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The Shore's Taco Truck Tour: Tasty in Tasley

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When Wallops Island was a summer resort | Page 10



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Shore First | The arts

Pop, opera in Cape Charles

February and March at Arts Enter Cape Charles celebrate music in all its variety — pop, opera, jazz, roots, and rock — each offering a different way to enjoy a shared experience.

Whether you love to dance or sit back and listen, this season's events highlight how powerful live music can be in bringing people together.

After the elegance of waltz music at the Masquerade Ball, the season shifts gears on Valentine's Day, Saturday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m., when The Deloreans return to the stage at the Historic Palace Theatre.

The ultimate 1980s tribute band, The Deloreans deliver a high-energy performance and plenty of reasons to get out of your seat, including a cash bar.

This is a Valentine's celebration designed for couples, friends, and anyone who wants to mark the night with music you already know by heart — the kind of evening where the audience becomes part of the show.

Just one day later, Arts Enter shifts the mood — without losing the sense of connection — as Virginia Opera brings Arias & Duets to Lemon Tree Gallery on Sunday, Feb. 15, at 4 p.m.

Lemon Tree Gallery, open daily, brings artists and audiences together in a relaxed, welcoming setting. Opera feels especially powerful here, where voices soar just feet away from listeners.

The program features four exceptional emerging artists: mezzo-soprano Melanie Dubil, soprano Maggie Kinabrew, tenor Daniel Esteban Lugo, and baritone Adam Partridge. Together, they present opera not as something distant or formal, but as something immediate, expressive, and deeply human.

After a brief January hiatus, Fridays at Lemon Tree have returned. This well-loved weekly gathering runs from 6 to 8 p.m. and features live music, no cover, and a cash bar.

These casual evenings invite lo-

cal and visitors alike to stop by, unwind, and enjoy great music in good company.

The lineup includes The Stingrays on Feb. 6, known for their upbeat blend of surf rock, roots, and danceable grooves; Boy Wells on Feb. 13, a guitarist and vocalist blending blues, southern rock, and American roots music; Two Bridges on Feb. 20; and Jason Ochsner on Feb. 27.

March continues the momentum with The Stingrays (March 6), Tidewater Bluegrass Revival (March 13), Vernon Holoman (March 20), and Raucous Brothers (March 27).

On Saturday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m., Arts Enter presents Unforgettable Jazz with Karla D. Robinson at Lemon Tree. The gallery's cozy setting creates the perfect atmosphere to slow down and enjoy music that lingers — smooth rhythms, familiar standards, and expressive vocals that invite listeners to settle in and savor the moment.

A dynamic presence in the regional arts community, Robinson is a performer, choral director, and private vocal instructor. After attending St. Olaf College, she made her home in Hampton Roads and has spent more than 18 years directing high school choirs at Young Musicians of Virginia, where she also serves as director of fine arts. Audiences may also recognize her from the recent production of "Send Me No Flowers" on the Palace stage, where she delighted as Judy Kimball.

Robinson's jazz performance promises an evening that feels polished yet personal — where music, art, and audience come together naturally.

Auditions have concluded for "Piece of Eden," Arts Enter's original historic musical returning for the third time to the Palace Theatre in late April and early May.

Tickets can be purchased at artsentecapecharles.org or by calling 757-331-4327.

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www.artsentercapecharles.org | #smalltownbigart

A feast at Tasley's Taco Truck Perla

I've been given the enviable assignment of beginning a monthly column about taco trucks on the Eastern Shore.

Each month I'll write about one of the diverse trucks that have established themselves from Townsend to the Maryland line.



Sarah Barban

I've had a love for taco trucks ever since high school, and I'm looking forward to finding new dishes, delicious tortillas, and delectable bites up and down the Shore. My first stop was Taco Truck Perla.

If you aren't looking for it, driving past Taco Truck Perla would be easy.

I've driven past it dozens of times, but I wanted to start my column with a spot that was new to me.

