



HISTORY • REAL ESTATE • FOOD • FUN •
Shore First
January 2025
Vol. 8, No. 9
ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA

FREE
TAKE ONE

**A TRIP TO EXPLORE FISHERMAN
ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE** | 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
P.O. Box 47
Exmore, VA 23350

TELEPHONE: 757-789-7678
FAX: 757-787-7681

JIM RITCH

Publisher

publisher@easternshorepost.com

WILLIAM E. SHOCKLEY III

Editor, General Manager

editor@easternshorepost.com

CONTRIBUTORS

CURTIS BADGER

SARAH BARBAN

LAURA DAVIS

NANCY DRURY DUNCAN

JONI HAMILTON

STEFANIE BOWMANN

CAROL VAUGHN

JANET BERNOSKY

BETSY SEYBOLT

MILES LAYTON

RYAN WEBB

KIRK MARINER (1943-2017)

CANDY FARLOW (1953-2017)

VISIT

www.EasternShorePost.com



COURTESY PHOTO

David Rogers, of "Mama Girl Art," greets Arts Fest visitors at last year's February Arts Fest.

ESCC event spotlights local, regional artists

Eastern Shore Community College has announced this year's February Arts Fest will be held in the Main Academic Building on campus in Melfa, on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A popular showcase for local and regional creativity, the event will feature two floors full of a variety of talents and offerings, plus live musical performances and food options as well.

A refinement of the former ESCC Heritage Festival that was held for many years, the February Arts Fest concentrates on the impressive amount of creativity and artistic talent on the Shore and surrounding areas.

With an increased number of Saturday classes being held on campus, the college determined that the event would need to be staged entirely in the new Academic Building.

While the Heritage Festival incorporated a broader theme, the February Arts Festival is more focused and driven by creativity.

Now in the second year, this approach has proven

popular with participants and visitors alike, making the offerings much more accessible and weather-proof in an always-unpredictable February.

The February Arts Fest attracts painters in all media, woodcrafters and carvers, sculpting, ceramics, fiber, photography, digital art, and much more.

The two stories of the ESCC Academic Building will be bursting with offerings created by talented residents, including some ESCC students and instructors.

In addition, local and regional musicians will be entertaining in the student lounge, where food and refreshments will be on sale.

The event is made possible by the ESCC Foundation, which provides support to students attending Eastern Shore Community College.

There is a \$25 registration fee for artists, which will be requested upon confirmation of participation. Artists can register online by Jan. 31 at es.vccs.edu

Questions about the event or registration can be directed to Bill LeCato at 757-789-1797 or email wlecat@es.vccs.edu.



ALL NATURAL • NO ADDITIVES OR PRESERVATIVES



MADE FROM SCRATCH EACH WEEK

ON THE

EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA

Eastern Shore Post

LOCALLY
OWNED &
OPERATED

THE GENUINE ARTICLE SINCE 1999

TOP
QUALITY

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTION

Created in batches of 12,000 each week and delivered every Friday

THE EASTERN SHORE'S NEWSPAPER

Always online at www.easternshorepost.com



WARNING: READING THE EASTERN SHORE POST CAN BE ADDICTIVE

A winter tour of Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuge

BY JIM RITCH

Eastern Shore Post

One of the Eastern Shore's most pristine beaches and a hideout of local history opens to the public only in the late fall and dead of winter.

For the hardy and curious, the southernmost tip of the Eastern Shore, Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuge, becomes accessible through guided tours on Saturday mornings from the first Saturday in October through the last Saturday in February.

Unveiled are concrete blockhouses and rusted towers of the island's former military career as watchdog over the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay.

Also on display is a beach reserved for most of the year for piping plovers, oyster catchers, and other birds that nest in the open.

On Dec. 21, the tour began at 8:15 a.m. at the Fish and Wildlife Service's visitor center at 32205 Seaside Road.

(Participants shouldn't confuse this with the Welcome Center on Route 13 at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel.)

After registration and a brief period to view displays, volunteer Bob Toner, of Onancock, a master naturalist for 16 years, explained the curious history of an island naturally grown of eroded sand.

When he arrived at the Chesapeake Bay in 1608, Captain John Smith probably never noticed any beginnings of Fisherman Island, and consequently named after himself a nearby island that is no longer the Shore's southern tip.

Fisherman Island began as a hazard

(Continued on page 6)



SHORE FIRST/JIM RITCH

The Rayfield family, of Cape Charles, walks the Fisherman Island beach during a guided tour on Dec. 21. In foreground rise pilings of a former dock where provisions were delivered to the island's garrison. Beyond the dock are spans of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. From left are Hobbs Rayfield and his parents, Berkley and Joy.

ARTS ENTER CAPE CHARLES

- established in 1997 -

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 1, 2025 | 7:30PM



THE DAVE MATTHEWS TRIBUTE BAND

ADULTS \$40 & STUDENTS \$15
HISTORIC PALACE THEATRE
BUY TICKETS NOW



FEBRUARY 8, 2025 | 7:30PM



Valentine DANCE
with the
SHOAL SHAKERS
CHAMPAGNE | CHOCOLATE | DANCING
festive attire

ALL TICKETS \$25
HISTORIC PALACE THEATRE
BUY TICKETS NOW



FEBRUARY 15, 2025 | 7:30PM



THE DELOREANS
ULTIMATE 80'S TRIBUTE BAND

ADULTS \$30 & STUDENTS \$15
HISTORIC PALACE THEATRE
BUY TICKETS NOW



APRIL 6, 2025 | 4PM - 8PM

Honor the heritage & enrich the future of Arts Enter Cape Charles

Save the Date

BENEFIT BY THE BAY

For more than 25 years, this traditional fundraising event has helped support education in the arts and live performances at the Historic Palace Theatre.

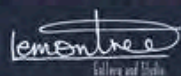
Food, friends and an opportunity to be part of a celebration!

\$60/person - Call for tickets

ART SALE | COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAGNE | LIVE MUSIC | SUNSET OVER THE BAY

For more information visit our website: www.artsentercapecharles.org or  on Facebook @artsenter

305 MASON AVENUE | CAPE CHARLES, VIRGINIA | 757-331-4327



Small Town. BIG ART.

FILMS THAT MOVE



Refuge tour

(Continued from page 4)

to navigation and then became a sandbar. It officially rose above water in 1815, three years after British frigates sailed past en route to attacking Baltimore.

By the Civil War, Fisherman Island had a small partner island, with which Fisherman merged to form the crescent-shaped island where the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel now makes its northern landfall.

When you go

■ **WHAT:** Guided tour of Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuge

■ **WHEN:** 8:15 a.m. on Saturdays from October through February

■ **WHERE:** Fish and Wildlife Service Visitors Center at 32205 Seaside Road. Technically, this is Cape Charles, but the refuge is south of Capeville.

■ **COST:** Free

■ **RESERVATIONS:** (757) 331-2760

In its infancy, the island served as a remote sanitarium protecting America from cholera and smallpox.

Ships that discovered these diseases on board raised a quarantine flag and offloaded sick passengers to the island's 1,000-bed facility.

Patients who recovered were later admitted by the Immigration Service.

For those who did not, the island had its own crematorium.

After Toner's introduction, visitors carpooled, following Park Ranger Lydia Hansen's pickup to the bridge's toll gates.

Not only is the tour free, but the Fish and

Wildlife Service arranges free passage through the tolls.

About a mile away, the caravan parked in a small area lined with low concrete barriers to keep turtles from trying to cross the highway, said Toner.

The guides led visitors on foot down dirt roads to the concrete road of the former military base.

Yaupon holly — which native Indians brewed into caffeinated tea — Sassafras trees, and a brackish pond made for interesting asides by the volunteer guide, retired family practitioner Dr. John Snyder, of Nassawadox.

Capping the walk is usually a half-hour beach tour with a commanding view of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel.

However, highlighting the need to dress appropriately, winds forecast to gust at 23 miles in Cape

(Continued on page 7)



Dr. John Snyder, right, of Nassawadox, shows a Geodetic Survey marker to visitor Chip Miller, left, of Cape Charles. Flush with the ground when the marker was installed in the 1950s, the marker now sits high above due to erosion.

SHORE FIRST/JIM RITCH



SHORE FIRST/JIM RITCH

At left, volunteer guide Bob Toner, of Onancock, displays a hat full of pins garnered from annual trainings as a member of the Virginia Master Naturalist program. Toner packs a binder of historical photographs to show visitors on his tours. Fisherman Island makes up most of the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge.

Refuge tour

(Continued from page 6)

Charles felt like a steady, gale force pummeling on possibly the most exposed beach on the Shore.

The group admired the view from the protection of low dunes, but one should take seriously the suggestion to dress in layers and be ready for wind.

Or insects. On calm days, sunscreen and insect repellent are recommended.

Most of all, know your limits. An introductory

email sent to guests cautions that small children and the mobility impaired may find the two-mile, three-hour tour difficult.

