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# Lovingly Restored Farm House Hits the Market

Stately home in Mappsburg, near Painter, a must-see | Page 8



**Delmarva Discovery Center in Pocomoke City is perfect for kids, families** | Page 6



**Wachapreague General Store reopens to fanfare** | Page 10

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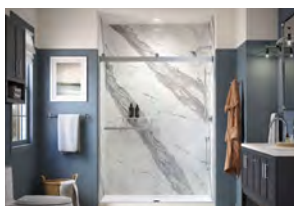
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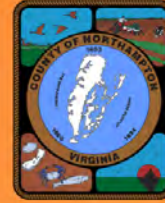
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The Delmarva Discovery Museum, located at 2 Market St., in Pocomoke City, includes exhibits on the history and ecology of the area. “We put all these little pieces together to get a larger picture of what makes the Shore home,” said Amanda Russell, office administrator and social media manager for the museum.

SHORE FIRST/JIMMY SHOCKLEY

# Discover the Discovery Museum

Jewel of the river town of Pocomoke City, just minutes from Accomack County, center is a must-see stop

**BY JIMMY SHOCKLEY**  
Shore First

Along the Pocomoke River in Pocomoke City is a museum where visitors can not only learn about the history of the Delmarva Peninsula and the Eastern Shore, but see it, too.

The Delmarva Discovery Museum, located at 2 Market St., Pocomoke City, offers a unique perspective on the history of the Eastern Shore and also fea-

tures local art and wildlife.

“We are unique in that we not only offer the history but showcase the beauty of the Shore,” said Amanda Russell, who is the office administrator and social media manager for the museum.

The 16,000-square-foot museum has been educating locals and tourists alike since 2009 and regularly updates and adds on to its already wide array of offerings.

Many exhibits are history-based, like the Steam-

boat exhibit and the newly-updated Indigenous Peoples exhibit.

Some exhibits will please craftsmen and craftswomen alike, like the Decoy Shed and Boat Building exhibits.

The museum also has a plethora of live animal exhibits, like the North American River Otter Exhibit, the Brown Banded Bamboo Shark Exhibit, and many reptile exhibits.

(Continued on page 7)



SHORE FIRST/JIMMY SHOCKLEY

The 16,000-square-foot Delmarva Discovery Museum has been educating locals and tourists alike since opening in 2009.

## Museum

(Continued from page 6)

The museum hosts roughly 3,000 children each year on school field trips alone, according to Russell.

Russell also said the museum fills a gap, as there are no aquariums near it — while it isn't purely an aquarium, visitors can get their fill of aquatic and marine life without driving to Virginia Beach or Baltimore.

The museum is also unique in that some of the animals it displays wouldn't survive in the wild on their own.

George, a 15-year-old snapping turtle, came from a turtle and tortoise rescue business. His shell is concave, rather than convex like other snapping turtles.

The museum also has two other turtles that came from a turtle and tortoise rescue business.

This summer, the museum has a large, temporary shark exhibit that ends soon, but in its place there will be a local art exhibit from Aug. 29 to Sept. 6.

All of these exhibits add up to an experience rare on the Eastern Shore.

"We put all these little pieces together to get a larger picture of what makes the Shore home," said Russell.

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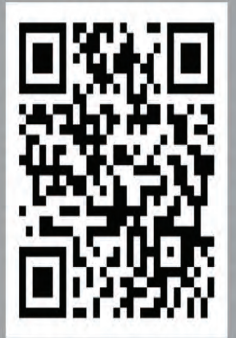
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The home, once called Mappsburg Manor, includes a completely remodeled kitchen.



Outdoor spaces at the Mappsburg home are perfect for entertaining.



The entrance of the home includes a brick patio and steps with columns.

This five-bedroom, 4.5 bathroom home in Mappsburg, near Painter, is listed for sale at \$1.099 million. The real estate listing agent is Michael Baril, of Weichert Realtors Mason Davis.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Davis in Onancock and can be reached at 757-710-5200.

While it was built in 1931, it is modern today in every way imaginable.

It has all new electrical wiring. The original hardwood floors on the first and second stories have been completely refinished. It has new HVAC and ductwork.

“We ripped it apart,” said Baril. “I was there along every stage.”

Still, there are many original details that retain the history of a handsome home.

The home includes 3,818 square feet with five bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, and three stories.

It features luxury, top-of-the-line appliances and fixtures and a “chef’s dream kitchen” with quartz countertops and backsplashes. There are coffee and wine stations and a breakfast area overlooking an outdoor gazebo.

The large primary suite includes a bathroom with a dual vanity, a soaking tub, and a large shower with rain and side sprayers.

Of particular note are the grounds outside, which feature unique flourishes and plenty of room.

The property includes an entertaining pavilion that is covered and has electricity. And then there is an outdoor restroom building with full plumbing and a chandelier.

Because the property is almost six acres, it can accommodate a horse farm.

“On the back of the property is a cleared pasture that could very easily accommodate horses,” Baril said.

(Continued on page 9)

## In Mappsburg, historic home is completely remodeled

Former Cullen house goes on the market for \$1.099 million

### About this series

This is part of a monthly series on the Eastern Shore’s most captivating and unique homes for sale. This property at 34000 Seaside Road is listed for \$1.099 million. The real estate listing agent is Michael Baril, of Weichert Realtors Mason Davis. Reach Baril at 757-710-5200.

