar

Saturday, Nov. 16 | Chincoteague Fundraiser with The Deloreans

The annual live auction fundraiser for North Accomack Little League with live music by The Deloreans will be held Saturday, Nov. 16, at 6 p.m., at the Chincoteague Center, 6155 Community Drive, Chincoteague. There will also be a 50/50 raffle, door prizes, free pizza, and a cash bar. Tickets are \$30 and are available at H&H Pharmacy and Wallops Island Supply.



Tuesday, Nov. 19 | Cape Charles Community Soup Dinner

There will be a community dinner on Tuesday, Nov. 19, from 6 to 9 p.m., at the Cape Charles Volunteer Fire Department, Cape Charles. Bring a bowl and enjoy soup, food, and drinks provided by Cape Charles Main Street at the Heart and Soul community soup dinner. RSVP by Nov. 18 to info@capecharlesmainstreet.com

Saturday, Nov. 30 | Franktown Montessori tree and wreath sale

A tree and wreath sale will be held Saturday, Nov. 30, from 9 to 11 a.m., at Montessori Children's House of Franktown, 7551 Bayside Road, Franktown. Purchase Christmas trees, wreaths, and roping for holiday decor. All proceeds benefit the school's scholarship fund. For an additional fee orders can be delivered.



ARTS ENTER CAPE CHARLES PRESENTS

301 MASON AVENUE | CAPE CHARLES, VA

DEC
18 | 7:30
PM

World Renowned Pianist & Vocalist
GERRY GENNARELLI



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



DEC
21 | 7:30
PM

Arts Enter presents
Virginia Symphony Orchestra

HOLIDAY

Presenting Sponsor

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Historic Palace Theatre | Adults \$40 & Students \$15 Blue Heron Realty



NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 20, 2024
FEATURED ARTISTS | FREE MUSIC | FREE MOVIES
Every Friday at the
LEMON TREE GALLERY & HISTORIC PALACE THEATRE

- Nov 29** 5pm - 8pm Artist: Clelia Cardano Sheppard | Music by The Doorway Singers
3pm - Movie: The Polar Express | 8pm - Movie: Home Alone
- Dec 6** 5pm - 8pm Artist: Brenda Llewellyn | Music by The Sonic Ukes
8pm - Movie: Christmas Vacation
- Dec 13** 5pm - 8pm Artist: Bethany Simpson Durham | Music by Two Bridges
8pm - Movie: Elf
- Dec 20** 5pm - 8pm Artist: Joanne Taylor Donahue | Music by Stomp, Clap, Yeah
8pm - Movie: The Nightmare Before Christmas



757-331-4327 | #SMALLTOWNBIGART

WWW.ARTSENERCAPECHARLES.ORG



IMAGE COURTESY LAURA MCGOWAN

Seascapes are among the works by Onancock artist Laura McGowan that will be on the open studio tour Nov. 29 to 30. Laura McGowan Fine Art is in studio 114 of the Historic Onancock School in Onancock.

Artisans Guild Studio Tour scheduled for Nov. 29-30

Every year on Thanksgiving weekend, the Artisans Guild of the Eastern Shore of Virginia showcases its member artisans and their unique crafts and talent in a self-drive show and sale event.

This year's event will take place on Friday, Nov. 29, and Saturday, Nov.

30, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

This is the 22nd annual Holiday Open Studio Tour.

There are two contests. Pick up a Passport to the Arts card at your first stop. Have it initialed at each tour stop. Then turn in our passport card at the artist at your final stop.

Self-driving
tour includes
dozens of stops
in Accomack,
Northampton

You will be in the drawing for certificates ranging from \$50 to \$300 to spend with your favorite artist on the tour.

The second event is the annual photo contest. Take photos throughout the day at tour stops and email your three favorite and most creative pho-

tos to photos@esvaartisansguild.org. First prize wins \$100, second prize wins \$50, and third prize wins \$25. The deadline for submitting is Dec. 6.

STUDIO NO. 1

Carole Peirson Fine Art Studio, 3214 Jacobia Lane, Cape Charles

■ Carole Boggemann Peirson. Local scenes and colorful abstract work in oil and cold wax. 757-678-3340, artworkbycarole.com

■ Dianne Hottenstein, Hottporcelain Ceramics. Functional, sculptural ceramics; unique surfaces. 757-573-7359

STUDIO NO. 2

Windsor Woodworks, Edwins Farm Drive and Lankford Highway, Cape Charles

■ Kurt and Sally Lewin, Windsor Woodworks. Custom woodworking from fine furniture to cutting boards. 757-331-4848, windsorwoodworksva.com

■ Kathy Groom, Sea Glass by Kathy. Unique sea glass and gifts, acrylic paintings. 757-752-1135

■ Ray and Julita Wood, Gecko Pottery. One-of-a-kind decorative and functional handmade pottery. 757-331-4204

■ Doug Brady. Hand-carved decoys, shorebirds, whales, clams, and oysters. 757-284-6658

STUDIO NO. 3

Noisy Crow Studio/ Shooting Star Studio, 5236 Mockhorn Bay Drive, Cape Charles

■ Nancy A. Kinzinger, Noisy Crow Studio. Copper, brass, and sterling silver jewelry constructed from recycled metal. 757-641-8069 noisycrowstudio.com

■ Brenda C. Wright, Shooting Star Studio. Art photography, leather cuffs created from upcycled leather belts. 757-641-8861 ShootingStar-Gallery.com

STUDIO NO. 4

■ JK Pottery, 4325 Wilsonia Drive, Machipongo

(Continued on page 8)

2024 Artisans Guild Holiday Tour

1. Carole Peirson Fine Art Studio

3214 Jacobia Lane
Cape Charles, VA 23310
757-678-3340

2. Windsor Woodworks

Edwins Farm Drive & Lankford Hwy
Cape Charles, VA 23310
757-331-4848

3. Noisy Crow Studio/ Shooting Star Studio

5236 Mockhorn Bay Drive
Cape Charles, VA 23310
Noisy Crow - 757-641-8069
Shooting Star - 757-641-8861

4. JK Pottery

4325 Wilsonia Neck Drive
Machipongo, VA 23405
303-681-4713

5. Chatham Vineyards

9232 Chatham Road
Machipongo, VA 23405
757-678-5588

6. Elizabeth Rhoades Fine Art

9444 Quail Walk
Belle Haven, VA 23306
860-841-3939

7. Milby Barn Studio at Chatham Flower Farm

31094 Boggs Road
Painter, VA 23420
508-524-5405

8. High Point Glassworks

30389 Bobtown Road
Pungoteague, VA 23422
757-442-7155

9. Ocean Skye Gallery

15355 Pungoteague Road
Pungoteague, VA 23422
757-442-2150

10. Lynne Rogers Studio

4 Center Street
Wachapreague, VA 23480
757-710-5335

11. Ann Crain Studio

3 Center Street
Wachapreague, VA 23480
410-610-2007

12. Carrie Jacobson Studio

18 Bayview Avenue
Wachapreague, VA 23480
860-442-0246

13. Bay Leigh Studio

23895 Bailey Neck Drive
Onancock, VA 23417
484-999-4897

14. Marsh Ryon Studio

18092 Leatherbury Drive
Onancock, VA 23417
757-710-4659

15. Morphosis Gallery

33 Market Street
Onancock, VA 23417
757-710-8718

16. Vesna Zidovec Studio

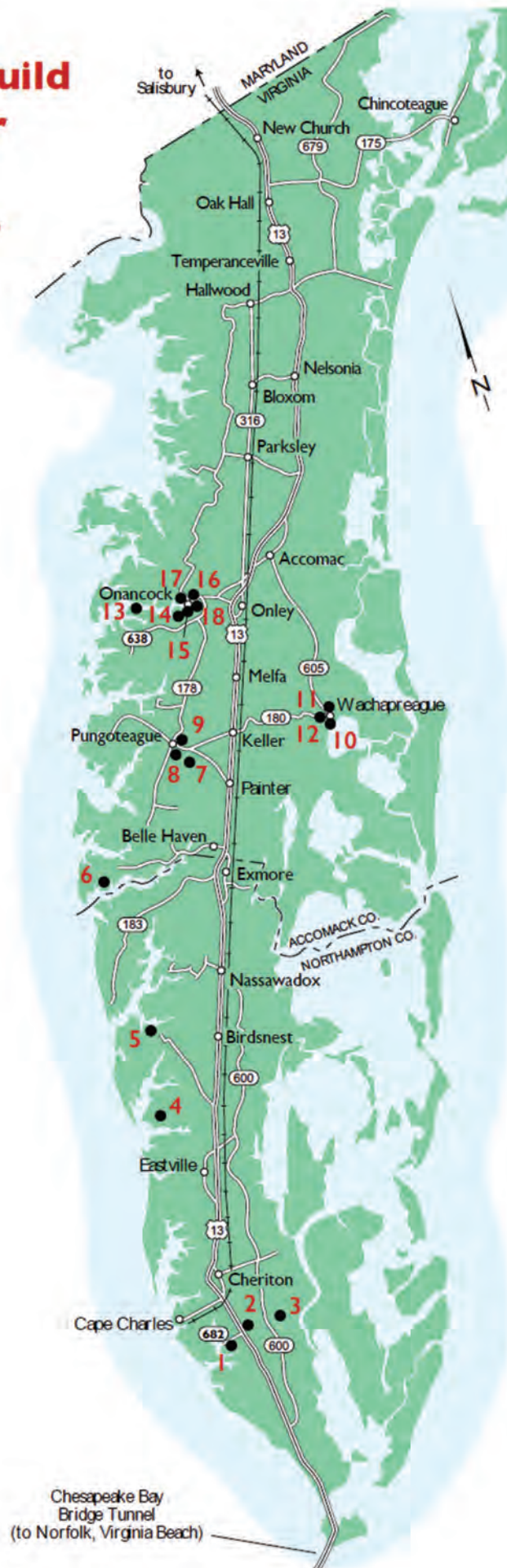
30 Kerr Street
Onancock, VA 23417
757-678-3712