Pets are not permitted.

The tours can host up to 25 people and frequently have a waiting list, said Hansen.

Please be courteous about cancellations. Notifying Hansen as soon as possible allows her to invite people on the waiting list.

No-shows are such a chronic problem that tours typically include only 10 to 14 people.

Not only is there regularly room for more people, but there's need for more volunteer guides. Train-

ing is on the job. For details, contact lydia_hansen@fws.gov.

For the walk back to the cars, the guides briefly switched groups, bringing fresh insights.

Because the guides deliver unscripted comments that draw in part on their own interests and experience, each visit to Fisherman's Island can change.

So veterans of past tours shouldn't hesitate to join guests or friends who haven't yet stood among the history and wildlife at the very southern tip of the Eastern Shore.

Chocolate cherry coconut granola for winter breakfast

I've never been a huge breakfast person. I usually just stick to coffee and stave off my hunger until lunch.

I know that for your metabolism's sake, that's one of the worst things you can do.



Laura Davis

In an effort to try to be a bit healthier this year, I've been trying to do the breakfast thing more often.

When there is something like this delicious granola to look forward to, it's certainly made the

transition a lot easier.

Chocolate. Dried tart cherries. Sweet toasted coconut.

I think the ground flaxseed really adds a depth of flavor and texture as well.

It is great on yogurt, with milk as a cereal, and just by the handful for snacking.

It made a huge batch, but none went to waste. If you have a smaller crowd, I'd suggest halving the recipe.

This was my first time making granola, and it's something I'm looking forward to making again already.



PHOTO COURTESY LAURA DAVIS

Chocolate cherry coconut granola makes a great winter breakfast.

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.

Chocolate cherry coconut granola

- 2 cups shredded coconut (sweetened or unsweetened)
 - 2/3 cup walnuts, coarsely chopped
 - 2/3 cup almonds, coarsely chopped
 - 6 cups old fashioned rolled oats
 - 6 tablespoons canola oil
 - 1 cup honey
 - ¼ cup ground flaxseed (optional)
 - ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - ½ teaspoon salt
 - 2 cups dried cherries
 - 8 ounces bittersweet chocolate, coarsely chopped
- Preheat the oven to 325 degrees.
- Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat. Place a large skillet over medium heat.
- Add the coconut to the pan in an even layer and cook, stirring frequently, until lightly browned and toasted.
- Transfer to a bowl and wipe out the pan.

Return the pan to the heat and add the chopped walnuts and almonds.

Cook, stirring occasionally, until lightly browned, 3-4 minutes. Stir in the oats and canola oil and continue to cook, stirring occasionally, until the oats are lightly toasted, about 3 minutes.

Transfer the oat mixture to a large bowl and stir in the honey, ground flaxseed, cinnamon, and salt. Spread out onto the prepared baking sheet in an even layer.

Bake, stirring every few minutes, until the granola is light golden brown, about 15 minutes.

Stir in the toasted coconut and dried cherries. Move the granola to one side of the baking sheet and press gently into a thick slab.

Let cool to room temperature. Break the dried and cooled granola into small clusters, mix in the chopped chocolate, and store in an airtight container.

Welcoming New Patients!

Derek B. Clark, D.O.

Dr. Clark specializes in mental health, lifestyle medicine, wellness, diabetes and high blood pressure.

An Eastern Shore native, he takes pride in forming relationships and caring for his patients throughout their lives.



Shore Medical Center at Metompinkin

17385 Lankford Highway
Parksley, VA 23421-3882

Take care of your health and schedule your appointment today.

757-665-5996
riversideonline.com/dclark



Your Health. Your Journey. Our Commitment.

“Shore pride in every pick-up”



Offering commercial waste receptacles, roll-off containers and residential services on Virginia’s Eastern Shore and Pocomoke City, Md



PAINTER, VA | www.davisdisposal.esva.net
CALL 757-442-7979

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

RECYCLING 12-15 TONS OF CARDBOARD EACH WEEK

Five ways to be happier in the depths of winter

If you're feeling let down after lots of parties, presents, and travel, and reality is hitting you in the face — the credit card bills will be coming soon and if you're dreading the cold, wind, and nasty weather of winter, you might be feeling gloomy.

I believe happiness is an inside job



Betsy Seybolt

and you determine your capacity for how happy you can be. Here are some tried and true methods for you to try if you're feeling low.

■ Practice gratitude. Gratitude can transform your perspective on life — I know it did for me.

When I was depressed after my mother and a very close friend died, I saw my depression lift after immersing myself in a daily gratitude practice.

When I focused on what I had instead of what was missing — and there was a big hole in my life — I cultivated a sense of abundance and contentment. And you can, too.

If you want a quick dopamine hit, you can either make a list of a bunch of your favorite things or you can focus on the many reasons why you like one thing.

For example, you can think of and even better write down 10 things you like about your dog or cat.

Or what are your favorite 10 foods? Or what 10 things make you happy no matter what? Try it.

You can actually feel love and happiness grow in your heart with each grateful thought.

When I did this exercise recently, this is what I put down.

I am grateful for:

- Flowers on my walk
- The sound of the birds chirping
- My first sip of coffee
- My dog's wagging tail
- Sunsets
- A hot shower after a stressful day
- Getting the giggles (even better when it's with someone special)
- Getting lost in a book
- Going to the movies and eating candy and popcorn without any of the distractions that I have at home
- That feeling after a workout or a yoga class that soothes my mind, body, and soul.

Our dog, Oreo, brings me so much joy, so I thought of what she had brought into my life:

- We're usually together but if I go out without her she greets me with tail wags and wiggles with joy when I walk through the door
- She is good company — she's usually by my side
- She smiles when she's happy
- She makes sure I go for multiple walks every day

■ She entertains me — she makes me laugh

■ She reminds me not to take everything so seriously

■ She is an important part of our family

■ She is fun to snuggle with

■ She reminds me that it's the simple pleasures that bring the greatest joy

■ She makes me feel productive because she naps a lot.

The possibilities are nearly endless. When you take the time to appreciate the little things, you nourish your soul and lift your spirits.

Once you have done that and realized the benefits, you can do a daily practice every day. Write down three things you are thankful for and watch your spirits lift.

■ Adjust your expectations.

I'm not sure if you know this, but being overwhelmed is a choice. You have options.

Instead of being overwhelmed, you can break down what you need to do into small, manageable steps.

For example, if you have a goal to run your first 5k, you don't start out by running 5k on the first day.

You find an amount you can run or run and walk and then incrementally increase your distance.

You can break your goals down into mini-goals, and then you can break those down into tasks that you can do on a daily basis.

That's what I do. In other words,

most things take time. You need to change your expectations to give room for that time.

■ Make good use of your time.

We all have the same 24 hours but sometimes it seems like other people get more done in an hour than others can get done in a day.

I think you already know this, but if you procrastinate, it actually takes longer because of the time you wasted before buckling down and doing the thing.

It's not easy. We live in a society with a lot of distractions. Our phones are so addictive. How many times have you picked up your phone to see what time it is or what the weather is and the next thing you know you have been on social media and email and you still don't know what time it is?

You have two choices: You can maximize your productivity in the time you are given or you can waste it procrastinating. Here are a few ways that you can make the most of your time:

■ Prioritize what you need to do and do the hardest or the most important thing first

■ Make a list of your other to-do's and focus on doing one at a time

■ Celebrate your small wins. Do a happy dance or go outside. Do something that makes you happy.

■ Make sure you take breaks. You need to eat and stretch and get outside every day. Let your breaks energize

(Continued on page 11)

Betsy Seybolt is a mindset and motivational coach who lives in Accomack County.

Visit betsyseybolt.com

Happier

(Continued from page 10)

you. Prevent burnout.

■ Keep a list of what you have done so you can see how productive you have been. Most people make a to do list. I think it's fun to make a done list. I kept a list of all the things I did over a four-week period a year ago. I learned that dreading doing something is usually worse than actually doing it.

■ Limit distractions. I have a minimal number of notifications. I only need to know about phone calls and texts. The rest can wait.

I don't know about you, but it makes me feel good to be productive and wasting time and procrastinating does the opposite.

■ Be kind to yourself.

There will be days, sometimes periods of time, when you just can't get much done.

Give yourself some compassion. If you are a caretaker, just focus on what's most important.

And promise me that you will not beat yourself up. That is counterproductive.

Just take one step at a time. Be strong and be kind to yourself and just keep going.

If you are struggling from grief or a difficult family situation, dig deep to find your inner strength and resilience.

Separate yourself and focus on what you can do.

Don't forget, if you are having a rough day and you only have 40% to give because you are tired or stressed, and you give 40%, guess what? You gave 100%!

You gave all that you had. Remember that. Be kind and compassionate

with yourself. Beating yourself up will never make you happy or improve the situation.

■ Laugh more.

Laughter is contagious. If you really want to connect with joy, find a reason to laugh. Whether it's a funny video, or playing with your pet, or calling that friend who always makes you laugh.