BY TED SHOCKLEY  
Shore First

The house near the intersection of Quinby Bridge Road and Seaside Road has always been handsome. But it has been completely transformed, inside and out, by people with a vision and a fondness for the historic home.

It stands in Mappsburg — a blink-of-an-eye-and-you’ll-miss-

it community between Painter and Quinby.

Michael Baril, the real estate listing agent for the home and a consultant during the remodeling process, found paperwork that refers to the country estate as Mappsburg Manor. More recently it was known as the Cullen house.

After renovation, the home is listed for sale for \$1.099 million. Baril is an agent with Weichert Realtors Mason



The Mappsburg home features completely refinished wood flooring on the first and second stories.



The large primary suite includes a bathroom with a soaking tub and a large shower with rain and side sprayers.

## Home

(Continued from page 8)

“You have a property that is ready to go for horses or you could have events there.”

Outdoors there also is a two-car ga-

rage, two storage sheds, and landscaping geared to maximize enjoyment.

Baril said there aren’t many homes quite like it — old and new, historic and modern, close to everything but situated unto itself.

“Every detail has been thought out to make this the perfect home,” Baril said.



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SHORE FIRST/JANET BERNOSKY

Tracey and Zenny Chareas opened the Wachapreague General Store in late June.

## Wachapreague General Store reopens with food and flair

BY JANET BERNOSKY  
Shore First

An opportunity too good to pass up led Tracey Chareas to take a self-described “leap of faith” when she learned the historic Wachapreague General Store was available for rent earlier this year.

Chareas moved to the Eastern Shore just over three years ago from Massachusetts with her husband, Zenny; son, Charlie; and daughter, Dylan.

Already the purveyors of Saltwater Flower Farm, located on their property in Locustville, the couple had thought about adding another business.

Seizing the moment, they moved forward and haven’t looked back since opening in June.

“It’s been a whirlwind,” said Tracey Chareas. “I’m going with the flow and still working on my milk steaming skills.”

Chareas has keenly created a destination worth visiting and revisiting,

featuring great food, fresh flowers, coffee, home goods, charcuterie items, and small market goods.

The carefully curated menu features satisfying breakfast offerings and delicious sandwiches for lunch.

The bright, cheerful space with a huge blue flounder painted on a wall invites customers to sit a spell while enjoying their food.

It’s equally easy to be inspired by prepared food in the cooler or shelf-stable gourmet items — the per-

Breakfast,  
lunch, flowers,  
and home goods  
highlight shop

fect grab-and-go for a seaside picnic or boat ride.

Fresh, authentic New York bagels are shipped in from Queens, which can be spread with her housemade Bour-sin-style cheese.

Chareas’ breakfast burrito features a sauce recreated from one she couldn’t live without as a student in Austin, Texas. Made from slow-roasted fresh tomatillos and poblano peppers, it adds the perfect kick.

Her tuna salad is an example of how Chareas allows the main ingredient to shine, with just the right amount of mayonnaise, plus finely chopped celery and fennel for subtle flavor and texture.

The beverage menu is as varied as it is interesting.

In addition to a menu of hot and cold gourmet coffees, there are delicious chai drinks flavored with rose petals, masala, or turmeric. Made in small batches by a company in Brooklyn, they beg to be tried and won’t disappoint, especially poured over ice.

The house iced tea is made from rooibos leaves, naturally caffeine-free, with a wonderful taste described as both earthy and fruity.

Chareas plans to adapt her menu around seasonal produce — such as a purple cabbage slaw. Fish cakes or a fish salad might find their way onto the fall menu, along with dinners to reheat at home.

Recently, a steady stream of customers filled the store, waiting patiently for orders.

Conversation flowed easily between locals and visitors alike, as if they were old familiar friends, not just passersby in the moment.

This place has that welcoming vibe that makes visitors want to stay.

A sweet Jack Russell terrier named Sundae was visiting from Hershey, Pa., with her humans. Chareas keeps a fresh bowl of water outside for four-legged travelers.

A couple from Lancaster County in Pennsylvania with local ties was delighted with the merchandise they purchased and said they will be back soon.

In a short time, the general store has quickly become a hub for the local community.

(Continued on page 11)



SHORE FIRST/JANET BERNOSKY

Tracey Chareas creates a custom arrangement for Wachapreague's Current Reflections Gallery with blooms from her other business, Saltwater Flower Farm.



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## Wachapreague

(Continued from page 10)

A shy resident who wished to remain anonymous mentioned she stops in for her "daily fix" of cappuccino.

"It's absolutely wonderful," she said. "We are very lucky to have them in town."

Resident Anne Swift frequently drops off freebie bounty from her vegetable garden to a basket on a counter near the windowsill.

"Help yourself. I like to share what I can't use," she said.

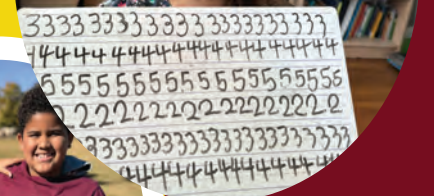
Bob Bilicki whisked in to pick up a custom arrangement Chareas created for Current Reflections, his gallery in town.

"WachaWednesday," starts informally around 9 a.m. and has quickly become a midweek highlight for locals.

"You must stop by; all are welcome," said local Sue Fountain. "We have a great time. I have the gift of gab and talk to everyone."