17. Ker Place History Museum

69 Market Street
Onancock, VA 23417
757-787-8012

18. Historic Onancock School

6 College Avenue
Onancock, VA 23417
757-302-1331



Cartography by
Bill & Colette Nelson

Chesapeake Bay
Bridge Tunnel
(to Norfolk, Virginia Beach)

0 5 Miles

Guild tour

(Continued from page 6)

■ Jamie Kirkpatrick. Thrown/hand-carved sculptured vessels, glazed functional ware. 303-681-4713 www.jkpottery.com

STUDIO NO. 5

Chatham Vineyards, 9232 Chatham Road, Machipongo

■ Jonathan and Mills Wehner. Wine and oysters offered, Open daily year round. 757-678-5588 chathamvineyards.com

STUDIO NO. 6

Elizabeth Rhoades Fine Art, 9444 Quail Walk, Belle Haven

■ Elizabeth Rhoades. Fine art landscape paintings in oil and pastel by renowned national artist. 860-841-3939 elizabethrhoades.com

STUDIO NO. 7

Milby Barn Studio at Chatham Flower Farm, 31094 Boggs Road, Painter

■ Kate Fitzpatrick, Milby Barn Studio. Oil painter of local landscapes, coastal and farmland. 508-524-5405, milbybarnstudio.com

■ David Justice. Sculptures designed, carved, painted, and inspired by the beauty of nature. 757-894-5638.

STUDIO NO. 8

High Point Glassworks, 30389 Bobtown Road, Pungoteague

■ Ken Platt. Hot glass with live demonstration. 757-442-7155, highpointglassworks.com

STUDIO NO. 9

The Ocean Skye Gallery, 15355 Pungoteague Road, Pungoteague

■ Anne Winston. Working light, color, and life in mixed media. 757-710-3408 annewinstongallery.com

STUDIO NO. 10

Lynne Rogers Studio 4 Center St. Wachapreague

■ Lynne Rogers. Oil paintings,

sculptural details, mixed media. 757-710-5335 lynnerogers5.wixsite.com/lynne-rogers-art

STUDIO NO. 11

Ann Crain Studio, 3 Center St., Wachapreague

■ Ann Crain. Mixed media with abstract thoughts, acrylics, oils, found objects, and more. 410-610-2007

STUDIO NO. 12

Carrie Jacobson Studio, 18 Bayview Ave., Wachapreague

■ Carrie Jacobson. Bright, bold oil paintings made with palette knife. Birds, florals, landscapes, animals, and more. 860-442-0246, jacobson-arts.com

STUDIO NO. 13

Bay Leigh Studio, 23895 Bailey Neck Dr., Onancock

■ Janis King, Bay Leigh Studios. Figurative sculptures and paintings, plus multi-medium Santas. Demonstrations with clay. 484-999-4897 janiskingart.com

STUDIO NO. 14

Marsh Ryon Studio, 18092 Leathisbury Drive, Onancock

■ Marsh Ryon. Nature inspired artwork in a variety of mediums. 757-710-4659 www.marshryon.com

STUDIO NO. 15

Morphosis Gallery, 33 Market St., Onancock

■ Kynne Kretzer, Morphosis Creative. Sea glass mosaics and décor made with natural and recycled materials. 757-710-8718 morphosiscreative.com

■ Bill Kretzer, Morphosis Creative. Handmade electric guitars, basses, and electric upright basses. 504-301-5122 morphosiscreative.com

■ Daniel Jasper, Jasper Custom Guitar. Jasper Custom Guitar offers hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind, acoustic, electric and resonator guitars. 757-331-0141 www.jaspercustomguitar.com

■ Marsha Thomas, Leslie's Gift Jewelry. Hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind jewelry. Authentic sea glass, gem stones set in fine and sterling silver. 757-710-5248

STUDIO NO. 16

Vesna Zidovec Studio, 30 Kerr St., Onancock

■ Vesna Zidovec. Handmade functional and decorative pottery. 757-678-3712, vesnazidovec.com

STUDIO NO. 17

Ker Place History Museum, 69 Market St., Onancock

■ Diana M. Davis. Award-winning watercolors depicting the Eastern Shore. 757-442-5359 dianamDaviswatercolor.blogspot.com

■ David Farlow, Seaside Decoys. Fourth-generation decoy carver in the Eastern Shore tradition. 757-442-9097

■ Douglas Greer, Greer Studio. Wildlife and landscape detail in acrylics and water-soluble oils. 757-710-1847, www.greerstudio.art

■ Alicia Dailey, Alicia Dailey Pottery and Art. Functional stoneware pottery with artwork of animals. 434-665-9876, www.aliciadaily.com

■ Melanie Widgeon Lewis. Acrylics, mixed media, and pyrography art, inspired by the Eastern Shore and also very eclectic. 757-710-2293, mwidgionlewisartist.com

■ Katie Williams. Acrylic paintings inspired by life on the Eastern Shore and offshore. 757-350-1108, katiwilliams-artist.com

STUDIO NO. 18

Historic Onancock School, 6 College Ave., Onancock

■ Karyn Belknap, Ten Good Sheep Yarns and Natural Fibers, in studio 113. Perfect gifts and stocking stuffers and hand dyed yarn. 757-243-1400 TenGoodSheep.com

■ Mark Belknap, in studio 115. Hand-forged gifts and traditional decoys/shorebirds. 757-710-0496 www.ForestryandWildlife.com

■ Billy Crockett, Billy Crockett Carvings, in studio 117. Master carv-

er. 757-710-6669

■ Amy Felske, fiber sculpture, art dolls, original sewing patterns, doll making kits. 757-331-0776, incipientmadness.etsy.com

■ Gertraud Fendler, Wearable art made with authentic sea glass. 757-442-4430, www.sea-glass.girl.com

■ Donna Stufft, Painted Stitches. Art quilts, painted fabric embellished with thread sketching. 443-616-2665, www.paintedstitches.com

■ Sarah Jillard, Painted Stitches. Art quilts, painted fabric embellished with thread sketching. 856-340-2665, www.paintedstitches.com

■ Joel Simpson, Hand-carved utensils and turned bowls — functional art in wood 757-710-1822

■ Dawn Simpson, Optic Fibers Crochet. Charming stuffed creatures, wearables, accessories. 757-710-5917

■ Laura McGowan, Laura McGowan Fine Art, in studio 114. Original oil paintings inspired by the Eastern Shore. 757-710-7600, www.lauramcgowanfineart.com

■ John Labodie, Margie Labadie, Steppingstone Arts, in studio 105. A carefully rendered fantastic universe of colorful objects and spaces. Natural world collaged paintings, prints, and poetry; glass-beaded jewelry. 910-734-3223, www.steppingstonearts.com.

■ Fred Leutner. Award-winning oil paintings. 757-442-7671, www.fredleutner.com

■ Stevon Sample, Dominion Multimedia LLC. Pen and ink, portraits, graphics dominiongraphi-cart@gmail.com 757-709-2569

■ Ginny Rutherford, Two Shorres Art LLC. Handbuilt functional and decorative pottery inspired by nature. 609-385-3766.

■ Brenda Llewellyn, Llewellyn Ceramics. Porcelain and stoneware functional pottery of organic design. 240-478-7647

■ Deb Torguson, Collectors Portraits. Portrait artist and fine art photographer working traditional and digital media. 757-710-0993, www.collectorsportraits.com



The Rise and Fall of Tides

Poems and Photographs

Curtis J. Badger

A New Book Celebrates the Shore Visually and in Verse

A Special Gift for Christmas This Year!

Writer and photographer **Curtis J. Badger** has combined his talents in *The Rise and Fall of Tides* to celebrate Virginia's Eastern Shore both visually and in verse. While Badger is widely known for his books on the natural history and human history of the coast, he also is a talented photographer.

"I have had a passion for photography all my life, especially black and white photography, and it seemed a natural marriage to join poems and photographs in this book. Black and white photographs seem to me a visual form of poetry. By removing color, you are reducing the image to its essence. And so it is with poetry. The challenge is to create an image not by adding words, but by subtracting them, mining a thought to get at its core."

The Rise and Fall of Tides is a testimony to one man's love of family and landscape and how the two have become inseparable over time. Fifty poems are complemented by 25 black and white photographs printed on premium paper in a horizontal format, 11 by 8 ½ inch book.