Make laughter a priority. I love to laugh and get the giggles. It is so good for the soul.

If you're struggling to laugh or even smile, try this simple trick: Put a pencil in your mouth.

It forces your facial muscles into a smile, and while it might not be genuine at first, it can get you started. Over time, this physical act can help you find more reasons to smile and laugh genuinely.

There is more to life than just going through the motions.

Become intentional so you seek joy and appreciate the little things in life.

Gratitude is a life-changing practice that you can do every day.

It sets a positive tone for the day ahead. When you manage your expectations and break things down, you can prevent being overwhelmed.

And don't let procrastination get the best of you. It might be difficult to focus in our society, but you'll be glad if you make good use of your time.

But if you're like me, some days never quite get off the ground. Give yourself some grace if you are going through a difficult time.

Laughter will help you re-connect with joy. You can be happier. Try some of these ideas and let me know what works for you!



2025 OYSTER ROAST

Friday, January 31st

5:30pm-8:30pm

ESCC Workforce, Melfa

Tickets: \$75 Online

@es.vccs.edu

Live Entertainment By:

**BIG
FOREST
FIRE**

Roasted Oysters,
Steamed Clams,
Chowder, BBQ & Sides,
Craft Beer, Silent
Auction & More!



Aliens in Accomack: The visitors who never arrived

In the late 1930s, the Eastern Shore experienced an invasion from Mars — or so it seemed for one brief terrifying moment.

On Oct. 30, 1938, the evening program on CBS radio's "Mercury Theatre of the Air" was "The War of the Worlds," adapted by Howard Koch from H.G. Wells' science fiction novel about an invasion of Earth by creatures from Mars.



Kirk Mariner

Wells told the story as if it took place in England, but Koch's script moved the locale to tiny Grover's Mill, New Jersey.

In addition, Koch rewrote the story as if it were a series of news broadcasts, and as performed by CBS star Orson Welles and cast, the tale came across the airwaves with frightening realism.

Before the program was over, panic had broken out all over the country, and hundreds of thousands were convinced that Martians really had landed in New Jersey and were swiftly destroying America with their invulnerable death ray.

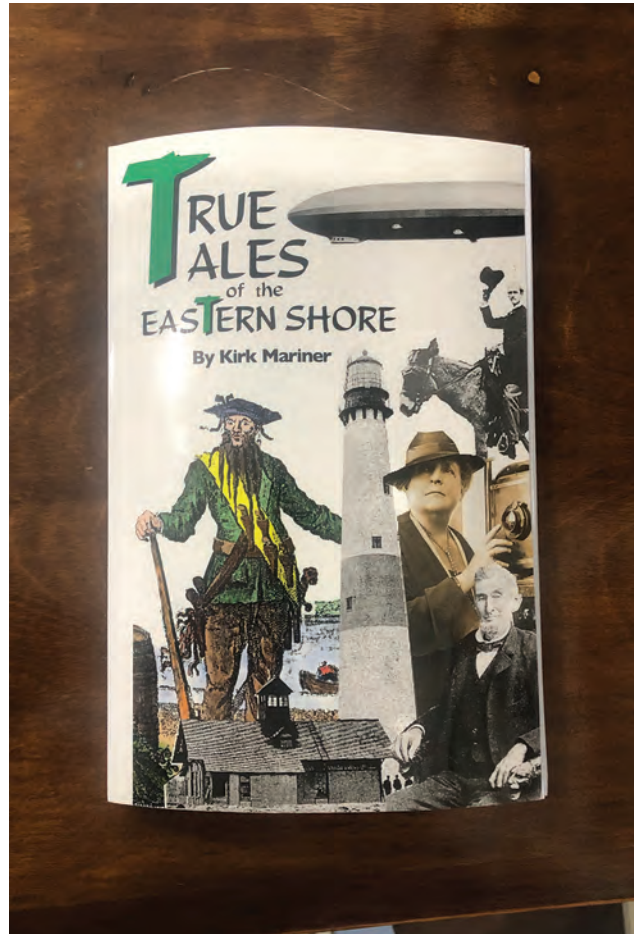
Among those fooled and frightened were many people from the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

In the corner drugstore in Accomack it was a typical Sunday night, a group of townsfolk, among them the county sheriff and the clerk of the court, sitting around sipping Coca-Colas.

Midway through the broadcast the proprietor entered the room to find them all sitting there strangely quiet, their faces ashen.

"We're being invaded!" he was told, and he went immediately upstairs to get out his automatic.

Remarkably unperturbed by the news was his



This story is taken from Kirk Mariner's "True Tales of the Eastern Shore."

wife who, informed of the invasion, quipped, "Invaded by whom? Those little men? We'll handle them!"

Another store near the county seat was also crowded when the broadcast began, and here the merchant himself sat listening.

When after a few moments he turned around

to comment to his customers, he found the place empty — everyone had fled home.

Like them, one couple from the neighborhood no sooner heard the broadcast than they quickly hit the road for Wachapreague to share the impending disaster with their folks.

In Onancock, meanwhile, the "news" created consternation in home after home. Someone looked in on one lady to find her sitting there moaning, "This is terrible! What in the world will we do? What will we do?"

One mother, realizing that her son was not at home, began telephoning among his friends to locate him and finally succeeded in summoning him home, where he was seated with the rest of the family to await the news of what might happen to civilization and the Eastern Shore.

A youngster across town stuck his head out the back door and yelled excitedly, "I can even smell the sulphur, Mother!"

Elsewhere in town people woke their children from sleep to join the family in prayer or to rush outdoors to look for signs of doom in the sky.

A number of people from Craddockville were "considerably wrought up" over the broadcast, and from Chincoteague, Belle Haven, and other communities up and down the two counties came the frightened reactions:

A congregation holding Sunday night services somehow heard the terrible "news" and quickly suspended worship and headed for home.

An Eastern Shore gentleman of the old school was already in his pajamas when he heard the broadcast and rose from his bed and dressed, the better to face any eventuality.

One man put through a call to New York to find out if the destruction that began in Grover's Mill had reached that far.

(Continued on page 13)

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."

Aliens

(Continued from page 12)

One lady sat and listened, expecting the bombs to begin exploding outside her house any minute. "That Hitler," she wailed, "if only someone could stop him. He's responsible for all this!"

(She was not alone in that conviction; many across the country were certain that the "invasion" was somehow connected with the gathering storm of war in Europe.)

One young couple, unable to bear such terrible news, turned their radio off.

A number of people heard airplanes overhead during the broadcast and rushed out to see what was happening.

"There they go," insisted one of them. "Those are planes from Langley Field on their way to New Jersey."

And all across the state, college students from the Eastern Shore

were starting homeward or frantically calling their parents to come and get them.

Reactions on the Eastern Shore were mild compared to those in other places. Some cities experienced panic in the streets and near-riots. Frightened citizens besieged radio stations, news offices, and police for information.

Crowds huddled in churches or drowned their fear in drink. One woman in Pittsburgh was only narrowly saved from death when she was discovered in her bathroom clutching a bottle of poison, shouting, "I'd rather die this way than like that!"

How could so many have been so fooled, especially since the program began with a disclaimer that the story was entirely fictional? CBS' "Mercury Theatre of the Air" was competing in the same timeslot with the far more popular ventriloquist Edgar Bergen and his dummy Charlie McCarthy on another network.

Both programs began on the hour, with undoubtedly far more people tuned in to Charlie McCarthy than to

Orson Welles. But then at 12 minutes past the hour Edgar and Charlie completed a sketch.

There began a commercial break for Chase and Sanburn coffee, and millions of Americans switched their dials to CBS, where they heard an announcer describing the mysterious landing in New Jersey.

The opening disclaimer missed, the program sounded convincingly like a news flash and not radio

drama.

The terror was shortlived, though according to the Eastern Shore News "not until the wee small hours [did] some households put away the smelling salts and other old time stimulants." Then began the chuckles and the good-natured stories that Eastern Shore folk began to tell on themselves and each other.



H&H PHARMACY

Caring for You Since 1929



**SEE US FOR YOUR
CHINCOTEAGUE GIFTS!**

**CHINCOTEAGUE
ISLAND**

757-336-3115

Mon-Sat 9-7

**Visit our
gift shop!**

HHPHARMACY.NET



**CALL NOW
TO
SCHEDULE
YOUR
TOUR!**

Experience the JOY of Learning!

**MONDAYS-THURSDAYS
3:15-6:00PM**

OPEN HOUSE
by appointment

COME LEARN ABOUT:

- SMALL CLASSES
- MISSION WORK
- FIELD TRIPS
- SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
- COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
- EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
- ENRICHING ACADEMIC FOCUS

Multiple payment plan options

237 TAZEWELL AVENUE, CAPE CHARLES, VA 23310
CALL 757-331-1717 OR EMAIL DEBBIE@CCCSVA.ORG

At Barrier Islands Center, alms for the unknown

Across a fallow field from the Barrier Islands Center, shimmering in the sun against a backdrop of loblolly pines, a handmade wooden cross bears mute testimony to the lives of the lost and forgotten.