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# Pawpaw margaritas are a perfect way to wind down with summer

All over the country, as summer is winding down and trees and plants are heavy with the season's bounty on their branches and vines, pawpaws are ripening. They're one of America's few truly native fruits (not to mention



Laura Davis

they're the largest fruiting tree in North America) — and sadly folks don't seem to know much about them. Let's learn, shall we?

Within the United States, pawpaw is native to the eastern,

southern, and midwestern states. It is the second largest edible fruit indigenous to the United States (the largest is actually squash).

They're probably hanging around all over during your neighborhood walks or hiding in a clump of woods as you hurriedly drive by — a ghost of a long lost homestead that's hanging around long after its owners have sold and been gone.

From the outside they kind of look like mangoes. And honestly, the inside is pretty reminiscent of them as well. The flesh varies

(Continued on page 13)



PHOTO COURTESY LAURA DAVIS

Margaritas can be made with the puree of the pawpaw fruit — the second largest indigenous fruit in the United States.

Laura Davis, of Chincoteague Island, is a food writer and blogger at [www.tideandthyme.com](http://www.tideandthyme.com). Her recipes have been featured on Huffington Post and [www.craftbeer.com](http://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.

# Margaritas

(Continued from page 12)

from pale to bright yellow and contains a network of dark seeds like watermelon.

The fruit has a smooth, rich, tropical flavor and a texture that I like to think of as custardy — that's the best way to describe it.

If you can't find them out and about, check your local farmers markets.

When I find them I'll prep a bunch at one time, then portion out the pulp into smaller bags and freeze for use in the winter. It keeps its pretty color and rich texture, and I have found that's the best way to store it.

The frozen pulp makes the perfect base for a blended margarita that's an extra special treat, enjoyed any month of the year.

Thanks to Rosie from Pico Taqueria for sharing this recipe with me years ago!

## What you'll need

- 1 (8 oz.) bag pawpaw puree
- 1/2 cup margarita mix
- 1/4 cup mango nectar (usually found in Hispanic aisle of grocery store)
- 1 cup tequila
- 1/3 cup triple sec
- 1 cup ice
- lime slices, for garnish
- 2 Tbsp kosher salt, for rim
- 2 Tbsp sugar, for rim

## What you'll do

- Rim your glasses. Combine salt and sugar on a small plate. Using a piece of lime, wet the rim of the glasses. Dip into the salt-sugar combo and set aside while you prepare the margaritas.
- Place all ingredients in blender. Cover and blend on puree setting for about a minute, until nice and smooth.
- Pour into prepared glasses, garnish with a slice of lime, and serve.



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# How 'Misty' helped put Chincoteague on the map

Children's novel written by Marguerite Henry had immense influence on the island's fame

At a dinner party in Evanston, Illinois, in 1945, a book editor named Mary Alice Jones heard a friend who had recently returned from Chincoteague Island describe the excitement of the annual pony penning, particularly the ponies' swim across Assateague Channel. The next day, Jones repeated the description to one of her writers, an author of children's books. "I wondered if the event could possibly be so exciting," the writer later recalled, and she determined to go to Chincoteague to see for herself.



Kirk Mariner

When Marguerite Breithaupt Henry first came to Chincoteague in the summer of 1946, she already had 25 books to her credit and a growing reputation as a writer for children. With her came Wesley Dennis, the artist and illustrator with whom she had recently collaborated for the award-winning "Justin Morgan Had a Horse" (1945). They had come to work on their second book, which was to be set on Chincoteague.

On Chincoteague, Henry found lodging with "Miss Molly" Rowley in what is now Miss Molly's Inn, then

sought out the help of the island's resident amateur historian Victoria Pruitt (1884-1970). She found ready friends among the family of Clarence Beebe (1884-1957), who raised ponies at his "ranch" at the southern end of the island, and chose young Paul and Maureen Beebe, who were being raised by their grandparents, as the main characters of her story.



COURTESY PHOTO

This excerpt is taken from Kirk Mariner's "Once Upon an Island: The History of Chincoteague." Pictured is Marguerite Henry with Misty.

at his "ranch" at the southern end of the island, and chose young Paul and Maureen Beebe, who were being raised by their grandparents, as the main characters of her story.

During the several weeks she spent on the island, she experienced her first pony penning and worked out the story in her room at Miss Molly's while Wesley Dennis took photographs that he later converted into both pen-and-ink and full-color illustrations. When she left the island, it was not only with the ingredients of a story but also with the pony who was to be its subject. She published three books in 1947, the second of which was "Misty of Chincoteague."

"All the incidents in this story are real," insist the opening pages of "Misty of Chincoteague." "They did not happen in just the order they are recorded, but they all happened at one time or another on the little island of Chincoteague." Henry then lists 15 people and three ponies to whom the book is dedicated, "all of whom really live on Chincoteague Island and who appear as characters in this book."

It is the story of two children, Paul and Maureen Beebe, in their quest to not only have a horse of their own but one particular pony of Assateague, the elusive and almost legendary Phantom. Misty, the titular horse, is Phantom's foal. She remains with Paul and Maureen at the Beebe Ranch after they allow her wild-spirited mother to return to her native Assateague.

"Misty of Chincoteague" became a children's classic and has been read by millions in this country and abroad. Critics lauded the

(Continued on page 15)

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, "Once Upon an Island: The History of Chincoteague."