Copies are available directly from the publisher, Salt Water Media of Berlin, MD.
Softback copies are \$24.99 and hardbacks are \$34.99, plus shipping and taxes, if applicable.

Visit www.saltwatermedia.com, or call 443-513-4422.

A festive December coming to Palace Theatre

The Christmas Season is full at the Historic Palace Theatre. Arts Enter, the 501(c)(3) non-profit fine and performing art center in Cape Charles, is producing several programs to celebrate the sights and sounds of the season.

On Sunday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m., the dance students under the direction of instructors Lisa Brasch, Mara Ifju, Amy Watkins, and Lucy Watkins, will present “Merry Movement,” a program where dancers will display their skills while they celebrate the holiday season.

The dance celebration will feature adult and school-aged students in musical theatre, modern, hip hop, ballet, stretch, and tap. The community is welcome to attend.

To continue with Christmas festivities, on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 5 p.m., The Shore Singers, an established Community Choir directed by Megan Cartwright, will perform the music that the men and women in the chorus have been rehearsing since September.

After the performance, there will be a community sing-a-long, which has always been an enjoyable addition to the afternoon. The choir welcomes new members and practices at the Historic Palace Theatre on Thursday evenings.

On Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m., special guest Gerry Gennarelli will be traveling from Italy for a return performance in the theater.

A world-renowned vocalist and pianist, Gennarelli will treat the audience with his ballads and classics and a bit of Christmas music as well. Audiences will be delighted by his warmth, charisma and exceptional talent.



SUBMITTED IMAGE

On Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m., special guest Gerry Gennarelli will be traveling from Italy for a return performance at the Historic Palace Theatre in Cape Charles.

Gennarelli’s Cape Charles theatre audience has been growing every year.

For what has become a traditional Christmas concert, the Virginia Symphony Holiday Brass will fill the stage of the theatre on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 pm.

Bold sounds of the Virginia Symphony brass section will ring in the holidays with a blast. The audience will experience the festive sounds of the season in a concert filled with wit, virtuosity, and the glorious music of the holidays — featuring the VSO brass and percussion sections in an all-new program.

Patrons will enjoy music from a variety of styles that have made this

concert a new holiday tradition.

As the region’s most celebrated musical, educational, and entrepreneurial arts organization, the Virginia Symphony Orchestra is the largest performing arts organization in southeastern Virginia.

A. Scott Wood will conduct the symphony for the Holiday Brass concert. Blue Heron Realty, a much-appreciated patron of the arts over many years, is the presenting sponsor for the performance as they have been for several years.

Blue Heron is a local family-owned business operating since 1993 and specializing in waterfront and water access homes on the beautiful Virginia

Eastern Shore. Tickets for both Gerry Gennarelli and the Virginia Symphony Holiday Brass are available at www.artsentercapecharles.org

The Lemon Tree Gallery will also be alive with activity during the Cape Charles Festive Fridays.

On Nov. 29, Dec. 6, Dec. 13 and Dec. 20, there will be special featured artists in the gallery along with live entertainment and a cash bar.

Entertainment will include The Doorway Singers in Dickens’ inspired costumes singing Carols, The Sonic Ukes, Two Bridges, and on Dec. 20, “Stomp, Clap Yeah!”

The theme for the featured artists is Small Wonders. Each artist will present original works of art that are smaller in nature and perfect for gift-giving.

The featured artists are Clelia Cardano Sheppard on Nov. 29, Brenda Llewellyn on Dec. 6, Bethany Simpson Durham on Dec. 13, and Joanne Taylor Donahue on Dec. 20.

Fridays at Lemon Tree is an ongoing, free weekly evening of entertainment and friendship presented to the community.

At the conclusion of each Festive Friday evening, a holiday film will be presented in the Historic Palace Theatre at 8 p.m. This year, The Polar Express will be shown on Friday, Nov. 29 at 3 pm.

For more information about any of these events or dance, music and theatre classes for adults and children, call 757 331-4327.

Arts Enter Cape Charles, the Lemon Tree Gallery, the Historic Palace Theatre and Films That Move help to keep the arts alive in Cape Charles.

Shore First | ESCC Career Adventure Day



On Friday, Oct. 18, Eastern Shore Community College hosted 445 local 10th grade students for the first YES! Career Adventure Day.

Each high school on the Shore was represented at the event.

The collaborative community effort was designed to showcase the diverse careers that are available on the Shore.

More than 30 businesses and organizations came to campus and joined ESCC faculty and staff to present displays and interactive stations to represent careers and opportunities available to the students on the Shore.

Eastern Shore Community College offers a multitude of career paths to students through its academic and workforce programs.

The event was presented by Eastern Shore Community College in partnership with the Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board, the ESVA and Chincoteague Chambers of Commerce, and the Community Partners of the Eastern Shore.



Gather local sweet potatoes for traditional sweet-potato pie

Sweet-potato pie is pumpkin pie's "black sheep" cousin. It sounds kind of weird in theory, but with the first bite you discover its absolute deliciousness. It is just a little bit lighter and less filling than pumpkin pie, but still just as festive for fall.

We grow lots of sweet potatoes here on

Virginia's Eastern Shore — most notable, a white-fleshed sweet-potato variety called Haymans. You rarely find them off of the Eastern Shore because they're in such high demand with the locals.

I still haven't been able to get my hands on any this year. I'm hoping to track some down before next week for Thanksgiving,

so keep your fingers crossed for me.

If you're worried it might take more time and effort than a pumpkin pie, don't be — it's just as easy, with an even shorter ingredient list.

It's one of those recipes that the little ones like to help make, too. There is plenty of stirring and whisking involved. It may seem strange that there's no brown sugar or nutmeg — but just go with the lemon extract. It adds such a bright note to the sweet potato and really makes it sing.

So, if you're looking for a new dessert that's still traditional — you've found it. It is a perfect addition to your holiday Thanksgiving table that everyone is sure to enjoy.



Laura Davis



PHOTO COURTESY LAURA DAVIS

Sweet-potato pie is a perfect addition to your holiday Thanksgiving table that everyone is sure to enjoy.

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.

Sweet-potato pie recipe and ingredients

Ingredients

- 2 cups sweet-potato puree* (about 3 medium sweet potatoes)
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 (12 oz) can evaporated milk
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 tbsp flour
- 1 tsp lemon extract
- 1 unbaked pie shell

Procedure

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
Combine sweet-potato puree, sugar, evaporated milk, eggs, flour, and

lemon extract in a large bowl.
Whisk until combined and smooth.
Pour into pie shell and bake for around 50 minutes, until crust is golden brown and the filling doesn't jiggle.
Remove from oven to cool to room temperature before serving. Or refrigerate for a chilled pie.
* To make the sweet-potato puree: Pierce sweet potatoes in a few spots with a fork and microwave at high power for about 10 minutes or roast at 350° for about 1 hour, until tender. Let cool slightly, then peel and puree in a food processor.

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Considering ways to improve ourselves and our outlooks

I believe we can always be improving ourselves and our outlooks.

The only way you can get better or make significant changes in your life is to be proactive, be positive, and know that you will get out of it what you put into it.

Develop that can-do attitude so you can live your life fully and feel the joy that you deserve.



Betsy Seybolt

I wrote “Just Keep Improving” in October with the first five ways to improve yourself.

Here are five more ways to keep getting better:

■ **Become a positive person.**

If you tend to get bogged down by negative thoughts, here’s what you can do.

Start by interrupting your thoughts. Don’t go down that road. Then flip your thoughts around.

If you think, “I will never get back in shape,” you can turn that around to “I will get back in

shape by spending 20 minutes per day walking and I will start today.”

The word “yet” can be a game changer in a sentence. Taking that same example, you might be thinking “I’m not in good shape.” When you add the word “yet” there’s a difference — “I’m not in good shape yet.”

You give yourself some compassion so you can visualize yourself getting in shape and then actually making exercise part of your everyday life.

■ **Be grateful.**

Gratitude changed my life. I used it to dig myself out of a depression after a long stretch of heartache.

I rebuilt my life through daily practice and intention. You can do it, too.

I like to write in my journal. The experts say that writing things down offers freedom of expression, as op-



PHOTO COURTESY PIXABAY

Betsy Seybolt: When is an ideal time to improve yourself? The best thing to do is just start.

posed to typing.

I know gratitude helps me appreciate what is going well right here, right now, in the moment. That’s all that matters.

It helps keep you present so you don’t dwell on the past or worry about the future.

■ **Be forgiving.**

Try forgiveness. It’s not easy. It’s probably the people that are hardest to forgive who need it the most.

They might be going through a hard time, or they might be doing the best they can.

Holding a grudge or resentment toward someone can

drain you and prevent you from moving on.

When you forgive someone, you are more likely to get back some of that energy that was draining you by being angry or resentful.

You don’t need to tell them if that is not available to you. Forgiving them in your heart will free you up too. Write a letter and burn it.

Do whatever it takes so you can move on.

■ **Believe in yourself.**

Do you know what Theodore Roosevelt said? “Comparison is the thief of joy.”