The cross was placed there by Miriam Riggs, an artist and historian who has spent the past few years documenting the lives of the men and women who once called the farm home.



Curtis
Badger

Today these buildings, just off U.S. 13 in Machipongo, house a museum and learning center documenting our barrier island history, but from 1804 until 1946 this was the Almshouse Farm, the county poorhouse.

Riggs is a designer who has transformed the old buildings into a celebration of barrier island history, creating replicas of the Accomac Club that once stood on Parramore

Island, the Cobb family hotel, and the village of Broadwater, which blossomed in the late 1800s. But in studying the human history of the barrier islands, Riggs became immersed in the buildings and farmland that house the artifacts.

While the museum celebrates life on the islands, the buildings pay homage to the lives of people many have forgotten: the poor, the mentally ill, unwed mothers, widows unable to support themselves, and disabled war veterans.

The Almshouse Farm is the subject of the latest documentary produced by the Barrier Islands Center and filmmaker Jim Spione, a partnership that has examined everything from local foodways to decoy carving.

While the previous films have celebrated Eastern



COURTESY PHOTO

The Barrier Islands Center in 1930, when it was an almshouse.

Shore history and traditions, this effort focuses on an aspect of life that largely has gone forgotten. Life in the county poorhouse, after all, is not something we are keen to celebrate.

But Riggs' thorough examination of documents uncovered a way of life that had many layers. Riggs came across county records that apparently had not been touched for more than a century, and the more

she investigated, the more complex the issue became. There were many dimensions.

The Almshouse began in 1804 when, after the American Revolution, there came a need to care for the less fortunate in the community. It was the mission of medical doctors not only to care for the ill, but to identify family situations where outside aid

(Continued on page 15)

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.

Center

(Continued from page 14)

was needed. The issue could have been poverty, illness, addiction, or pregnancy out of wedlock.

Persons who took shelter in the Almshouse no doubt felt shame, but there must also have been gratitude that help was available.

Some residents, then called inmates, lived in the Almshouse on a long-term basis, and others came and went as they regained their footing.

The Almshouse began as a self-supporting agricultural commune, with residents expected to contribute work as they were able. Riggs found records showing that farm produce was not only used by the Almshouse, but surplus was shipped to markets by railroad from Machipongo.

Residents included Black, White, and Native American, and there were children as well. Between 1804 and 1844 the Almshouse owned slaves, whose quarters were in the basement

of the main building. In an interview, Gerald Boyd compared the living conditions as similar to those on slave ships bringing Africans to America.

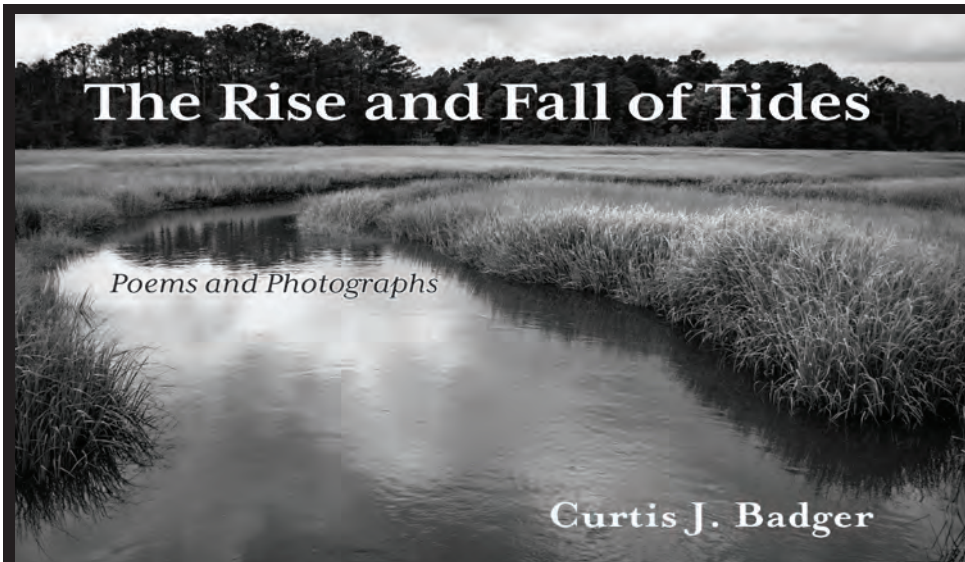
Before the Shore got a hospital in 1928, many ill residents were treated at the Almshouse, and numerous babies were born there.

During periods when infectious diseases such as typhoid and cholera spread, the stricken were taken to the Almshouse, where they would be placed in the "pest house," an infirmary for victims of pestilence.

In a case of macabre efficiency, the pest house adjoined the burying ground on the north part of the farm, where Riggs has placed her wooden cross.

She has painstakingly identified hundreds of Almshouse residents who rest here, but there are many others in unmarked graves whose records have been lost to time. And these are the unknown. There are no names and there are no numbers.

"There could be another thousand," says Riggs. "Or there could be two thousand."



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 1/2 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.

**Average savings of \$500*
is just one phone call away.**

Switch to State Farm Car Insurance.

Give us a call to get a quote, and start saving today.



Bart Holland III
7352 Lankford Highway
Nassawadox, VA 23413
Bus: 757-442-9011



JT Holland
10219 Rogers Drive
Nassawadox, VA 23413
Bus: 757-442-6100

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®



State Farm

statefarm.com

1005001

*Average annual per household savings based on a national 2012 survey of new policyholders who reported savings by switching to State Farm.
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company - Bloomington, IL

Chicago tribute band kicks off the winter season at Arts Enter

As dawn breaks over a new year, Arts Enter is excited to continue to breathe life into the walls of the Historic Palace Theatre.

The year starts with a tribute band and continues with dance parties, classical guitars, a production of Rogers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," and an annual Benefit by the Bay.

The members of Chicago Rewired — the premier Chicago tribute band — feel very fortunate to play the music that they love and to share their passion.

It is their sincere desire that at every performance the audience has as much fun as they are having on stage.

Arts Enter will host Chicago Rewired Saturday, Jan. 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Historic Palace Theatre in Cape Charles.

"Come out to the show, forget about the cares of life for a while, and let the music carry you away," said Arts Enter Co-Director Mary-Ann Roehm.

Tickets may be available at the door and are available through the Arts Enter website.

In the summer of 2015, drummer Mike Graci had an idea. He wanted to break away from the run-of-the-mill cover music he heard being played around town, so he worked to put together something special.

He began diligently seeking out the musicians required to realize his vision. With all of the pieces in place, the group established themselves as Chicago Rewired.

Chicago is one of the longest run-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tickets are available for Chicago Rewired on Saturday, Jan. 11 at the Palace Theatre.

ning and most successful pop and rock groups in history with record sales topping 100,000,000, including 21 top 10 singles, five consecutive number-one albums, 11 number-one singles, and five gold singles.

Chicago Rewired comprises a unique blend of talented and seasoned musicians joining forces with the common goal of accurately replicating the timeless music of Chicago — the soundtrack to great memories for so many people.

On Feb. 1, the Dave Matthews Tribute Band will perform. The Dave Matthews Tribute Band is a five-piece ensemble that pays tribute to their famous counterparts by matching the excitement, energy, intensity, and intimacy of a DMB live show.

For over 20 years, the Dave Mat-

thews Tribute Band has been performing sold out shows around the world, playing over 2000 concerts in 46 states and nine countries.

Since 2004, the DMTB's ruthless touring schedule has been unparalleled and the DMTB is the only national touring tribute to the Dave Matthews Band.

As Valentine's Day approaches, Arts Enter invites the community to enjoy a night of romance and rhythm at its annual Valentine's Dance Party on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Guests are encouraged to dress in festive attire and enjoy the sounds of the popular Shoal Shakers.

Vocalist Clara Cooper is supported by other band members including Vern Wheeler, Josh Fullam, Steve Elliott, Rob Cowart, John Sheppard, and Jeff Gray.

The group had its beginnings during the COVID-19 pandemic and first performed in front of the Palace Theatre to a very enthusiastic gathering that filled the street.

Since then, they have played at many local establishments and have become very popular. The Valentine's Dance Party will include complimentary champagne, abundant chocolate, and a cash bar. A beautiful piece of jewelry will be auctioned at the party.

Tickets for all Arts Enter theatre entertainment can be purchased through www.artsentercapecharles.org

Tickets may be purchased at the Lemon Tree Gallery with a check or cash.

For information about Arts Enter Dance classes for adults and children, call the Lemon Tree Gallery at 757-331-4327.

Classes include an adult ballet, tap and floor combination class with Mara Ifju, beginner and adult tap with Lisa Brasch, modern and hip hop with Lucy Watkins, and a ballet tech, jazz, and musical theater combo class with Amy Watkins.