# Mariner

(Continued from page 14)

book: "A simple story with a fine sense of values ... feeling for drama ... deft characterizations," wrote the New York Times. "One of the finest horse stories you will find," wrote the Chicago Sun. In time the book went through more than 30 editions and was translated into 21 languages, including Finnish and Arabic. Its influence on the fame of the island was immense. Articles about Chincoteague began to appear in national magazines the year after it was published, with more to follow that would later become a steady stream.

That "Misty of Chincoteague" was being considered for the big screen soon after its publication is indicated by the storyline of "Sea Star, Orphan of Chincoteague," the second collaboration of Henry and Dennis with a Chincoteague locale, which was published in 1949.

James B. Clark, director, began the filming of the motion picture "Misty"

on Chincoteague Island in the summer of 1960. Filming took six weeks and was complicated by the fact that Assateague was virtually without roads. World War II landing craft were used to ferry actors, crew, and equipment to the uninhabited island.

On June 14, 1961, Chincoteague witnessed an event unique in the annals of the Eastern Shore of Virginia: a motion picture premiere at the Island Theatre on Chincoteague. The island was, of course, seething with excitement that night. The parade that wound down Main from Smith Street, then up Jester and Willow and back to the theater via Mumford, was led by a Coast Guard color guard, with Marguerite Henry and Wesley Dennis in a horse-drawn carriage right behind them.

Misty came next, followed by officials from town, state, and 20th Century Fox, firemen, and the three candidates for "Miss Chincoteague 1961."

At parade's end, Misty dutifully plopped a hoof down in wet cement in front of the theater for the first showing.

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# Before we had email, there was rail mail

Post cards were used to send quick messages by train until telephone usage became ubiquitous after World War II

Many years ago, when I was away in the U.S. Air Force, someone burned down my hometown. They burned it all. Orville Wright's hardware store, Oakley Justis' barber shop, Walter Lewis' grocery store, L.T. Cowan's mercantile store, even the post office. When I came home to Onley, there was no Onley.



Curtis Badger

What I missed most was the Onley Drug Store. I missed the marble soda fountain, the warped wooden floors, shelves filled with mysterious salves and ointments, and the rack of post

cards on top of a glass counter. It was labeled "scenes near Onley, Va." There were pictures of cattle grazing in rolling hill country, snow-covered mountains in the background, clouds like puff-pastry.

The scene was near Onley, compared to, let's say, the Tower of London.

I often thought of those post cards over the years, and one day I realized what they were there for. They had nothing to do with travel, they did not exist to demonstrate to your friends what an intrepid adventurer you are. They existed simply to pass along a message.

I have a modest collection of local post cards, and one day I turned my attention away from the picture side and concentrated on the message side.

"We are well. Bring some of Uncle



COURTESY PHOTO

Post cards like this one depicting Burton's Shore were used to send timely messages to friends and family on the Eastern Shore before telephones became widely used.

Norman's scrapple when you come for Sunday dinner."

"Maryanne is home from William & Mary for a week. Stop by. She would love to see you."

Before the great inferno, the Onley Drug Store was next door to the Onley Post Office. People would go to the drug store, have a Cherry Coke and a grilled cheese, and grab a couple of inexpensive post cards. They would scribble out their message between bites and sips and then drop the post card into the "local mail" slot next door at the post office.

The post office would have the mail on the southbound train at 3 p.m., and the message would be delivered to cousins in Eastville about two hours later.

The post card had nothing at all to do with the image on its front. It was probably a surplus overprint picked up for next to nothing by the guy who owned the drug store. It's purpose was simply to convey a message. It performed the same function email does today.

Rail mail began shortly after the railroad opened in 1884 and stations began popping up along the central ridge of the Shore, creating dozens of railroad communities between Cape Charles and the Maryland line.

For years, multiple trains ran each day, dropping off and picking up mail. The mail bag would be picked up by a passing train while the train was



COURTESY PHOTOS

Pictured at the top is a post card showing transportation on Metompkin Island in the early 1900s. Above is a post card received by Curtis Badger's grandfather in 1902.

still underway, and the mail would be sorted in the mail car. It would then be dropped at the appropriate destination.

Local people communicated by rail mail for years until the telephone became ubiquitous in the years after World War II. And now, email has undone the telephone, and texting has undone email. The way we communicate has become quicker and more efficient with each generation. But efficiency comes at a cost. I miss seeing those cattle grazing in the mountains near Onley.

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.

## Minus: 'Together, great things are possible'

**BY DARYL MINUS**  
Special to Shore First

I first visited the Eastern Shore in the early 1990s as an undergraduate at Hampton University.

Now, over 30 years later, as I settle into my role as president of Eastern Shore Community College, I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this outstanding institution and excited to join the fabric of this dynamic community.

It would be easy to say that hard work and preparation caused stars to miraculously align for over three decades, culminating in my appointment as ESCC president.

While this sounds good, the reality of my journey to the presidency is deeply rooted in the examples set by my parents.

Dad and Mom carved out impactful professional careers as teachers and administrators in the District of Columbia public school system, and I credit them with showing me what it means to have a servant's heart.

Growing up, my brother and I watched Dad and Mom exercise genuine care, concern, and courage on behalf of students from all walks of life.

Little did I know, their examples would serve as the framework for my career trajectory and set a tone for the leader I would become: one that empowers others to be the greatest versions of themselves.

As a result, my purpose eventually found me, and I have proudly served as a community college leader and executive for almost two decades.