You need to remember that. You have unique gifts and talents.

You will feel a lot better about yourself if you appreciate who you are and what you can bring into the world, instead of comparing yourself to others.

You may find that you are happier when you believe in yourself than when you compare yourself to others.

■ **Take responsibility for your actions.**

If you really want to improve yourself, your health, your career, or your outlook, you need to be the first one to own your choices and your decisions.

Today may not be the perfect day to start doing sit-ups every day or writing for a few minutes, but let’s face it — there is no perfect time.

Just do it and get started. You will be glad you did. You are the one who has the power to make yourself better. Own it and become unstoppable.

You can feel a lot better about yourself and the world around you when you are positive and grateful.

Sometimes it takes a leap of faith to be forgiving and to believe in yourself, but you’ll find that it is worth it in the end.

Be the person who does what you say you will do to prove to yourself and to others that you hold yourself accountable.

Become your biggest cheerleader and believe that you are amazing.

Betsy Seybolt, of Onancock, mindset and motivational coach. She is currently teaching her eight-week course, “Self-Care Essentials.” Sign up to receive her weekly newsletter to find out about upcoming workshops, masterclasses, and her plans for 2025: <https://www.betsyseybolt.com/newsletter-signup>

Celebration at Giddens' Do-Drop Inn

There will be a pre-Thanksgiving celebration at Giddens' Do-Drop Inn, 8204 Bayford Road, Weirwood, on Saturday, Nov. 16.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and tickets are

\$20 in advance and can be picked up at Rayfield's Pharmacy in Nassawadox and Cape Charles, also at The Book Bin in Onley.

Tickets are \$25 at the door. Live music by Down 'n' Outs Band and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

For more information you can call 804-513-0532.

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The president who loved the Eastern Shore

When Democrat Grover Cleveland was first elected president in 1884, a 23-year Republican hold on the White House ended, and the Eastern Shore of Virginia rejoiced.

In Locustville the townsfolk erected a 65-foot “Cleveland Pole” from which wafted a banner proclaiming “Democratic Victory.”



Kirk Mariner

Residents of Temperanceville, Atlantic, and Mapps-ville celebrated with music, bonfires, and “illuminations,” then descended upon Modest Town to celebrate with 50 rounds of cannon.

The parade that formed in Drummondtown wound its way into Onancock. Chincoteague’s parade was even larger: 50 people on horseback, several hundred people on foot, a brass band, over

1,500 spectators, and “for miles along the shore nearly every dwelling was illuminated” for the occasion.

In Mearsville merchant A.F. Mears announced that he was changing the name of his store to Cleveland “in honor of the president-elect.”

Though hardly remembered here today, few presidents have ever been as popular on the Eastern Shore of Virginia as Grover Cleveland (1837-1908). And no president before or since ever loved the Shore more or visited it as often.

By May 1886, Grover Cleveland had spent one night outside Cape Charles at “Hollywood,” the home of William L. Scott, the multimillionaire industrialist and Democratic congressman from Pennsylvania who was then engaged in developing the new town of Cape Charles.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

President Grover Cleveland took a shine to the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Cleveland traveled by train and returned to Washington, D.C., the following day. His one-day visit was the first time an incumbent president of the United States had ever set foot on the soil of

the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

It was during his second term that Cleveland became a more frequent visitor to the Shore, and his several visits began almost immediately.

November 1892 found the nation in fiscal crisis, with many people calling for an emergency session of Congress and Democratic office-seekers ready to besiege the new president.

Cleveland, who would not officially take office until March, calmly announced that he would consider no applications for offices prior to his inauguration and set out for some rest and relaxation. His destination was Hog Island, Virginia.

Hog Island was then a popular out-of-the-way spot for wealthy northern sportsmen, and Grover Cleveland loved to hunt and fish.

One friend who shared that passion was John S. Wise, an Eastern Shoreman, son of Gov. Henry A. Wise, who met Cleveland in New York towards the end of his first term.

Though he was a Republican and the president was a Democrat, the two men hunted and fished together a number of times, and Wise later described such days spent with Cleveland: “I have known him to sit on a calm, sunshiny day in a duck blind for 10 consecutive hours, with nothing but a simple luncheon to break his fast and nothing but whistlers and baffleheads coming in to his decoys, and return home at night with nothing but a dozen ‘trash’ ducks ... as content and uncomplaining as if he had enjoyed real sport.”

Soon after his re-election, Cleveland pushed business aside, “got out his tackle, and went to Hog Island after bluefish.”

He arrived on Nov. 23, 1892, and at week’s end the local Peninsula Enterprise reported that “President-elect Cleveland, accompanied by a few

(Continued on page 19)

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.”

Cleveland

(Continued from page 18)

friends, arrived in a special car over the NYP&N Railroad at Exmore station ... enroute to Hog Island, where he went, it is stated, to escape the office-seekers and to seek recreation and rest in gunning for a few days."

Despite his popularity on the Shore, only "a party of 50 Democrats or more who had heard of his coming were on hand to receive him on his arrival at Exmore."

The president spent a week and a half on Hog Island, then slipped back to Washington, D.C., as quietly as he had come, using the private car of the railroad superintendent.

It was the first of several visits. The exact number of times that Cleveland vacationed on Hog Island is uncertain; while still president he

was there at least once more, in June 1893, and possibly also a third and even a fourth time.

At least two Eastern Shoremen served as guides to the president during his visits to Hog Island: Henry Warren Doughty (1867-1960) and Thomas Major Doughty (1836-1925). On one of these visits, the presidential party returned from a day of fishing and walked up the land to their lodging, leaving Thomas Doughty to secure and tidy up the boat.

Among the party was Frank H. Taylor, an artist-reporter for the Boston Advocate, and when he later saw Doughty trudging up the same lane, wearily carrying sails, water jug, and trident from the boat, he made a hasty sketch of the man and gave it to him.

It is still preserved in the family, as is also the bed in which Cleveland is said to have slept.



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Shining a light on James E. Mears, forgotten Eastern Shore historian

One of the most prolific chroniclers of local history was James Egbert Mears, who was born on the Shore but left as a teenager and never returned as a full-time resident.

Mears was born in 1884 on the Robert Guy farm on Martin's Road in Hacks Neck, and over his lifetime compiled voluminous records of the history and genealogy of Accomack County.



Curtis Badger

Unfortunately, little remains of Mears' work that is readily available to the public.

In 1937 he published a book titled "Hacks Neck and its People — Past and Present."

The book was an exhaustive compendium of the families who inhabited the landscape, its history, and its character. The book was privately published, sold out, and gained collector status.

The rarest of Mears' work is a history of the Eastern Shore during the Civil War.

In 1957 he assembled a collection of writings titled "The Eastern Shore During the War of Secession and Reconstruction."

The collection consisted of typed pages, double spaced, hand laid in cardboard bindings, and each volume was about three inches thick.

Copies were given to the local governments and to the Library of Virginia. A copy is in the collection of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Heritage Center (ESPL) in Parksley.

These writings, along with columns published in *The Eastern Shore News*, provide a vivid portrait of the Eastern Shore in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Historian Brooks Miles Barnes says that Mears' research is invaluable to scholars today.



GHOTES PHOTO

James Egbert Mears is one of the Eastern Shore's most prolific chroniclers of local history.

"Mears' contribution to Eastern Shore history is surpassed by no one, including (Susie May) Ames and (Ralph T.) Whitelaw," says Barnes. "Consulting his work is a must for anyone studying the 19th and 20th centuries."

Mears grew up in Pungoteague and when he was writing his memoirs in the 1930s the events of the 1890s seemed to be fresh in his mind.

"When I was a boy — in the 1890s — going to Pungoteague on Saturday afternoon was almost a ritual; it was an event to which farm boys looked forward. If a man wished to meet, without previous appointment, an acquaintance living almost anywhere in the Pungoteague Magisterial District, west of the railroad,

the chance of seeing him at Pungoteague on such an afternoon was good."

Mears left the Shore when he was 17, and according to his bio in "Hacks Neck and Its People," he lived a nomadic life, beginning in southwest Virginia and Tennessee, then moving to Florida, where he was in the tourism business, and eventually to Chicago, where he led tours to both national and international destinations.

Meanwhile, he wrote freelance material for a variety of newspapers, including *The Eastern Shore News*. His column "The Shore Line" was a regular feature in the newspaper, dealing with the people and history of his homeland, Hacks Neck.

Mears remained single until age 48, when he married the widow Carline Corcoran of Chicago, whose husband had been killed in the first World War.

Mears has unfortunately been overlooked as a local historian, one whose research from the period of the Civil War to the early 20th century is unmatched.

The reason is that he was never published, with the exception of the Hacks Neck book, which he self-published in Chicago.

Other local historians of note are known and remembered for the books they published. Whitelaw's classic two-volume set, "Virginia's Eastern Shore," has been a collector's item for generations.

Ames was widely published, as were Jennings C. Wise and John Sergeant Wise, whose book "The End of an Era," was published in 1899 by Houghton Mifflin.

Perhaps in this digital age, the time has come to give James E. Mears his due and his voice. Mears' double-spaced typed manuscript could be scanned and shared with readers with the click of a mouse.