Adult classes are ongoing and after school classes begin the week of Jan. 13.

Arts Enter will also offer a class in Ballroom for adults and teens in particular as preparation for the Ballroom scene in the upcoming spring musical, Roger and Hammerstein's "Cinderella." Couples and singles are welcome. "Cinderella" will be presented May 2-4.

100 years ago

January 1925

‘Spark Plug’ signs with Chicago Cubs

Herbert J. Brett, better known to Cape Charles baseball fans as “Spark Plug,” has signed a contract with the Chicago Club of the National League and will report for training at Catalina Island, Calif., early next month. Brett played with the Cubs part of last summer, finishing the season with Wichita Falls, Texas. The Cubs manager, however, liked Brett’s slants so well that he has signed him for the 1925 season at a substantial raise of salary.

Before going to Chicago last season, “Sparky” had been one of the mainstays of the Norfolk Division Club pitching staff. He is considered by many as one of the headiest twirlers to ever don a Cape Charles uniform, with which he combines an ability to hit.

Always a hard worker, Brett has an uncanny baseball instinct that has served to turn many a tough break into a break for the home team. On the paths he is fast and sure, while his “submarine delivery” has always been more or less of a puzzle to opposing batsmen.

“I’m going to do my best to make good,” said Sparky when questioned regarding the signing of the contract. “I claim Cape Charles as my home, and if I ever get firmly established in the big show, believe me, Cape Charles will still be my home plate. I guess it will be pretty tough going, but if there’s anything in me, it’s coming out.”

— *Worcester Democrat*
and the *Ledger-Enterprise*

Father of five killed by fast train

Killed yesterday by an express train near Cape Charles, Eugene Harry Gordy will be brought to Salisbury late today for burial.

Mr. Gordy, who had been employed as a painter for the N.Y.P. & N. railroad for the past five years, was returning from work riding a speeder rail car on the tracks about two miles north of Cape Charles when he was struck by the southbound express. The accident occurred between 4 and 5 p.m. The accident occurred at a sharp curve, and the engineer did not see Gordy until it was too late to stop the locomotive.

The family, who make their home in Salisbury, is composed of a wife and five children, the former being Ms. Matilda Parsons before her marriage. The eldest daughter, Mrs. Thelma Messick, resides in Virginia, but three young sons, Stanley, 16, Wesley, 11, and Franklin, 9, and a daughter, Margaret, 16,

make their home with Mrs. Gordy.

The train is said to have been going at a very high rate of speed when the tragedy occurred. Gordy was badly mangled and dead when assistance reached him.

— *The Daily Times*

Hunters rush to seaside marshes in earnest

Saturday will bring to a close one of the best seasons for sportsmen who enjoy the seaside gunning for geese, ducks, and brant of any year in this section of recent years. A rush to the seaside marshes for last week’s gunning started Monday, when guides from all sections of Northampton and Accomack counties reported a full week with capacity parties each day who are returning with their limit of 25 ducks, seven geese, and a few brant thrown in almost daily.

“There has been the least bootlegging of wild ducks this winter of any season since the game laws prohibited their sale,” said game warden S. Thomas Nottingham yesterday when commenting on the fact. This, he believes, is due to the breaking up to a great extent of the illegal trapping and night shooting, which has also resulted in the full bags the gunners have brought in throughout the season.

It is estimated that more than 30,000 ducks, 3,000 geese, and 1,000 brant have been killed this season on the Shore. Three thousand gunning licenses have been issued in the two counties, 225 of which were for nonresidents, which shows the Eastern Shore has a magnet that attracts sportsmen from many Northern cities.

— *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

Cape Charles improvements cost \$600k

With more than \$600,000 spent for improvements within the corporate limits during the last year, Cape Charles now boasts with considerable pride of being one of the most progressive towns of its size in the state. Her paved streets, retail business and residential sections, firefighting equipment, electric lighting, water system, and police protection are among the best in the country, and the town fathers and public-spirited citizens are keenly gratified with the year’s accomplishments despite depressed conditions agriculturally.

The distribution of improvements, according to an estimate made by Mayor A.F. Dize today, is as follows: street paving, \$225,000; water and sewer, \$50,000; fire engine and equipment, \$13,000; build-

ing program, \$150,000; private property improvement, \$175,000.

— *Ledger-Star*

Six gallons of liquor found on train

Reporting the taking of six gallons of ardent spirits out of a box car of the Norfolk and Western Railway at Koehler, Z.C. Ramsey, inspector for the State Prohibition Department, added as a footnote that “every freight train that runs from Roanoke to Winston-Salem has liquor on it on three or four men.” The man in charge of the six gallons captured and destroyed escaped arrest.

Inspector W.P. Pugh reported from Rustburg the arrest of Clarence Lawhorn on a charge of storing five gallons and the fixing of his bail at \$500. Wick Graffas, of Lynchburg, arrested for having three pints stored in a kitchen, was held under \$300 bond.

Three 50-gallon stills and a large quantity of mash were found by Inspector A.W. Rayfield near Exmore in Northampton County. The mash was destroyed and so were the stills.

— *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

Cotton and tomatoes to be grown on Shore

Several sections of the state are now in the midst of specialization versus diversification although the problem as it presents itself may not be recognized as such. From Cape Charles comes the news dispatch that the farmers of Northampton County will enter the spring planting season with two new crops to experiment with — cotton and tomatoes.

Potato acreage and yield per acre for both Accomack and Northampton counties has been rapidly on the increase since 1889, with the maximum acreage and nearly the maximum production in 1920. Since that time, there has been only a slight decline in the acreage, with the result that the spring crops of 1924 totaled for the two counties 18,596 carloads.

The potato crop has made the Eastern Shore of Virginia. In the past this has been a profitable crop. Increased acreage in this region and a decided growth in the acreage planted south of Virginia has finally carried the production of early potatoes past the point where the country will consume it in the specified time. The Eastern Shore lost money last year on the potato crop.

This same news dispatch states that “approximately 500 acres of cotton and 1,500 acres of

(Continued on page 18)

Yesteryears

(Continued from page 17)

tomatoes will be planted for the experiment.” Northampton and Accomack plant 83,000 acres of potatoes each year, so the 2,000 acres planted as an experiment in other crops will not make a large reduction in the production of early potatoes, especially when the acreage of Princess Anne, Norfolk, and Nansemond counties are included in the area. If the experiment is carried out, it will show, however, whether these crops can be produced at a profit on the Eastern Shore. If it is a success, it will furnish new argument for those who support both diversification and specialization.

The question will be, however, in this highly specialized area, how many of the farmers will actually plant the new crops if shown a success, and how many will continue to plant the usual amount of potatoes expecting the other man to plant the new crops. It will be hard to wean even a small acreage away from the crop which the farmers know so well and which has made the Shore.

— *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

Hunters fined hundred each, blunderbuss seized

Charged with violating the federal and state game laws by having in their possession an unlawful gun of big bore and a sneak boat, Charles A. Dana, a marine railway owner of Crisfield, Md., and A.J. Sterling, an automobile man of the same city, pleaded guilty and were fined \$100 and costs this week by Justice Thomas Northam.

Dana and Sterling were taken into custody last Thursday on the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia waters on board the yacht, Helena B., said to be the property of Federal Game Warden Fast, of Annapolis, Md., by Game Warden H.R. Parker, Thomas L. Stevens, and Capt. Wade Wilkerson, of the police boat Eloise, after a fight with Dana, who refused to allow officers to search the yacht.

The evidence seized at the time of the arrest included one of the largest guns ever captured in Virginia. The gun was of the blunderbuss type, which measured 10 feet, 5 inches long from muzzle to stock. The barrel was 8 feet, 9 ½ inches long with a bore that a silver dollar would slip into easily. It weighed 100 pounds, and with it was found the tools for reloading and a brace for supporting it when fired from a sneak boat. The game warden said it would kill 100 ducks or geese with one shot when

trained on a flock at the proper range.
The gun will be destroyed by the state.

— *Ledger-Star*

Ban on oysters fails to affect their being consumed here

Baltimoreans are continuing to eat as many oysters as they ever did despite reports which recently emanated from New York and Chicago to the effect that Chesapeake Bay oysters were responsible for outbreaks of typhoid fever in those cities. These reports, Maryland officials declare, are groundless.

The fact that Baltimoreans were eating oysters as usual was established yesterday by a check-up of hotels, restaurants, and retail oyster dealers. Many of those interrogated said consumption at present is slightly above normal. Wholesale dealers, however, estimated that their business had fallen off 33%. This was due entirely, they said, to the decline in orders for shipment to other cities.

At a conference yesterday, attended by Gov. Ritchie, Swepson Earle, conservation commissioner, and oyster packers of Crisfield, it was decided to begin the oyster survey in Maryland March 1 instead of April 1. Work in preparation for this survey now is in progress.