As I embrace this full-circle moment and transition from Southside Virginia to settle in Cape Charles, I reflect on what led me to apply for the ESCC presidency: the coastal charm, beauty, and culture of the ESVA; my deep affinity for rural colleges and lived experience of what it means to lead in the communities these colleges serve; and the agility and innovation power of a smaller institution to meet the workforce, economic development and higher education needs of our service area and region.

I absolutely would not be where I am without the support and encouragement from my wonderful family: my wife, Monica; son, Daryl Jr.; and daughter, Loren. They are my inspirations.

I could not ask for a better launch pad to start my tenure as ESCC's sixth president.

I am excited to build on the outstanding momentum generated by retiring president Jim Shaeffer, ESCC faculty and staff, and our community partners.

As we turn to a new chapter in ESCC's history, the Your Eastern Shore! (YES!) culture continues to thrive.

As a college community, we prioritize our culture of care and put expanded focus on efforts that develop and empower students to be career-ready — no matter the pathways they take to reach their education, training, and employment goals. The future is bright at ESCC. Together, great things are possible.



**Daryl Minus is the sixth president of Eastern Shore Community College.**

# Taylor Swift tribute band to perform

Swift Nation scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Palace Theatre in Cape Charles

Arts Enter Cape Charles will open its 2025-26 theater season with a sure hit.

The Taylor Swift tribute band called “Swift Nation” is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Palace Theatre.

The show will pay homage to Taylor Swift’s monumental career and attendees will experience the evolution of her music like never before.

“Swift Nation – A Journey Through Taylor Swift’s Musical Evolution” is not just a tribute; it’s a transformative experience that will transport audiences through time and music.

Audience members will embark on a thrilling musical odyssey that spans the entire spectrum of Swift’s illustrious career.

Swift Nation, the premier live band sing-along tribute, invites audiences to join in on a remarkable journey through the eras of Swift’s momentous musical evolution.

Leading the charge is the extraordinary Melody Ebner, a renowned songstress hailing from the vibrant city of San Diego.

With a voice that commands attention and a passion for Swift’s artistry, Ebner is the driving force behind this unforgettable tribute experience.

Swift Nation is not just a band; it’s a time-traveling musical expedition.

From the country-infused melodies of Swift’s early albums to the chart-topping pop hits that followed, each era has been meticulously recreated, allowing fans to relive the magic of Swift’s music from the start to today.

The journey through Swift’s career is more than just playing the songs; it’s about capturing the essence of each era. Melody and a talented ensemble of musicians embody the spirit, style, and emotions that define Taylor Swift’s ever-evolving artistry.

As the show progresses through the eras, the audience has the opportunity to sing along to favorite Swift classics. It’s not



Swift Nation is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Palace Theatre in Cape Charles.

(Continued on page 19)

# Taylor Swift

(Continued from page 18)

just a tribute; it's a celebration of the growth and transformation that have defined Swift's iconic journey.

The band's dedication to authenticity ensures that each performance is a true reflection of Taylor Swift's unparalleled career. From the intimate storytelling of her early work to the bold, anthemic choruses of her recent albums, every song is delivered with precision and passion.

The show is a tremendous financial commitment for the nonprofit Arts Enter and the organization is recruiting sponsors who are willing to help defray the cost involved in presenting the high-end show.

Sponsors will receive complimentary tickets and substantial marketing opportunities. Interested businesses or individuals are invited to call Arts Enter the Lemon Tree Gallery, 757-331-4327. Tickets are available through a link at [www.artsentercapecharles.org](http://www.artsentercapecharles.org)

# State Fair of Virginia has community impact

Those visiting the State Fair Sept. 26 through Oct. 5 at The Meadow Event Park in Caroline County will find myriad ways to elevate their stay while supporting thousands of Virginia youth — like indulging in a new hospitality experience.

Fairgoers can unwind in style with “Sunsets & Scholarships,” a new fundraising event to benefit fair scholarships and youth programming. Ticketed guests will receive exclusive evening access to historic Meadow Hall, which includes light hors d'oeuvres, a private cash bar, private indoor restrooms, and parking and gate admission.

The event offers a unique opportunity to explore a historic building that is otherwise unavailable to the public. Guests can make the experience their own — like relaxing on the porch with sunset views, listening to Main Stage concerts, and viewing peaceful sights of the fairgrounds at night.

“We are thrilled to launch our reimagined scholarship fundraiser during the 2025 State Fair,” said Marlene Pierson-Jolliffe, the fair's executive director. “The opportunity to enjoy the beautiful Meadow Hall, a private bar and delicious food while being in the middle of the State Fair will be a fun guest experience — and raise scholarship funds at the same time.”

Since 2013, The State Fair of Virginia Scholarship Program has awarded 2,609 scholarships and over \$1 million to support youth education. The fair offers youth more

than \$100,000 each year in scholarship funds through 4-H, FFA, and vocational competitions and specific equine, fine arts, and horticulture competitions. Winners may use their scholarship earnings to attend any accredited post-secondary educational institution.

The Sale of Champions was established in 2015 and is held annually on the second Saturday of the fair. During the fundraising event, youth livestock competitors' market animal champions are “auctioned off” for individuals and businesses to support the youth scholarships.

Fairgoers also can support youth education by bidding on chainsaw artist Chad Gainey's unique, hand-carved log creations on the last day of the fair. One hundred percent of the money from the live chainsaw carvings auction is donated to the scholarship program.