He wrote his last column in the 1960s and passed away on July 8, 1975, in Broward County, Fla.

He is buried in the cemetery of St. Georges Episcopal Church in his beloved Pungoteague. Perhaps the time has come to let his light shine.

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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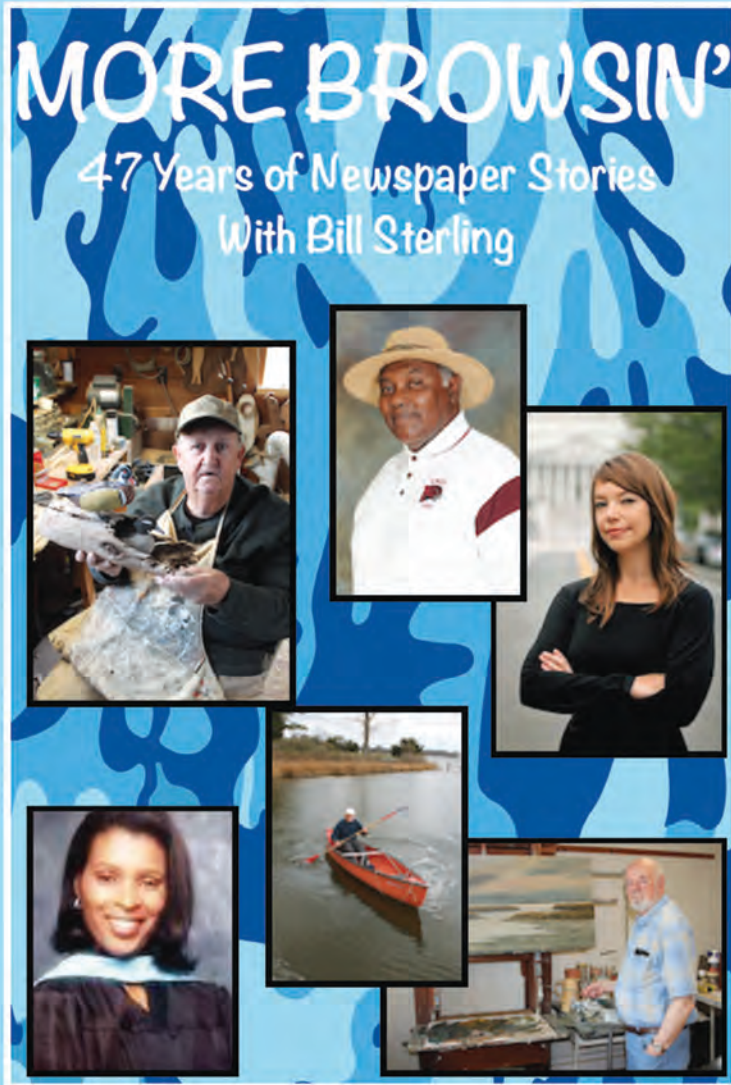


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MORE BROWSIN'



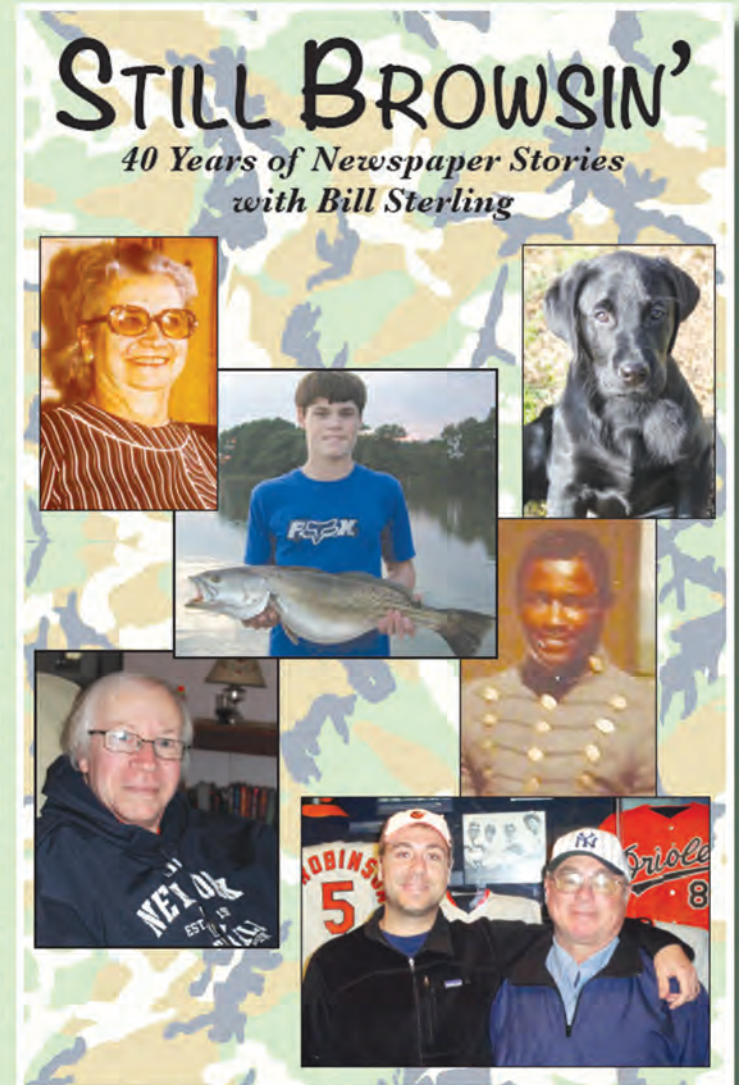
More Browsin' is a collection of Bill Sterling's 47 years writing for newspapers and magazines, including stories on athletes such as Marshall Cropper, Ronnie Killmon, Monica Shields, Tyler Webb, Bobby Brown, Felicia Johnson, Dallas Parks, Ace Custis, Samantha Tadder, Frank Havens, Danny Pickett and Kenny Collins, as well as stories on artists such as Willie Crockett, Buck Doughty, Carroll Lee Marshall, Eddy Dixon, Chet DeGavre and Ellen McCaleb. Also featured are media figures like Emily Heil, Paige Bull Tatum, George Reiger, Steven Ginsberg and Eddie Williams. The book also includes profiles on Eastern Shore towns Pungoteague, Saxis and Nassawadox, plus stories on Sterling's hunting and hunting adventures and thoughts on living on Virginia's Eastern Shore.



Great Gift Idea!



STILL BROWSIN'



Still Browsin', Sterling's first book published in 2016, is also a compilation of columns and feature stories from his award-winning career. Tad Beach, Coach Trent Serini, Hurricane Pete Peterson, Grayson Chesser, John Parsons, Robert Savage, Harold Wheatley, Starr Boggs, Scorchy Tawes, Thomas Young and Mike Castagna are just a few of the personalities featured in this book. *Still Browsin'* also includes a healthy dose of Sterling's outdoor experiences while fishing, hunting or just enjoying his native Eastern Shore. Both books include personal experiences that touch themes binding all of us.

100 years ago
November 1924

Big car ferries for Cape Charles

The world's largest car ferries, a pair of them, will be built by the Pennsylvania Railroad to transport 40 car trains across the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay from Cape Charles to Little Creek.

No vessel of their kind, barring one which plies between Key West, Fla., and Havana, Cuba, and another recently placed in service on the Great Lakes by the Pere Marquette railroad, will approach in size the craft which the Pennsy plans.

Their length will be approximately 400 feet, which is longer than the average ocean-going steamer. But where sea-going vessels draw from 25 to 40 feet of water, the Pennsy's car ferries are being designed for a draft of between 12 and 14 feet. They will, using an expression which has been employed to describe the light-draft sternwheelers of the Mississippi, be able to "navigate on a heavy dew." Their unusual design is due to the fact that the approaches, both to Little Creek and Cape Charles harbor, are shallow. The marine architects who have been working on the plans for the Pennsy's steamers admit that they have had a man-size problem to solve.

Officials of the railroad company have divulged that preliminary plans for the pair of boats, which will be expected to handle the increased volume of business across the bay, which will follow completion of the Little Creek terminal project, upon which work is due to start soon, were drawn several years ago. Now they are being revised, and it was intimated today would soon be finished. It was indicated, however, that the railroad probably would not ask bids on their construction at once, as they can be built in much shorter time than it will take to complete the work at Little Creek, and the railroad will have no use for them until the Little Creek terminal is ready.

The distance between Little Creek and Cape Charles is 24 miles, and including time for undocking and docking, the new craft, whose speed will be 14 miles per hour, are being counted on to make the trip in two hours flat, or nearly an hour under the running time between Cape Charles and Norfolk.

Both freight and passenger trains, it is understood, will be transported across the bay on the ferry steamers. There also will be accommodation upon them for local passengers. Provisions for the transportation of automobiles are being made.

— *The Roanoke Times*

Cotton and tomatoes to be grown on Eastern Shore

Since growing potatoes on such a large scale in both Northampton and Accomack counties has been realized by the farmers to be a serious mistake, resulting in the crop being marketed for the last three years at a loss, other crops to take the place of "King Spud" have been under consideration by the growers for some time.