It was also agreed at the conference to appoint a standing committee composed of two representatives from each tidewater section of the state and three from Baltimore. This committee is to keep informed on and safeguard the oyster industry in Maryland. Mr. Earle announced that he would give a radio talk on oysters. This talk will be broadcast from WCAP (Washington) next week.

Those from Crisfield at the conference were A.W. Tawes, chairman of the committee, C.A. Lockerman, E.L. Quinn, Joseph A. Stirling, and I.H. Tawes.

Reports from Crisfield stated that 80 oyster houses were closed or only in partial operation, that 5,000 shuckers and laborers had been thrown out of work overnight, and that 800 idle boats were tied to the wharves or anchored in midstream.

Oxford, St. Michaels, Chincoteague, Wachapreague, and Willis Wharf, oyster packing communities on the Eastern Shore, reported that the oyster industry is almost at a standstill. At Oxford two oyster-shucking plants have shut down entirely and three more are ready to shut down, it was reported. At least 1,200 people in this community are dependent on the oyster industry and all of them, it was said, will be out of work if orders for oysters continue to diminish.

— *The Baltimore Sun*

75 years ago
January 1950

New town to be built on Virginia's Eastern Shore

An initial step in building a new town on the Eastern Shore of Virginia is being taken today in a New York architect's office, where bids are being opened on two ferry boat terminal units.

The Virginia Ferry Corporation, which transports rail and motor traffic across the Chesapeake Bay to Little Creek, a town adjoining Norfolk, is changing its eastern terminal from Cape Charles to Kiptopeke.

Kiptopeke, at present, is a name only, since there are no homes or commercial buildings there. Trial operations from the new location were conducted in recent weeks and it was discovered that relocation of the terminal would cut nearly 30 minutes from the crossing time.

Cape Charles is nine miles away from the new location and will be used for regular runs until the changeover is completed. Cape Charles residents, faced with the prospect of losing bus lines, Pennsylvania Railroad service, and other commercial enterprises, have been waging a long but losing battle against the change.

The architect for the new town is Lester C. Tichy, of New York. Next Friday, Tichy will receive bids on two more structures, a temporary terminal, and a motor court.

A contractor from Salisbury, Md., J. Roland Dashiell and son, is among the firms submitting bids. A large hotel is among the proposed projects, and all units of the new town are reportedly to be of an advanced design.

— *The Daily Review*

Cape Charles fears ferry shift to hurt

This city at the southern tip of Virginia's Eastern Shore fears it will be affected adversely by the shift of the Virginia Ferry Corporation's terminals from Cape Charles to Nottingham Beach, six miles south of here.

Bids on the new ferry slips were being opened today in New York.

Completion of the new terminals is expected about the middle of this year. The corporation operates vehicular and passenger ferry service between Cape Charles and Little Creek, some 26 miles across the Chesapeake Bay. It contended,

(Continued on page 19)

Yesteryears (Continued from page 18)

in seeking court permission for the switch of terminal sites, that this would reduce the length and time of the ferry trips and result in improved service.

Opposing the switch at a hearing in Northampton County Circuit Court, Cape Charles Mayor Raymond Grimmer said, “the economy of our town is based to a large degree upon ferry traffic. Should this be discontinued overnight, it would mean the virtual ruin of quite a number of business establishments and indirectly affect the whole town adversely.”

Enterprises that would be hurt, he said, include:

Garages — “Investments have increased by several hundred thousand dollars, I would say, due to the ferry’s being there.”

Restaurants — “Before the ferry was established, there was only one and that changed hands every six months. Now, there are about eight, some of them excellent.”

Tourist homes — “One operator I know of has invested \$40,000. I would say 75% of her business comes from the ferry.”

Hotels — “There are several very good ones. Their business is based on ferry traffic.”

Cape Charles has a population of some 3,000.

— *Ledger-Star*

Body of man is found on beach near Eastville

The body of a White man, apparently 35 to 40 years of age, 5 foot, 9 inches tall and weighing 140 pounds, is being held for identification at the Fox and James Funeral Home in Eastville.

Cecil Moore discovered the body, which washed ashore at Custis Beach, near Eastville, Saturday.

Clad in brown gabardine trousers and size 7 ½ brown shoes, the man had one gold jaw tooth and one molar missing, the only other possible clue to his identity being a laundry mark on his shirt, which was sent to the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C.

The man is believed to have been dead about six weeks, and there are no marks of violence on the body.

— *Ledger-Star*

Student held not to blame for date’s death

A college student from Virginia’s Eastern Shore today was held blameless in the carbon monoxide death of his New Year’s Eve date.

State police announced they had closed their investigation and would press no charge against 23-year-old Elmer Sharpley, of Greenbackville, Accomack County.

The body of Margaret Foster, 25, of Philadelphia, was found yesterday in Sharpley’s abandoned car near here. Sharpley had spent 25 hours in the car, half overcome by the gas.

Dr. Russell S. Fisher, chief state medical examiner, gave a verdict of accidental death.

Sharpley finally emerged from his daze long enough to clamber from the car and head for home.

He told his father, Otha, that he had walked and hitchhiked the 10 miles or so from the wooded spot where he had parked to his home. He also said he couldn’t remember just what had happened.

Father and son returned to the scene and found Miss Foster’s body. The young woman had been visiting from Pocomoke City.

Dr. Fisher put the time of her death at some time before midnight Saturday.

— *The Richmond News Leader*

Sheep dog joins Parramore Island goat roundup

With a sheep dog helping to separate the goats from the brush, the big roundup on desolate Parramore Island resumed today.

The Texans who aim to depopulate Parramore of the uncounted hundreds of goats for commercial purposes already had 500 penned and ready for transfer by flatboat tomorrow to the Eastern Shore mainland.

That will mean accomplishment of phase No. 1 that ranch hands Cliff Clary and Joe Whitehead admitted would be tough but not too tough for Texans.

They figure they’ll be able to count upward of 2,000 head of goats before the last train chuffs off with them for Texas. Estimates of the number of goats that make up the wild herd vary between a couple of thousand and five or six thousand.

Clary and Whitehead were back in the saddle after a spate of rain ruined the roundup plans for last week. They had a few hundred goats herded toward the south end and wire pens they’ve built. But the rains came and the goats asserted their individuality.

Into the breach, however, moved the boss men of the operation, ranchers Percy Roberts, of San Angelo, and Lewis Smithwich, of San Saba. The top Texans of the operation brought a sheep dog with them.

That seemed to be a big part of the difference. Out of thicket and marsh the bleating parade toward the pens began with Clery and Whitehead riding herd.

Parramore, a three-mile by 12-mile fringe of Virginia in the Atlantic six miles off of Accomack County, is a wild, seldom-visited section. A Coast Guard station and a private hunting lodge house the only humans.

Goats, though, are a different matter. They were put there by the owners of the island to clear out some of the underbrush. That was a dozen or so years ago and the pioneer goats were only about 30 in number.

There won’t be even 30 left when the Texans get through with the roundup, according to the Texans.

— *The News and Advance*

Blaze wrecks Eastern Shore printing plant

Fire swept through the plant of the Eastern Shore News here Thursday, gutting the building and damaging the weekly newspaper’s printing equipment.

The cause of the fire has not been determined.

John T. Borum, publisher, estimated the loss to be between \$75,000 to \$100,000, and said \$52,000 of this was covered by insurance. Borum and his wife own the newspaper and job printing company.

Rebuilding of the plant was started immediately, and Borum said he estimated it would be a month or six weeks before the newspaper could be printed in its own plant again.

Meanwhile, facilities of the Salisbury, Md., Evening Times, Northampton Times at Cape Charles, Peninsula Enterprise at Accomack, and Exmore Tribune have been offered to Borum.

No interruption in the newspaper’s publication is expected, but Borum said a smaller paper than the usual 28 to 32 pages probably would be printed for some time.

Borum said manufacturers’ representatives were expected here today to survey the damage to the newspaper’s presses, typesetting machines, and other equipment.

“We hope to salvage some of the equipment,” he said.

The one-story, cinder block-stucco structure

(Continued on page 20)

Yesteryears

(Continued from page 19)

housed the offices and mechanical departments of the newspaper. In the plant were five typesetting machines, two eight-page newspaper presses, a cylinder press, five job presses, and various other equipment.

Fire companies from Parksley and Tasley aided the Onancock department in fighting the blaze, which was discovered by the town's night officer, Clifford Hurst.

— *Ledger-Star*

Shore terrorized by two-legged winged equine

Surely you've heard one of the many jokes about people who see pink elephants, flying bats, or some equally fantastic creature after emptying the little brown jug.

Forty years ago over on the Eastern Shore — near Hallwood — there were a couple of gents who ran into a creature even more weird than the traditional light red pachyderm. Contemporary newspapers omit mention of any possible consumption of brew prior to meeting with the devil monster.

The story (supposedly a true one) goes like this:

Thomas and Frank Edwards were driving to their home at Hallwood one Sunday night and discussing the current women situation.