The white food truck sits on Tasley Road with a few picnic tables in the shade of a large tree.

The protein selection is expansive, and much of it was new to me. In addition to standards like carne asada and chicken are dishes like cachete, beef cheek, lengua, tongue, and adobada, pork cooked in a flavorful red sauce.

I'd never before had adobada — savory marinated pork — and I couldn't wait to try it. I decided to get mine on a sope, a thick griddled cake of masa cornmeal.

It was topped with beans, the adobada, lettuce, crema, and a sprinkle



A sope filled with adobada and grilled onions is a filling option at Taco Truck Perla in Tasley. The green salsa served on the side adds a nice acidity to meals at the truck.

SHORE FIRST/
SARAH BARBAN

of queso fresco.

I loved the way the sweet corn flavor of the sope highlighted the savoriness of the juicy seasoned pork and grilled onions.

Come hungry, because my sope was wonderfully filling and about the size of a personal pizza.

The green salsa served on the side

doesn't have much heat, but it adds a nice acidity and a bit of freshness that ties Taco Truck Perla's dishes together.

This is a column about taco trucks, so I had to try some tacos. I ordered one chorizo and one al pastor, which are my two favorite taco truck proteins. They were served

with onions and cilantro on top with a lime wedge and green salsa on the side.

The tortillas were tender, flavorful, and lightly toasted. Taco Truck Perla double wraps their tacos to keep all the goodness in.

I have a bit of spice tolerance

(Continued on page 5)

The Eastern Shore of Virginia is home to a number of taco trucks producing delicious fare that you might not have tried. Sarah Barban of the Eastern Shore Post and Shore First staff is going to find them and report back monthly on what she ate. She expects to see readers more frequently at our local bonanza of taco trucks.



SHORE FIRST/TED SHOCKLEY

Taco Truck Perla is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. It is located at 24356 Tasley Road, Tasley.

Taco truck

(Continued from page 4)

and I would qualify the chorizo as hot by my standards, but the burning tongue was worth it. The heat helped cut through the richness of the chorizo without losing the flavor of the spice blend that makes this Mexican sausage a flavor powerhouse in my book.

The al pastor, seasoned pork with grilled onions and pineapple, was equally as satisfying. For me, there

are few things better than biting into an al pastor taco and hitting a chunk of juicy sweet pineapple with savory grilled onions and tender pork.

The portions at Taco Truck Perla are generous, the service is quick, and the food is delicious, with lots of dishes that may be new to others as they were to me. I'm glad I stopped.

Taco Truck Perla is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. It is located at 24356 Tasley Road, Tasley.

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February temperatures demand a hearty beef stew

The chapter we call winter will finally be coming to a close soon — along with the end of colder weather.

While I'm super excited to welcome spring, I'll definitely miss the warm "stick-to-your-rib meals" that we get to enjoy during colder months.



Laura Davis

One of my favorites is a nice hearty beef stew.

I love taking a tough cut of beef, like a chuck roast, and transforming it into tender bites that melt in your mouth.

The addition of red wine to the stew adds a

wonderful richness and depth of flavor, complementing and enhancing the beefiness.

Red potatoes, carrots, and peas also come to the party for a dip in the tub — the more, the merrier.

It makes a large potful, which is plenty for supper one evening and enough leftovers for several lunches.

As with all stews and soups, it just gets better over time.

It also freezes wonderfully for an easy meal when you don't feel like cooking.

I like to serve it over a bed of egg noodles with a green salad on the side.



A hearty beef stew can include red potatoes, carrots, and peas.

PHOTO COURTESY LAURA DAVIS

Laura Davis, of Chincoteague Island, is a food writer and blogger at www.tideandthyme.com. Her recipes have been featured on Huffington Post and www.craftbeer.com, among other publications. She is a frequent guest on WBOC-TV's DelmarvaLife show, where she showcases her culinary talents for viewers. Her work appears monthly in Shore First.