A series of farmers meetings have been held in different sections of the county to determine the advisability of growing both cotton and tomatoes. According to announcements made this week by leading farmers of Northampton County, 1,500 acres of tomatoes and 500 acres of cotton will be under cultivation in this county next year, thereby reducing potato acreage by more than 2,000 acres.

— *Ledger-Star*

Man is silent on queries in 14 languages

Either a Magyar or insane is the verdict of the immigration authorities after unsuccessfully trying 14 languages on a bearded, slouchy man, apparently middle-aged, who was picked up in Cape Charles recently without anything to show where he was from or how he managed to enter this country, according to a letter from Edwin B. Schmucker, district director of the immigration service here, to Chief of Police Ironmonger.

Director Schmucker in his letter said that the police will bring the man before a lunacy commission. If insane, he could be incarcerated in an asylum, while if sane he could be deported later, the letter says.

The man was brought to Norfolk Friday evening from Cape Charles by W.F. Bloxom, of Cheriton, who turned him over to the immigration authorities. Interpreters at the immigration office tried Russian, French, German, Latvian, Slovakian, and the languages of the Balkan states on the mysterious visitor but were unable to get any results. Finally they were forced to the decision that he was either insane or else one of the nomadic Magyar tribes of Siberia and Eastern Russia. None of the interpreters could converse in the guttural language of the Magyar tribes, so this avenue of approach to the personality of the man was closed.

The police lodged him in a detention cell pending further investigation. A charge of va-

grancy was put against him and he was docketed as the inmate of cell number seven.

— *The Daily News Leader*

Ship 12 carloads of fish

The sum of \$60,000 was realized from a single day's catch of fish yesterday in the pounds just off the beach opposite Exmore, this county, when 12 refrigerator cars moved to the markets 1,500 barrels of gray trout that averaged the fishermen \$40 a barrel.

It was the biggest catch of the season and possibly in years of any of the seaside fishermen and came at a time when the season is about to close. The fish industries along the coast of the two Eastern Shore of Virginia counties have had a comparatively poor season.

Operating under an expense that exceeds \$1,000 a day, the Exmore-Willis Wharf fishermen are possibly the largest single fishing concerns along the Atlantic seaboard south of the New England states. Their fish pounds are offshore, directly opposite Exmore, the upper end of Northampton County. Their catches for the season will exceed 400 carloads.

— *Ledger-Star*

Sportsmen report good shooting on Eastern Shore

With wild ducks arriving on the seaside marshes between Cape Charles and Chincoteague Island in greater numbers than is usual at this season of the year, sportsmen of Accomack and Northampton counties came in last week with well-filled bags and reported exceptionally good shooting.

The marshes between the ocean beach and the mainland of the two Eastern Shore of Virginia counties are becoming more popular shooting grounds each year.

— *Ledger-Star*

75 years ago
November 1949

SCC to tour Eastern Shore for rail study

Members of the State Corporation Commission go to the Eastern Shore of Virginia tomorrow to inspect a 58-mile strip of the Pennsylvania Railroad that wants to knock off 14 agency

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stations in one swoop.

The commissioners, H. Lester Hooker, W. Marshall King, and Ralph T. Catterall, will go to Cape Charles from Old Point by Pennsylvania ferry tomorrow morning and will start a tour of the line between Cape Charles and Girdletree, Md., at 1:30 p.m. They will be accompanied by W.C. Seibert, the commerce counsel of the commission.

The stations at which the Pennsylvania wants to end service are Kiptopeke, Townsend, Capeville, Bayview, Cobbs, Weirwood, Keller, Melfa, Hopeton, Bloxom, Mears, Makemie Park, Oak Hall, and Franklin City.

It is proposed to take carload shipments hitherto picked up at these points at Cape Charles, Cheriton, Nassawadox, Painter, Hallwood, Lecato, Parksley, and Girdletree.

The railroad contends that between Jan. 1 and Aug. 1 this year, gross revenue originating at the 14 stations they want to remove has fallen off 57.6%, while costs have been going up.

All the stations are on the Delmarva Division of the Pennsylvania, which operates from Cape Charles northward to New York.

There are 28 stations on the division and the proposal to reduce the number by 14 is considered one of the most sweeping of such economies planned by a Virginia railroad.

— *The Richmond News Leader*

Three Accomack men held in robbery

Three Wachapreague men are charged with robbery of \$50 and a cash register and a quantity of ale and beer from Hyman Walman's store, near Wachapreague, the sheriff's office said.

Two released under \$1,000 bond are: Tommie Colonna, 21, and Thomas Pruitt Jr., 25. Norman Pepler, 26, is still being held in lieu of \$1,000 bond in the Accomack County jail.

Police said they were identified near the store that was robbed early Friday morning.

The cash register was found on a golf driving range on North Division Street in Salisbury, Md., police said.

Henry Lamanque, owner of the driving range, found it there yesterday.

Salisbury police checked the register's serial number and notified the Accomack County authorities.

— *The Daily Times*

Bids set for work on research plant at Wallops Island

The National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics has called for sealed bids on the construction of roads, utilities, and other expansion of the research facilities at Wallops Island in Accomack County. Bids will be opened Dec. 1 at 10 a.m. at the committee's Langley Air Force Base office.

Plans prepared by the engineering department at Langley call for access roads to be built, the extension and relocation of the existing seawall, construction of a launching platform, two instrument stations, a ram jet fuel building and pile foundations for a future solid propellant shop, in addition to outside water and air lines, electrical work, and a sewage disposal system.

The plan of construction specifies that the radar station and its access roads must be built first and must be completed within 60 days after the work gets underway. The launching platform and its circular road are second on the construction schedule.

The specifications and the plans for the construction can be seen at the Builders and Contractors Exchange in the Monticello Arcade.

The Wallops Island research facilities are located on the oceanfront a short distance from the Pennsylvania Railroad station at Hallwood.

The proposed new construction there will be the second recent expansion of Air Force research facilities in this area. Last week, the NACA called for bids on the construction of a new gas dynamics laboratory at Langley Air Force Base.

— *The Virginian-Pilot*

Tangier sends gift, check to hospital

Remote Tangier Island sent a gift of linens and a check for the Sheltering Arms Hospital today.

The hospital had cared for a patient from the island. Women there held a meeting and collected a supply of linens, which, with the check, arrived within a week of the regular hospital Donation Day.

Approximately \$12,000 in cash and considerable supplies of vegetables and canned food from schools and churches were also received at the Donation Day last Thursday, members of the board reported. Donations came from many rural points.

Members of the junior board of the hospital will be on hand this afternoon at 5 p.m. to receive baskets of foodstuffs sent from various Richmond public schools.

— *The Richmond News Leader*

50 years ago
November 1974

Persistence pays off for Eastern Shore waterman

Edward Bender, a Cape Charles waterman who became his own "lawyer," won his zoning application case Tuesday after an almost two-year legal battle with Northampton County officials.

Unshaven, wearing muddy, knee-high rubber boots, with his flannel shirt tail hanging out, Bender appeared before the Zoning Board of Appeals, where the case began in May 1973, to ask that he be granted a permit to clean and pack fish in Cape Charles.

The board, which Bender charged was hostile toward him and acted out of political motivation originally, was in a conciliatory mood in voting unanimously to grant him the permit with no strings attached.

Denying charges of political motivation, members said Tuesday they acted as they did originally because they didn't understand "exactly" what Bender wanted to do.

Board member John E. Tankard Jr. asked Bender, "What did my politics have to do with it?"

Bender replied, "Well, I just didn't see why it was denied."

Tankard replied, "I'm very unpolitically minded. I just didn't have enough information."

Bender, an Eastern Shore native who returned to Cape Charles to live and start a commercial fishing business in 1973, became enraged when his permit was denied by the board by a vote that was taken in a closed session.

He launched an investigation of the board. He spent about \$200 to buy himself a set of Virginia Code books, hired a lawyer, started various appeal actions, and meanwhile ran as an independent for the Shore seat.

The long legal process caused him to give up his lawyer and become "one myself," he said.

He found that George F. Parsons, chairman of the board, was simultaneously serving as a member of the school board and on the appeals board, a violation of state law.

Parsons retired from the school board as a result of Bender's actions. And when it came time for him to get a hearing before the circuit court judge, Bender contended he didn't believe he could get a fair hearing before the local judge.

Virginia Beach Circuit Court Judge Austin E. Owen was assigned to hear the case when Bender

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got the local judge to disqualify himself.

During the court hearing held Sept. 26, Bender proved to Owen's satisfaction that the board acted illegally, in violation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, by voting in closed sessions.

Owen, in a subsequent decision, agreed with the controversial fisherman and ordered the zoning appeals board to rehear the case.

Tuesday's meeting was the result of Owen's ruling.

Bender, who had been on his boat fishing prior to the 11 a.m. meeting, was the first on the agenda but didn't arrive until just before the meeting ended.

After the board's vote, a smiling Bender said he had to get back "to the boat. I got fish in them nets."

— *The World-News*

Virginia man given 30 years in bank robbery

A 28-year-old Nassawadox man was sentenced to 30 years in prison for the Oct. 3 holdup of the National Bank of Northampton in Nassawadox. James Arthur Crudup was charged in the \$7,581 theft.