When they neared a place called Mill Pond, they met a peculiar beast that sprang at them from a clump of woods near the roadside. After observing the strange creature with a head like a horse, wings like a bird, and two feet like a man, the brothers pulled forth a revolver and began emptying slugs in the general direction of the oddity, which retaliated by grinning.

The men, thinking they had come face to face with the devil, whipped their horses and headed for home.

Meanwhile, the monster took off in pursuit.

And the Edwards boys began saying prayers.

Before they got to the "amen," the devil animal flapped his wings and flew into the nearby woods.

Now, the story of such an animal had originally been circulated around Onley, Melfa, and Make-mie Park to scare away chicken thieves. Farmers laughed it off when they first heard the Edwards boys' story. Then they got a jolt when they went to Mill Pond and found a pair of mysterious hoof-prints.

This is where the story ends in the newspapers of the day.

Reporters probably never got wind of who had the last laugh — and that was by the chicken thieves who weren't frightened at all by the stories the farmers had passed around about the monster. Some folks say some of the more cunning poultry purloiners manufactured the monster and scared the daylights out of the farmers who were supposed to be inflicting fear in them.

It ended up with farmers being afraid to stir out of doors at night and the hen snatchers having free access to their chicken coops.

If you wanted to corn up this story, you could end it with a moral: Never think you can play a joke on a chicken thief, as the joke may end up in fowl play.

— *Ledger-Star*

50 years ago January 1975

Wave of thefts hits Accomack area

Accomack County Sheriff Adair Matthews reports a wave of break-ins in the past 10 days. Many things, from cigarettes to a pot-bellied stove, were stolen.

On Jan. 11 it was discovered that the Emanuel Episcopal Church at Jenkins Bridge had been broken into. Taken from the church was a Smith-Corona electric typewriter, a silver chalice, a Holy Communion set, and \$15 in coins. Entry was gained by breaking a window that leads to the furnace room and breaking a window leading to a back office.

On Jan. 14 Roger Burton's store at Withams was broken into. Taken from the cash box in a pool table was \$12 to \$15 in silver. Since that time Sheriff Matthews has arrested Marvin Savage, 21, of the Withams area and charged him with breaking into the store.

Savage has also been charged with breaking into Bud Bailey's storehouse at Withams on Jan. 9. Taken from Bailey's storehouse was a quantity of paint and a portable stove. Savage is further charged with breaking into the home of Meda McCure at Withams in September 1974. Taken from the McCure home was a quantity of tools, a leather jacket, a .22 caliber rifle, and a guitar. Deputy Sheriff Chester Rhodes and Sheriff Matthews have recovered most of the items stolen from Bailey's storehouse and from the McCure home, the sheriff said.

On Jan. 14 Deputy Sheriff Richard Dize was called to the summer home of Joseph C. Smith at Wachapreague to investigate a breaking and entry. Stolen from the Smith home was a brass ship's wheel clock, an oak coffee table, and two raincoats.

On Jan. 14 Deputy Sheriff Winston Budd investi-

gated a breaking and entry at Wilson Byrd's warehouse near Mears. Stolen from the warehouse was a pot-bellied stove and an assortment of antique iron items.

On Jan. 15 Deputy Sheriff Thorburn Parks investigated a breaking and entry at the Bi-County Pharmacy in Onancock. Stolen were two wrist watches, a cigarette lighter, and a quantity of drugs. The total value of the items was \$206.20. Entrance was gained by an air vent above the furnace room.

Last Saturday, J.C. Birk's home in Nelsonia was broken into. Approximately \$150 in silver and currency was taken. Deputy Sheriff James Fisher is investigating.

Also on Saturday, the home of Avon Bell at Blox-om was broken into. Stolen were two overcoats and a television set. Entry was gained through a back window. Deputy Sheriff Fisher is investigating.

In a third theft Saturday, a chain saw was stolen from the property of Frank Begoin at Belle Haven. Deputy Sheriff Richard Dize is investigating.

— *The Daily Times*

Virginia State Police have busy year on Shore

E.C. Magette Jr., sergeant in charge at the Virginia State Police station here, announced that state troopers on the Eastern Shore experienced in 1974 one of the busiest years ever.

Magette said that his troopers worked 3,625 days and drove 492,624 miles during this period. Patrol hours totaling 13,803 were recorded, while 1,844 hours on accident investigation accounted for another large hunk of the officers' time, as well as 2,123 hours spent on criminal investigations.

Court attendance accounted for 1,003 hours and motor vehicle road checks accounted for another 337 hours. Other activities included size and weight enforcement, radar enforcement, inspection station supervision, special assignments, safety education, training, instructing, report writing, and assistance to stranded and disabled motorists, making a total of 32,623 hours worked during the year.

The troopers made a total of 4,234 arrests in 1974 as compared with 3,799 in 1973. This increase occurred even though the state police operated part of 1974 with four less troopers than in 1973. Heading the list of traffic arrests was "speeding," which totaled 1,701.

There were also 134 arrests made for "driving drunk." The remaining 2,399 arrests were made for criminal and miscellaneous traffic violations.

It was also noted in the sergeant's report that the troopers investigated a total of 898 traffic crashes, which compared with a previous high in 1973 of 881.

(Continued on page 21)

Yesteryears

(Continued from page 20)

An encouraging note was observed that out of these 898 traffic crashes, there were 20 people killed, which was the lowest figure since 1966.

There were 3,884 cases heard in the two district courts, in which convictions were given against 3,548 persons.

While the troopers set a record in 1974 for arrests, they nonetheless found time to issue 3,566 warnings for less serious violations.

Among other activities of interest by the state police were the seizure of 25 motor vehicles driven by people whose operator license had been suspended, presentation of 33 safety programs and talks to schools, churches, and civic organizations, 29 stolen vehicles recovered, 3,747 acts of assistance to stranded motorists, and 10,180 vehicle checks made for mechanical defects.

Also included in the state police activities was the investigation of 271 criminal cases involving homicides, robberies, burglaries, assaults, larcenies, forgeries, and rapes.

In summarizing the state police activities for the year, Sgt. Magette said that while many activities indicated an increase over the preceding year, he still felt that some progress had been made in the area of highway safety when one stops to consider the steady increase in traffic, miles driven, and more people being licensed to drive each year.

— *The Daily Times*

Hunt for men lost at sea abandoned

The Coast Guard gave up its search Monday for two men who apparently were swept to their deaths when their clamboat foundered in heavy Atlantic seas Sunday afternoon.

A Coast Guard spokesman said two cutters and a helicopter were recalled Monday after finding no trace of the men, who fell into the stormy Atlantic when the clamboat Captain Rick capsized.

“The search has been suspended pending further developments,” the spokesman said.

The two missing men were identified as Peter Vienti, master of the Captain Rick, and Walter Browdowski, both of Cape Charles.

Two other crewmen aboard the 90-foot clamboat were rescued by a sister ship, the Misty Dawn, after the Captain Rick rolled over in six-foot seas about 13 miles east of the Chesapeake Light Tower.

The Coast Guard said the vessel was attempting to

lift its dredge when it overturned within sight of the Misty Dawn and another clamboat, the H.C. Hayes.

— *Danville Register and Bee*

Shore ferry seen vital to rail survival

It makes sense for a railroad from the south to take over the Delmarva Peninsula line, says the head of a federal agency involved in the reorganization of bankrupt northeast lines.

George Chandler, director of Rail Services Planning for the Interstate Commerce Commission, told the Baltimore Sun today that he likes the idea.

Chandler said in an interview with the newspaper that the attractive part of the idea is that a southern carrier breaking into the northeast market would have incentive to keep the weakest part of the route up to par. He referred mainly to the Cape Charles - Little Creek Ferry.

The ferry is outmoded and needs money to bring it up to present-day standards.

The Southern Railway, among others from the South, has voiced interest in acquiring parts of the Delmarva system from the bankrupt Penn Central.

Chandler’s office planned a report tomorrow urging the United States Railway Association — the federal agency planning the reorganization of bankrupt Northeast and Midwest railroads — to consider the option of those railroads to profitable carriers other than ConRail.

ConRail (Consolidated Rail Corporation) is a new corporation mandated under the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 that is to take over a core system of routes from the bankrupts and attempt to operate them at a profit. Transfer of some routes to other railroads is also mentioned in the act, which calls for preservation of competition and “rationalization” of rail service in the region.

Rail shippers on the Eastern Shore fear that much of the Delmarva system will not be included in the final system plan for ConRail and will be either abandoned or continued in operation only with the aid of federal and state subsidies.

— *The Daily Times*

25 years ago
January 2000

Barge drifting off Cape Charles almost collides with bridge-tunnel

Four people were rescued Tuesday from a drifting tugboat that lost the barge it was towing, and the barge later ran aground after threatening the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel.

High winds from a winter storm whipped up rough seas that began flooding the tugboat in the Chesapeake Bay, four miles off Cape Charles on the Eastern Shore.