For ticket and entertainment information, visit [StateFairVa.org](http://StateFairVa.org). Additional live updates can be found by following the fair on Facebook at [Facebook.com/StateFairVa](https://www.facebook.com/StateFairVa) and Instagram @statefairva.

The State Fair is held each fall at its permanent home at The Meadow Event Park in Caroline County and attracts 250,000 fairgoers. In 2024, the fair was among 150 diverse events that drew more than 545,235 visitors to The Meadow.

The venue had an overall regional economic impact of \$41.5 million.

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100 years ago  
August 1925

## Link in road to Cape Charles ready by Nov. 1

Work on the four-mile stretch of concrete road from Eastville to Shadyside, north of Cape Charles, is being rapidly pushed to completion, with every indication that it will be finished by Nov. 1. Completion of the link will furnish a straight stretch of concrete from Cape Charles north for a distance of approximately 15 miles.

Tentative plans of the State Highway Commission are said to provide for construction of the entire distance of the Del-Mar, Md., trail from the Maryland line through Accomack and Northampton counties south during the coming year. Accomack County already has about half of its main highway paved, while completion of the stretch now under construction in Northampton will give this county about the same proportion.

Improvement of roads on the peninsula and reduction of the ferry rates from Cape Charles to Norfolk and Old Point have resulted in a larger amount of tourist travel this summer than ever before. Businessmen of the two counties are anxious that the whole road program be completed, as it will improve property values and be a boon to business in general.

— *The Virginian-Pilot*

## New mode of handling books in Accomack

Accomack schools will open Thursday, Sept. 10, and almost the entire force of teachers has been engaged. The Accomack County school board has also planned a departure from the old-time method of distributing books through a few local dealers.

Walter S. Elmore, of Painter, was elected clerk of the school board to succeed Herbert S. Barnes, and he will attend to the handling of all school books and supplies.

Upon opening day of the schools, teachers and principals will ascertain the number of books necessary for their various departments. By having a central agency, this will save pupils much time. There will also be an attempt to standardize the books throughout the county schools.

— *The News and Advance*

## Baseball teams have amusing mix-up

A rather amusing mix-up in dates occurred this week between the baseball teams representing Princess Anne and Chincoteague.

On the day the two teams were scheduled to play, the Princess Anne boys were seen to pass through Pocomoke City en route to the island; and not long afterwards, the Virginia boys were seen going north for Princess Anne. Each club arrived at its destination only to find that the home team was gone.

The rather peculiar thing about it was that they met each other on the way, but like the ships that pass at night, they knew not one another and drove on unaware of the misunderstanding of dates.

It is safe to say that the schedule of the Delmarvia League will receive a careful review by these two teams.

— *Worcester Democrat and the Ledger-Enterprise*

## Governor inspects fish industry in Chesapeake Bay

Governor and Mrs. E. Lee Trinkle, following their participation in the Four County Farmers' Celebration at Suffolk yesterday incident to the Suffolk-Carolina Highway opening, left this morning on the Fish Commission steamer Commodore Maury to spend two days in the Chesapeake Bay and on the seaside of Northampton and Accomack counties.

The governor is making the trip to examine oyster and fish conditions on Tangier, Chincoteague, and Assateague islands. The former is on the Chesapeake, while Chincoteague and Assateague are on the seaside.

The governor went first to Tangier Island, where the party landed and saw the quaint things of the island. It is on this island that burial plots are in the front yards and driven wells for drinking water are in the back yards. The official board of the Methodist Episcopal Church is the court and inflicts punishment for wrongdoing in or out of the church. There are no streets, only pathways around the inhabited parts of the island.

There is but one horse on the island and he has to be kept chained to prevent him from swimming away to blowing steamers. The horse was brought to the island on a boat from Baltimore and every time he hears a boat blow, he tries to swim away. He did this on one occasion and had to be lassoed and towed back to shore.

On Chincoteague Island, Governor Trinkle will investigate the seaside oyster and fish industry that is large there. Chincoteague is mostly inhabited and is now connected by a roadway with the mainland of

upper Accomack County. There is much fishing on Assateague, but the inhabitants there are few.

Governor and Mrs. Trinkle are expected to arrive back in Norfolk early Saturday morning.

— *The Portsmouth Star*

75 years ago  
August 1950

## Stolen auto recovered

Two Clark County prison camp escapees were apprehended in Cape Charles yesterday and are being held by authorities there for the alleged theft of a Suffolk auto.

Joe N. Mitchell, 18, and James Allen Smith, 20, were taken into custody by Cape Charles and state police authorities.

They were traveling in a car reported stolen in Suffolk on Tuesday from owner William H. Anthony of 114 Morgan St. Anthony, a carpenter, was employed at the Morgan Street address when his car was stolen on Tuesday morning.

Warrants charging grand larceny of an automobile have been brought against each of the men. They will be returned to Suffolk today in the custody of Special Investigator H.W. Churn and Officer J.H. Williams.

Police Chief L.B. Butler reported this morning that Smith has previously been convicted in Suffolk for car theft and was, at the time of his escape from the prison camp, serving a four-year sentence.

— *The Suffolk News-Herald*

## 57 Virginians get draft call

Fifty-seven men have been notified to report for pre-induction physical examinations in Northampton County.

The Selective Service Board called 29 to report Tuesday and a second group to report today.

Eleven draft delinquents will be the first inducted to the Army from Accomack County if they are located, the board announced last week.