Crudup and his brother, George Allen Crudup, were arrested at the south island of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel by state police less than two hours after the bank was robbed at gunpoint at 1 p.m.

Special Investigator for State Police J.K. Adams said that \$7,581 was stolen from the bank. "All except \$131 was recovered," Robert C. Oliver, Commonwealth Attorney for Northampton County added.

George Allen Crudup was not charged in connection with the robbery but was charged with a misdemeanor, Oliver said.

— *The Daily Times*

Identity sought of man sold as laborer

Eastern State Hospital officials are trying to determine the identity of a retarded Black man who says he was sold to a migrant labor crew in New York last summer.

The mental institution has no background information about the man other than what he has told them — that he is "Fred Jackson from New York."

The 5-foot-6, 130-pound man was picked up by a Northampton County sheriff's deputy because he

appeared lost.

"He had no papers on him but said he was brought here from New York by a migrant labor crew to pick tomatoes," Deputy Sheriff Kellam Doughty said.

When the man arrived at the hospital in July, he weighed only 90 pounds. Doctors say he still is underdeveloped and probably is microcephalic, a form of mental retardation characterized by an extremely small skull.

Jackson told a social worker that "a man gave my father some money and then took me away to pick tomatoes."

Jackson said he would like to be returned to his father, "who I ain't seen in about a year," and his brother, "Charles, who's older than me," and his sister, "Kate — she's 12."

"It's a believable story," said Doughty. "Some of the migrants go to New York on weekends and pick up the retarded off Skid Row and bring them back to work in the fields.

"If they can work, fine. If they can't, they put them out."

Dr. Hugh Stokes, assistant superintendent of the hospital, said Jackson "seems very happy." He said conversing with the man was difficult and often his statements were contradictory.

Once he told Stokes, "I'm goin' back to New York to pick tobacco."

Jackson's case is complicated by a new state law that prohibits state institutions from holding mentally retarded persons unless they have been committed by those responsible for them.

A judge already has decided that Jackson needs protection and should be confined. Another hearing will be held within six months. If his family is not found, he probably will be transferred to a training school for the mentally retarded.

But officials here are at a loss to find out more about Jackson's family.

— *The Roanoke Times*

Accomack school break-in probed

The Accomack County Sheriff's Office is investigating an overnight break-in at the S. Accomack Elementary, located at Bob Town between Accomac and Pungoteague.

L.W. Trent, the school's principal, said the cafeteria was entered by breaking a window, and as far as had been determined, the theft consisted of food items. Although Mr. Trent said a complete inventory had not been taken.

Virginia State Police were also investigating a breaking and entering at the Red Barn Gro-

cery Store at Wachapreague, which was reported this morning. Police said a preliminary investigation revealed that cigarettes had been stolen and the store had been generally ransacked.

— *The Daily Times*

Ocean Hiway joins Onancock to push colonial house

Brooks Russell, president of the Ocean Hiway Assn., has announced that the Town of Onancock has joined the association to promote Kerr Place, which was recently named a national historic site.

Kerr Place is a two-story brick mansion with classical architecture built around 1790 by John Shepard, of Scotland. The central section, which is gabled, extends forward with a pedimented, fan-lighted entrance. The walls of the drawing room were originally papered with life-size pictures of one of the Caesars. From the ceiling still hangs a chandelier, a duplicate of one that hangs in the Governor's Palace at Williamsburg.

The house, which is one of the oldest remaining brick homes in America today, is now operated by the historical association, which conducts scheduled tours for visitors April through October.

Onancock was established in 1680 and was named the county seat that same year, a position it held until 1786. Kerr Place is one of several of the colonial points of interest that Onancock visitors will see as the bicentennial gains enthusiasm among travelers.

A color photograph of the house will be one of the 15 attractions pictured on the 1975 edition of the Ocean Hiway Strip Map. Over a quarter of a million of these maps are distributed annually by the Ocean Hiway Assn., its members, AAA Motor Clubs, oil company tour bureaus, and state and locally operated information centers. Next year's Ocean Hiway Motorists Guide will also include a picture of the house with more detailed information such as hours of operation and admission fees.

— *The Daily Times*

Sightless Chincoteague boy is radio dispatcher

The Department of Interior's National Park Service has utilized the services of many handicapped people in its "Volunteer in the Parks" program, but never before has the agency had a blind, 15-year-old, eighth grade boy serve as a radio dispatcher.

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Yesteryears

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Curtis L. Merritt, of Chincoteague, is no ordinary student. Blind since infancy, he has not let his handicap limit his pursuit of unusual activities in life.

Indeed, how many other 15-year-olds have served as a ranger's dispatcher?

Curtis' chance came thanks to the efforts of Melvin L. Olsen, Virginia District ranger at the Park Service's Assateague Island National Seashore. Olsen knew the Eastern Shore blind boy to be industrious, intelligent, and anxious to help an island he could not see. Ranger Olsen encouraged the student to serve in his office as a volunteer radio dispatcher and telephone operator this past summer.

Using such aids as a faceless clock with raised letters to record the time of all incidents, Curtis handled his tasks with ease. With his Braille writer and tape recorder, he maintained an accurate log of all data pertinent to the Virginia operation.

In his spare time, Curtis compiled in Braille a complete alphabetized law enforcement card file, which lists previous violations of seashore regulations. The index is of great assistance to the ranger in the field who needs an immediate identification check on an individual for a possible previous violation record. Using an ordinary typewriter, Curtis converted the daily Braille log into a typewritten record, which all employees could utilize.

"This young man is to be commended for his ability and display of professionalism," said Ranger Olsen. "At Assateague we found his handicap to be one of inspiration rather than limitation, and the seashore staff hopes to see him in the dispatcher's chair again next summer."

— *The Daily Times*

25 years ago
November 1999

Tracks across the tides

In April 1885, a stocky tugboat towing a barge loaded with railroad cars made its first trip across 26 watery miles of the Chesapeake Bay.

The steel barge with railroad tracks that carried train cars from Norfolk to Cape Charles and back was an engineering marvel designed by Alexander Cassatt for the birth of a Shore railroad: the New York, Philadelphia, and Norfolk Railroad.

More than 100 years later, the train-floating

operation still plies the bay, keeping the Eastern Shore railroad on track. Amazingly, the daily operation is unknown to some locals who think the trains that run down the spine of the Eastern Shore stop at the tip and simply turn around.

"It's a unique operation we have," says Eastern Shore Railroad general manager Larry LeMond. "It's why we have a harbor. It's why we have a town."

On a recent summer-like morning, the Bay Tide, a perky red tug, eased out of Cape Charles harbor with a 414-foot-long barge carrying 22 empty cars to Little Creek, the southernmost part of the Eastern Shore Railroad Line.

Common shipments are stone, coal, and cocoa beans. Uncommon cargo includes an occasional hobo and an orange cat named Fred that was adopted by the railroad after he stowed away on a trip to the Shore.

"He didn't want to pay the toll," LeMond said.

On this trip are chief engineer Scott Ellmann, who called Cape Charles home after he married a local girl, deckhand Darrell Clark, who served 11 years in the U.S. Navy as an engineer, and another deckhand, Ike Judy.

You can't miss first mate John Hammer, 21, though, with diamond earring, gold chain, and house slippers he wears on board for comfort.

Capt. Willie Lewis, 58, is the old salt you would expect to see running a gritty workboat — weathered face, bulbous nose, piercing blue eyes, and a wit that has kept him afloat since he started working the water at the age of 16.

Leaving Cape Charles harbor, it seems impossible that the huge barge trailing behind is connected with just eight-inch-thick rope.

The run to Little Creek is monotonous, says Lewis, but a good crew makes all the difference.

"You're closer to the guys on a tug than you are your wife," he says. "You have a fight with your wife, one of you can leave. Here, you're stuck with each other, so you better get along."

The crew works six hours on, six hours off, living, eating, and sleeping on the tug, which can turn into their home for 30 days at a time.

"We have everything here but booze," Lewis said, "and I drink enough of that when I'm home."

With Cape Charles out of sight, the bank of windows in the wheelhouse shows nothing but shades of blue. The scene changes little during the crossing, with only a scattering of boats to share the bay.

Recreational boats can be the bane of the tug crew's existence when they cut across the tug's path as if it can stop on a dime.

"I have a saying out here," Lewis said. "Fiber-

glass gives way to steel, little steel gives way to bigger steel. If they're bigger than I am, I get out of their way."

Hammer speaks of the dolphins they saw recently. The captain tells of pilot whales a few years ago.

Not much changes as the tug pulls along on autopilot at a speed of six knots until about two miles out from the Western Shore. Then it's time for the crew to tie the tug alongside the barge for the trip into Little Creek Marina.

Hammer takes over piloting the tug as Lewis heads to his cabin for some needed rest. When it's pointed out that Hammer looks more like he should be cruising a mall than cruising the bay, Lewis laughs.

"When he first got here he wasn't worth the .22 bullet to shoot him, but he learned fast. He's one of the best."