The four people on the 110-foot Bay King tugboat were transferred to a Coast Guard boat, said Coast Guard spokesman Petty Officer Stephen Baker.

Those rescued were identified as Parran Keane, 49, of Chesapeake, the tug’s skipper; John-Michael Hammer, 19, of Chesapeake; Steve Desrosiers, 27, of Virginia Beach; and Gerald Craig, 29, of Summerville, S.C.

The barge drifted toward the bridge-tunnel before running aground south of Cape Charles at Old Plantation Flats. A shore-based Coast Guard team found the barge, and the tug was believed to be in the same vicinity, Baker said.

Baker said the barge could have caused structural damage to the bridge-tunnel if it had hit the span, which was briefly closed but reopened after the barge was found.

The Coast Guard also was concerned about a potential oil spill because the barge was carrying containers of corrosive petroleum products.

The tugboat is owned by Bay Towing Co., Baker said.

— *The Daily Times*

Plucking history from mud

To pluck a piece of history from the shallows of the Chesapeake Bay or a muddy enclave, exposed after unknown centuries, is an excitement that combines the thrill of the hunt with a history lesson you can’t find in any book.

“Arrowheading,” as many locals call looking for Native American artifacts such as tools, axes, spears, and knives, is a pastime that calls for a keen eye and a willingness to stoop in mud for long periods of time.

Painter residents Billy Crockett and his wife, Laura, are avid arrowheaders.

He is a carver, and she is a Realtor.

“It’s fun to do — better than sitting home,” said Billy as he prepared a small skiff that carried us to a secret spit of land spared by the bay.

“We started six years ago. We just were out there with our boat one time and ran into my aunt and uncle who showed us an arrowhead they found, so we started looking, too.”

Arrowheading became a regular hobby — close to an addiction — for the Crocketts. They have 1,000 artifacts, some of which Billy figures to be hundreds of years old. One, an ebony point, has been

(Continued on page 22)

Yesteryears

(Continued from page 21)

sculpted into a necklace he wears.

“I’m a baysider,” Billy said. “I’m used to the layout of the land, and it doesn’t change as much as the seaside.”

Billy did not want to publicize where they were arrowheading Wednesday because he feared other artifact collectors would swarm to the area.

However, another boat, its owner absent, was anchored at the spot. Billy and Laura know the retired man who also scours the uninhabited place with them.

“It’s bad news when you see footprints,” said Laura, only half-serious.

Noting the extreme low tide, she said, “I’ve been waiting to wear my boots and for this to be exposed.”

As is their habit, Laura started looking close to the boat, bent over and patient in the ankle-high water. Billy disappeared in another direction. He said later that he can’t walk as slowly as Laura and sometimes after he has been gone for a long time, he will come back and find her only yards away from where she started.

But Laura’s technique works for her. Within five minutes, she shouted, “I found one!”

In her excitement, she dropped the object, laughing as she retrieved it. “Now that’s what you don’t want to do,” she said.

A few minutes later, she found another quartz arrowhead about an inch long.

Laura said the site they were searching probably was a regular campsite where Indians spent summers dining on scallops, clams, and oysters.

Billy walked the low-tide line along the shore like the great blue herons he often carves. Coming back, he walked the high-tide line, saying, “This way you cover all the ground.”

This was a rare field trip for Billy because he did not find an arrowhead, but he found something else just as interesting — a flint from a musket, something a colonial hunter would have used.

“This one is sweet,” he said, dropping it into his pocket.

Billy said his hobby may come to an end some day, with so much development of the Shore’s waterfront and property owners not wanting others walking “their” beaches.

“It’s something I never thought about, growing up in Deep Creek, just going wherever you wanted,” he said.

Soon, the other boat owner appeared and showed the artifacts he had found.

“I found this and this and this,” the man said, with the joy of a child opening presents on Christmas.

His finds included a hand tool, an ax, an arrowhead, and part of an old Exmore Coca-Cola bottle.

He and Billy debated one find. Billy said it was a rock. The man was persistent in his belief that it was some kind of native tool.

They parted good-naturedly, and Laura and photographer Scott Neville soon joined us, proudly showing their finds — Scott, a grinding rock with a round divot in the center, and Laura, an arrowhead.

“To be the first person to touch something for 5,000 years ... is a pretty big thrill,” he marveled.

— *The Daily Times*

Cheriton’s storied past

Back before books were widespread and the mere idea of computer-speeded information was unfathomable, history was recorded and passed among people through the art of storytelling.

This art flourished in the early years of the 20th century and probably nowhere better than the country, where the telling of tales consumed many an hour.

William Kellam, 86, of Cheriton, knows the stories. He heard them from older folks for decades, and now he says there is no one older than him.

So Kellam has saved the stories, the anecdotes about people in and around his hometown, in four paperbound editions. The latest book — and he says his last — is “More Crumbs from the Cracker Barrel.”

“Rolley’s (Hardware) was the gathering place; there would be usually six to eight fellas sitting around the cracker barrel,” Kellam said. “Heard a lot of stories over the years listening. I did more listening than talking.”

Kellam is a quiet, genteel man who lives with his wife of 61 years, Kitty, in the house his father built in 1914 on Cheriton’s Sunnyside Road, a walk away from the tiny downtown.

Kellam worked on the book for three years, with editorial help from his wife. One of his three children, daughter Paige, helped type his first two books; but, he says proudly, “In my late 80s I’ve conquered the computer. I enjoy it.”

Kellam says he grew up with the stories, and “it was just a matter of getting them in order.”

He verified many with records at the clerk’s office in Eastville and took some with the grain of salt with which they were told.

Kellam recounts the 1886 birth of Cheriton, which came about because of the presence of the new Eastern Shore railroad and the presence of mind of Dr. William Stratton Stoakley, who is credited with founding the town.

He relates many amusing stories that have not lost their appeal over years of telling.

Like the stray cat that showed up at the door of railroad worker Alvin Dixon. Dixon told his wife he would unload the feline at the Cheriton railroad station, but the cat returned. Then he took the cat to Cobb Station, but a coworker scooped up the cat and secretly returned it to the Dixons.

Then he put the cat on a train headed for Delmar, Del., but that did not rid the Dixons of the nuisance. The baggage master gave the cat to the baggage master on a southbound train with instructions to drop it in Cheriton. Yet again the feline found its way to the Dixons’ doorstep, to which Alvin related, “Mammie, I think our best bet is to keep the cat!”

Adding to the chuckles is a collection of stories told by local legend Lloyd Bradford — in the 1890s — whom Kellam describes as the Will Rogers of lower Northampton.

One such tale tells how Bradford tried to sell a blind horse.

“Lloyd put a halter on the horse and began leading it around the barnyard. The man said, ‘Lloyd, take the halter off the horse and let it walk around on its own.’ Lloyd had no choice but to remove the halter and let the horse go free. The horse began to walk and immediately walked into the side of the barn. The man said, ‘Lloyd, what is wrong with that horse, is he blind?’ Lloyd said, ‘No, sir, that horse just don’t give a damn!’”

But there is also the serious side, which Kellam relates through such stories as the bravery of hometown boy-turned-fighter pilot in WWII, George Parramore. He is honored in Belgium as a hero who gave his life fighting for the Belgians. His final resting place is not on Shore soil, but an ocean away at Belgium’s Parramore Field, named in his honor.

Though Kellam thinks much of the past, he still sees a rosy future for the town that owns his heart.

He said, “I think we will still enjoy living in Cheriton.”

— *The Daily Times*

Send those university research dollars her way

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

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

Well, duh!

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

Take this week for example.

I started laying the groundwork Wednesday evening.

"Honey-Do," I said to Hubby.

"What is it this time?" he said.

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

"Okay," he replied.

Thursday came.

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

"Yeah, right."

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

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

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

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

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

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

decorations.

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

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

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

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

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

"What do you mean," I said.

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

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

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

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

This piece was originally published in the Dec. 6, 2000, in the Eastern Shore Post. Candy Farlow, a founder of the Eastern Shore Post weekly newspaper and a longtime journalist on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, died in 2017. Among other endeavors she worked for a time as a telephone lineman, reporter, columnist, radio DJ, and as a community relations director for Shore Memorial Hospital. Her former columns will be printed monthly in Shore First.



Candy Farlow



28404 Woodland Ave. Suite B, Melfa, Virginia 23410

Call to Sell or Purchase property: 757-787-2618

Visit us: www.ppofva.com



*Peninsula Properties of Virginia wishes
you a happy and safe new year!*

**Call on us to help with selling or buying
property, or managing rental property.**



Christine Flye, Licensed Agent
757-286-3569



Jason Restein, Licensed Agent
757-620-1532



Jen Siegrist, Property Manager
757-313-2627



Schulyer Hurbut, Licensed Agent
757-710-9576

FOR OUR CURRENT INVENTORY OF RESIDENTIAL AND LAND LISTINGS, PLEASE VISIT US AT WWW.PPOFVA.COM