Beef stew recipe

- 3 lbs. beef chuck roast, fat trimmed and cubed
- Salt and ground pepper
- 3 tbsp vegetable oil, divided
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 medium onions, chopped (about 2 cups)
- 3 medium garlic cloves, minced
- 3 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1 cup dry red wine (Merlot or Cabernet Sauvignon)
- 2 cups beef broth
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 4 medium red potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 4 large carrots (about 1 lb.), peeled and sliced 1/4 inch thick
- 1 cup frozen peas

Season beef generously with salt and pepper.

Heat 1 tbsp oil in a heavy-bottomed pot over medium-high heat.

Add half the beef and brown on all sides.

Remove to a bowl and repeat with

remaining beef. Set aside.

Reduce heat to medium and add the remaining 1 tbsp oil to the now empty pan, swirling to coat the bottom.

Add onions and 1/4 tsp salt and cook, scraping brown bits from the bottom of the pan, until softened. Add garlic and continue to cook for 30 seconds.

Stir in the flour and cook until lightly colored (1-2 min.). Add wine, scraping the bottom and stirring until thick and the flour is dissolved.

Slowly add the beef broth, stirring constantly and scraping up the remaining browned bits on the bottom of the pan.

Add bay leaves and thyme and return to simmer. Add beef, return to simmer, reduce heat to low, and cover. Simmer for 1 hour.

Add potatoes and carrots, leave uncovered, increase heat to medium and cook for 1 more hour.

Add the peas, reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 5 min.

Discard bay leaves, and season with salt and pepper to taste before serving.



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Col. Corbin takes back fort at Chincoteague

‘Although we were worsted, the enemy suffered a small loss,’ reported the militia leader

On Dec. 25, 1776, a young American lieutenant bringing the captured British ship Thomas to Baltimore ran into a fierce storm and was driven aground on the shoals just outside the Inlet. Unable to move the vessel, the