They have been notified to report for induction or, upon being located by the FBI, stand trial in a federal court.

Delinquents were classified as those who failed to report for pre-induction examinations or did not notify the board of a change in address.

— *The Daily Times*

(Continued on page 22)

## Yesteryears

(Continued from page 21)

### Two live rockets dropped on Shore, warning issued

If you see something round and silver-colored with four fins like a rocket — it is. DON'T TOUCH IT!

Two live explosive rocket rounds were dropped accidentally Tuesday by Marine aircraft in Accomack County, the Navy announced.

They are five inches in diameter and if not broken by the fall are 69 inches long. The remainder of the rocket body is silver-colored with four fins and an electrical plug at the tail. The olive drab portion contains explosives and is sensitive to shock at its points. The silver portion is also highly flammable.

The Navy says the rockets are probably in the vicinity of Mosquito Creek, northeast of the Navy field and in the wooded area, two miles south of Oak Hall.

If you find one, telephone collect to the Naval Station at Chincoteague, Temperanceville 170, extension 222. Naval personnel will be dispatched to handle it.

“There is no danger if the rockets are not handled,” a spokesman at the base said.

No other information was released by the Navy in an official statement. The visiting Marine aircraft was in flight from the base when the two rockets fell, the Navy announced.

— *The Daily Times*

### Virginia State Police to build Shore station

Radio contact between Maryland and Virginia state police will be established soon on Route 13.

A contract for the erection of a state police station on the Eastern Shore of Virginia was signed this week. Construction will begin immediately, a state trooper said. The station will cost about \$33,000.

The station will be located near Melfa and will be manned 24 hours a day for radio transmission and all other police services.

— *The Daily Times*

### 2,000 visitors on Tangier for homecoming

Tangier island, where there are no automobiles, winds up its annual three-day homecoming celebration today.

The normal population of 1,400 has been swelled to more than 3,400 in the past few days. Many relatives and friends pick homecoming time to revisit the island.

By tonight when activities end, an estimated 70 fried chickens, 75 dozen soft crabs, 45 pounds of crab meat, 2,500 clams, 130 pounds of wieners, 75 pounds of hamburger, and more than 150 cakes and pies will have been consumed.

Potato salad and string beans were also on the menu, but the quantity consumed is anybody's guess.

Mrs. Homer Williams, whose grocer husband was in charge of purchasing the food, said cooking was being done at the homecoming site near the wharf.

Although the weather has been unsettled, boatload after boatload of friends, relatives, and the curious have come over from Crisfield.

There have been daily baseball games, contests, religious observances, skits, hillbilly music, recalling of past memories by old-timers, and a fireworks display.

The annual homecoming is sponsored by the Tangier Island Daughters of America.

— *The Daily Times*

### 50 years ago August 1975

### Another shell discovered in clam shipment

Inspectors at the Old Salt Seafood Co. plant in Lewes found what was described as a 60-millimeter mortar shell in a shipment of clams. This is the second time the plant received such a shipment, but this time there was no explosion.

The shell that was missed by an inspector last week went through the plant's oven and exploded in an ash barrel, sending three employees to Beebe Hospital.

State police said that the shell found Thursday had no detonator and no powder and that there was no way it could have exploded. But another officer said that it was better to be safe than sorry.

According to the plant manager, Ralph P. Kimes, the clams were dredged in a wide area around Cape Charles and that the company's supplier sorts through clams before they are shipped. Last week, he said, there was an explosion on a dock at Kiptopeke. Old and rusted shells have also been found in shipments of clams from other areas.

— *The Daily Times*

### Four-lane highway need is questioned

About 70 persons attended a public hearing at the Fire Department Building on North Street Wednesday night to discuss location and major design features of a proposed project to improve Routes 178 and 179 in Onley and Onancock.

Five or six property owners along the proposed route spoke, according to Harry L. Yeaman, resident engineer for the Virginia State Highway Department. Generally, they were not in favor of the project, questioning the need for a four-lane highway on the 1.5 miles stretch of road involved. They feared it would increase speed and take up land, he said.

Starting at 7:30 p.m. with a highway department presentation that took about an hour, the meeting was over by 9:45 p.m.

The next step will be to contact local governing bodies to get their commitment on the project. Initiation of the design work was at their request, Mr. Yeaman commented.

Daily traffic count on the road is now 6,920 vehicles. This is expected to grow to 13,000 by 1994. Presently the routes have only a 20-foot right-of-way. They would be widened to 44 feet with curb and gutter on both sides of the road. For the four-lane road, a minimum of 60-foot right-of-way is needed, with additional easements for proper construction and maintenance.

The intersection of routes 178 and 179 would be relocated about 300 feet east of the existing location.

— *The Daily Times*

### Chincoteague: It's great

Nothing against Ocean City, but have you tried Chincoteague lately?

Same things. Sandy beaches, good food, delightful fishing, evening scenic pleasure cruises, camping, crabbing, clamming, bird watching, interesting shops, art studios, souvenir stalls, boat rentals, marinas, bathing beauties, sunshine, the whole works, but at a more relaxing pace and at economy prices.

Best of all, no towering condominiums cluttering the horizon.

There are enough rowboats to accommodate a fleet of fishermen, fishing centers for modern charterboats going offshore for tuna, blues, dolphin, wahoo, and even marlin. Many of the old homes still have shingles hanging from the porches offering rooms at old-time prices, but there are modern motels — rooms for \$15 and up a day.