Outside, the crew's teamwork makes the tie-up to the barge seem effortless. Hammer controls the throttle from the stern. Judy and Ellman travel nimbly between tug and barge. A flock of gulls free-load on the cars, as they have done since the barge left Cape Charles.

Back in the wheelhouse, Hammer pulls slowly into Little Creek, where hulking gray Navy ships rise up next to upscale townhouses, and Navy Seals zip by on training excursions.

Now comes the delicate operation of lining up the barge to the stationary track at the harbor.

Hammer follows the radio directions called out by Ellman. Their patter is comprehensible only to them.

"Here," said Hammer, never losing his calm demeanor, "you can't get bent out of shape, even if something goes wrong."

At 1:15 p.m., the barge is ready to be unloaded. That will take an hour, and then the barge will be reloaded by the Eastern Shore Railroad for a return trip across the bay to Cape Charles.

Alex Parry, of the Eastern Shore Railroad, is waiting and points out the old ferry slip, empty but for the memory of the glory days of the railroad. Yet the floating train that was a marvel in the Victorian era still amazes today.

— *The Daily Times*

Washed over by time

There's been so much erosion of the 50 or so acres of Half Moon Island over the last couple decades that it has become difficult to follow the crescent-shaped coast for which it was named, said Frank Ewell, 88.

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Yesteryears

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Until recent years, folks accustomed to a life before hunting laws, building restrictions, and multiple taxes assumed the island was unclaimed territory. It just seemed part of the old fabric of life on Hunting Creek, off Pocomoke Sound in Accomack County.

Half Moon Island was considered community property, like so many of the small, uninhabited islands along the east side of the Chesapeake Bay. People used to shoot fowl here and fish around the island, and skipjack owner and merchant Frank C. Lewis peddled the ill-gotten game (50 cents a duck, cleaned and picked) to affluent Accomack lawyers.

The island was widely known for its unusually white sandy beaches and was the site of Calvary Church picnics for decades. Each year on a Saturday in late August, workboats loaded with families crowded one section of the beach for a meal featuring generous helpings of Eastern Shore fare. While some ate, others walked the shallow waters raking clams.

Now the clams are a thing of the past, and the island in the Pocomoke Sound is slowly washing away.

Nearby is Jack's Island, a 500-acre spit of land that was once home to a working farm and the century-old Justis family graveyard. The island was unique in that it contained an "artisan flow," where fishermen filled 50-gallon kegs with fresh water to store aboard their boats.

Jack's Island was also home to a "caveman."

"Some old man named Cartwright had a cave there he lived in with his son," said Sidney Sherwood, 86. He would "come once a month to Huntin' Creek to get his groceries in a small boat with a homemade sail.

"He made a cave out of the cellar where the old house burned. He just laid claim to the land, stayed there two or three years."

The "caveman" collected cow pies, stacks of them, in his one-room retreat and burned them like wood ("they glowed like hot coals") in the winter, Sherwood said.

Later, another man laid claim to Jack's Island and charged families to graze their cows there for a season. Cows were led to the island, Sherwood said, by raising a small bridge connecting the mainland to the island.

Some produce was grown there and moved by barge to Justisville and then on to the train

station in Parksley. Each fall, farmers raked "pine shatters," the brown needles of pine trees, and worked them into the fields on the island to keep the ground from compacting. Except for being isolated, farmwork on the island was much the same as it was elsewhere — a way of life for generations of Eastern Shoremen.

— *The Daily Times*

History on the hoof

On the hoof, his pork chops, fat back, and ham hocks were legendary. Few on Virginia's Eastern Shore had ever seen so much hog. At 1,103 pounds, Jumbo commanded awe from spectators and envy from farmers desirous of the honor — ah, the glory — of growing such an enormous package of bacon.

And when the day came in 1900 that Jumbo was headed for the sausage stuffer, he reached the zenith of hog fame — hundreds waged bets on his weight, thousands came to see him — before and after his demise — and the local press had a wildfire story.

Reporters from *The Farmer and Waterman* in Belle Haven, the *Morning Herald* in Baltimore, the *Sussex Corinthian* in Laurel, and the *Richmond Dispatch* were among those covering the major news story. Yet the story began a year earlier, when George Thomas Mapp, who ran the Keller Hotel in the late 1890s, bought two hogs to see how big they'd grow. The preferred breed at the time was Poland China, but these were mixed with the lowly Swamp Rooter.

"He put those hogs up and started slopping them," said Otho "O.W." Mears, "and they were getting bigger and bigger, one in particular," which Mapp called Jumbo, a "mammoth hog."

Jumbo was putting on weight so fast he soon became a local celebrity.

Hotel patrons began asking Mapp weekly for weight updates. So Mapp, ever the businessman, created a "guess the hog's weight contest," charging 10 cents a guess for a cash pot.

"He started months in advance, putting out brochures through the drummers (salesmen) for folks to guess what the hog would weigh at the appointed day — Tuesday, Feb. 6, 1900," Mears said, excitement in his voice as he retold the century-old tale.

Before dawn, Mears said, people poured into Keller to witness the official weighing of the 8-foot-long monumental hog. They came by train, ox cart, horse, mule and wagon, and, of course, on foot, for miles to see the unique hog.

"Every train that day was loaded," Mears said, "People couldn't get in town fast enough." The impending end of the porker drew the biggest crowd imaginable. It was history in the making.

When men in the crowd of 1,500 celebrated the event with "John Barley Corn (whiskey) ruling the day," Mears said, Deputy Sheriff Tank Kellam had to be summoned. It was "nip and tuck between Tank and John Barley Corn. They had a regular bear's hug, over and over, down in the mud they had at it, while the boys yelled with delight," one story noted. Tank won and the drunkards were removed.

"Never in the history of the Eastern Shore was so much interest manifested and so many in attendance at the killing or execution of an animal or man in this county," read one newspaper account that also noted every road into Keller was jammed with carts, wagons, and carriages of all manner.

A famous hog deserved an equally famous executioner, and Mapp, dubbed the "King Hog Raiser," employed the talents of James Harmon, "the well-known Eastern Shore champion hog stickler," Mears said. "He entered the pen with eight assistants (to hold the hog) and an 18-inch knife, and in a few minutes it was over." The knife was wrapped to limit blood loss prior to weighing.

"Harmon, of Wachapreague, stabbed the hog with a great deal of skill and exactness. His act in the killing is one of which he can boast for a lifetime," jotted one reporter.

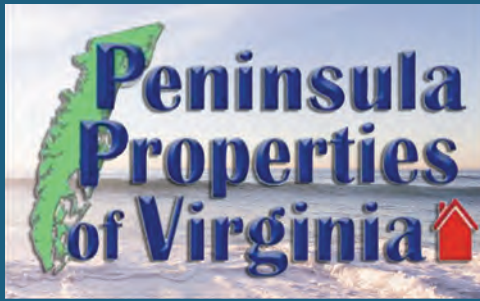
To add to the importance of the occasion, Mapp, whose son, Edwin, was Mears' uncle, purchased a special new set of scales on which to weigh the late celebrity.

ITJ Brown, of Princess Anne, won the weight guess with amazing accuracy (1,102 ½ pounds) out of 1,312 entries and passed up the cash (\$131, a small fortune), and claimed Jumbo as his prize.

Within minutes, Jumbo was hauled "by a dozen brawny arms," to an iron pot and dipped. The pot measured 4-feet, 4-inches across the top, 3-feet, 2-inches deep, and was filled with 135 gallons of scalding water.

Loaded on a flatbed rail car, the winner and his prize — "the second largest hog ever heard of" — stopped at every station between Keller and Princess Anne so thousands could see Virginia's most acclaimed porker. As for Mapp, he tried to match his success with a second hog but fell pounds short of Jumbo's record.

— *The Daily Times*



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PENDING



4243 ADRON ST, EXMORE, VA
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Buying your first home or downsizing? This cozy bungalow is the place for you. Priced below recently appraised \$160,000. This home is located close to public boat ramp and shopping. Lovely 2 bedroom cottage with large backyard, good-sized rooms, eat-in kitchen. Lots of extras: large walk-in shower, ceramic tile bathroom floor, high end kitchen appliances, ceiling fans, under cabinet task lighting, and tile backsplash in kitchen. Excellent wifi in area. Security system present but not used by current owner. Room dimensions approximate. Driveway on left. Buyer's choice-Seller offering \$2000 towards closing costs or as carpet/paint allowance payable at closing.



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CLOSED LISTINGS:



Sold 11/1 MLS 61898 \$353,000

KIPTOPEKE CONDO: 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 bath allowing for another primary downstairs. Tiled floors throughout downstairs. 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. \$325/mo HOA. Includes, water/sewer, trash, landscaping, exterior insurance.



**Sold 10/16
MLS 57048
\$52,000**

For your weekend get-away, this partially wooded lot 21.00 acres in size is an excellent parcel for recreational use, particularly hunting (remains of a deer blind exist on the property). One of Accomack public boat ramps, Anns Cove, is just about a mile down the road, which offers direct access for fishing and boating on the Chesapeake Bay! Remnants of a house exist on the vacant lot which was torn down sometime in the '80s according to one of the owners.