Bill's Seafood, a favorite hangout for fishermen but one that won't pack lunches for the boat trip, is about to move into a large modern building right next to the old

(Continued on page 23)

## Yesteryears

(Continued from page 22)

shop on the main drag. Island seafood is delightful. One would have to look a long time to beat the table spread by the Landmark Crab House or The Corner By The Bridge, which is next to the drawbridge under which much of the local seafood arrives.

The old-time hunting guides now spend their summers chatting with visitors looking over the decoys they sell at streetside stands. Even decoymaking is changing a bit.

I noticed one carver using a hair dryer to dry the paint as he put the finishing touches on a block!

There's the smell of the sea and the marsh downtown, there's room to park, and no one seems to be in a hurry. What a place. Chincoteague lost a naval air station, but the community and its visitors have gained so much more.

— *The Evening Sun*

## Pace slow on Tangier Island despite daily 'battles'

Asbury Pruitt didn't spill a drop of his coffee when the bombardment began.

From his airport tower vantage point, Pruitt could have seen the formation of jet fighters approaching while they were still mere specks on the horizon.

Now they were swooping like birds of prey at one of the two troop transports in the bay west of the tower. A fusillade of rocket fire poured down on the helpless ship. Bombs exploded on its deck and blistered the water all around.

There was no return fire, nor did Pruitt expect there to be any. He sees the same "battle" every day.

For years, the "Sunday Punchers" from Oceana Naval Base have used the long-retired World War II Liberty ships for target practice.

The place is Tangier Island — a tiny green parcel of Virginia perched in the shimmering blue of the Chesapeake Bay, where it exists in low profile as a repository of American history dating back to the beginning of the 17th century.

The island has changed somewhat since Capt. John Smith discovered it in 1608.

Steady erosion has reduced its perimeter drastically. Technology, with its wonders, has kept the island up to date, but the island's people, some 900 — most of them direct descendants of Tangier's original settlers — also have kept alive their many cultural roots, including the basic livelihood of catching oysters and crabs.

Oblivious to the daily "air raids" off its western shore,

life on Tangier Island moves at a leisurely pace, spiced with a distinctive Old World flavor protected by its isolation from the mainland and nourished by the closeness of its inhabitants as a community.

The language spoken on Tangier is English, but its dialect is perhaps the most unusual to be found anywhere. Some say it traces back to Shakespeare's day. To an untrained ear, however, Tangier English sounds like a blend of Cockney, Scottish, and basic Virginian, with a somewhat Scandinavian inflection that swings up and down in pitch.

Most Tangier natives share a unique pronunciation of certain words, usually keyed on a lowered vowel. The long "i," for example, comes out "oi." "Face becomes "fahss" and "where" sounds like "wurr."

In his book, which he sells to tourists, islander Frank Dize explains the Tangier dialect this way: "We mix Anglo-Saxon with slang, plus our amusing but confusing way of talking backwards, and you just might possibly need a local interpreter to help you get around."

Seated by the gate to Chesapeake House, where he autographs copies of his folksy book on Tangier history and legend and another book of island recipes, the waterman-turned-author loves to chat with guests who have come to dine, family style, on the restaurant's crab cakes, clam fritters, corn pudding, and unforgettable pan bread.

Dize rarely moves from his lawn chair, but he doesn't have to. In fact, he'll invite you to sit down. Within half an hour he can relate enough information for any tourist to track down all of the island's attractions unescorted.

— *The World-News*

25 years ago  
August 2000

## Reward offered in Smith Island fire

Virginia authorities are offering a \$2,000 reward for information on a fire last month that destroyed a 100-year-old cottage valued at more than \$1 million.

Authorities still are investigating laborers who acknowledged smoking cigarettes while staying in the cottage and renovating the nearby lighthouse.

"We won't close the investigation until we find sufficient evidence to say what the cause was," said Preston Trower, lead investigator and chief forest warden for the Virginia Department of Forestry.

Because of the value of the property, the insurance company has hired an independent investigator.

Workers from Harmony Industries had said they were unsure how it started but tried to fight the blaze.

— *The Daily Times*

# 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

Physical address:  
3257B Main Street  
Exmore, VA 23350

Mailing address:  
P.O. Box 517  
Onley, VA 23418

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

JIM RITCH

Publisher

[publisher@easternshorepost.com](mailto:publisher@easternshorepost.com)

WILLIAM E. SHOCKLEY III

Editor, General Manager

[editor@easternshorepost.com](mailto:editor@easternshorepost.com)

RYAN WEBB

Assistant Editor

[ryan@easternshorepost.com](mailto:ryan@easternshorepost.com)

MEGAN LEWIS

Advertising Manager

[ads@easternshorepost.com](mailto:ads@easternshorepost.com)

## CONTRIBUTORS

CURTIS BADGER

SARAH BARBAN

LAURA DAVIS

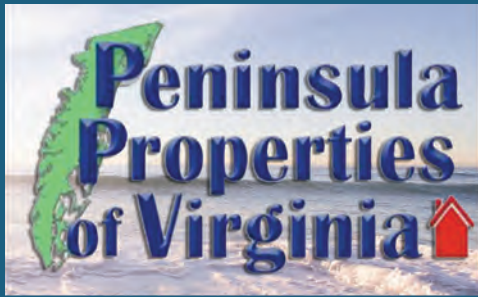
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