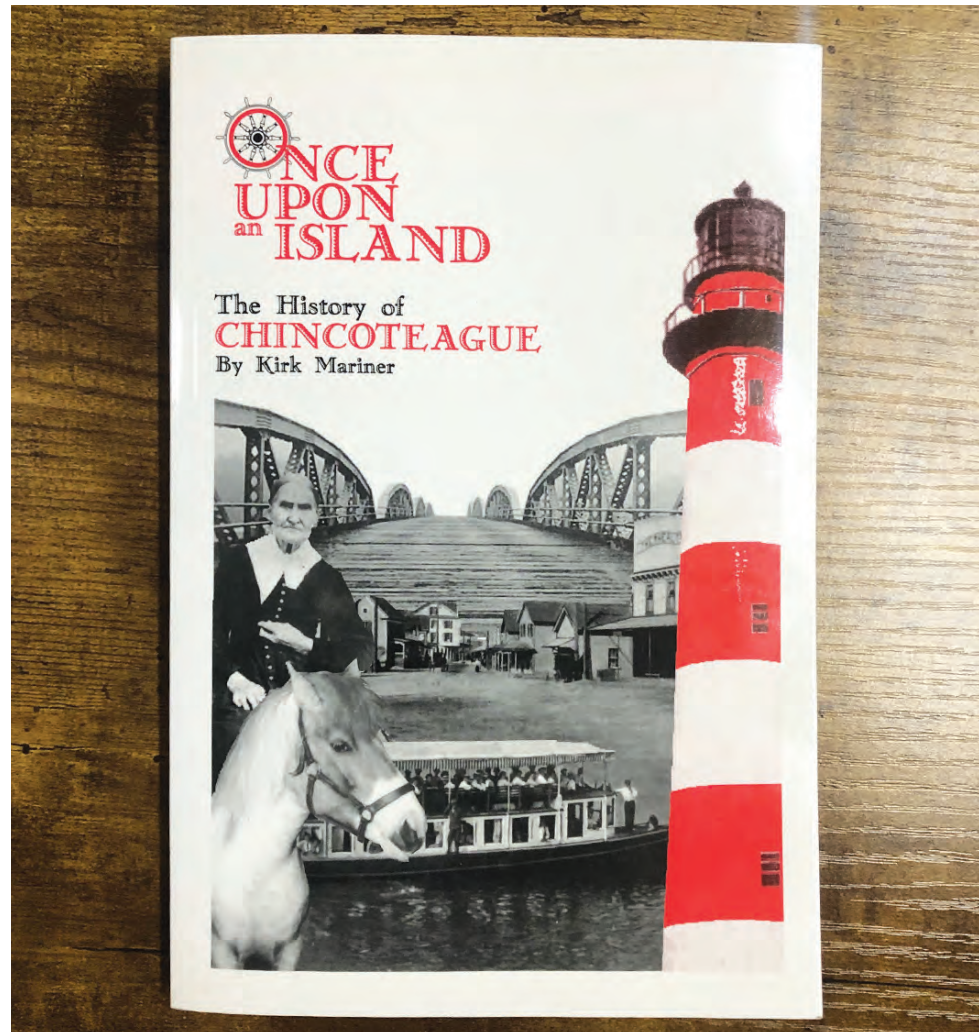


Kirk Mariner

crew threw out the anchor, then climbed into the ship’s rigging, clinging to the ropes all night in fear for their lives. Daylight found them “still clinging, hungry and cold, in a monotony of misery and fear,” when they were cheered by the sight of another

vessel making for the Inlet. Hope gave way to despair when, before their eyes, the other ship was dashed onto the shore and broken up. But that afternoon the wind changed, the lieutenant gave orders to man the sails, and with great effort the Thomas made it through the inlet to safety.

The Thomas remained at Chincoteague for several days while it was repaired and its crew rested. It headed out for the Virginia Capes on Jan. 2, 1777, only to be captured by the British ship Perius. Young Lt. Joshua Barney, who was then taken prisoner and later exchanged, went on to braver exploits and greater fame and ended his career as a commodore, the equivalent of an admiral



SHORE FIRST/TED SHOCKLEY

This excerpt is from Kirk Mariner’s “Once Upon an Island — The History of Chincoteague.”

today.

By the spring of 1778, the ports of the seaside had become “the chief medium for the commerce of Virginia,” and Chincoteague both an “important emergency international port of entry”

and a major point for diverting overseas goods into the interior of Virginia.

In August of 1778, the two county galleys, which had been two years in the planning, were at last ready for action. The Diligence was assigned to Metomp-

kin, and the Accomack was assigned to Chincoteague. The two new patrol vessels were small, narrow craft, perhaps 40 to 75 feet in length, of light draft, with two decks. With sails designed for speed, they could operate both in the ocean inlets and in the shallow creeks behind the barrier islands. The guns of the Accomack included two 18-pounders, four 9-pounders, and four swivels, not counting the small arms that had been issued to its officers. It was under the command of Capt. William Underhill, with Robert Miller and Ishmael Andrews as 1st and 2nd lieutenants, respectively. Its crew of 68 officers and sailors received a bonus of \$20 each for this type of service.

The presence of the Accomack undoubtedly helped to ease the strain of war for those who lived in and around Chincoteague, but somehow the galley was absent on the one day when it was most needed.

On Aug. 15, 1779, a ship flying no colors anchored off Wallops Island and sent a small boat ashore. A ship without a flag could reasonably be assumed to be a friendly one hoping to unload cargo out of sight of the enemy, and any fears that this vessel was British were fully allayed when the four men who stepped ashore from the boat turned out to be not only French, but also known personally to some of the residents of Wallops.

The vessel, they reported, was in need of a good local pilot to lead the ship safely through the Inlet, and one of the islanders accepted the invitation to come aboard and serve in that capacity.

(Continued on page 9)

The Rev. Kirk Mariner was an Eastern Shore author, historian, and United Methodist minister whose book, “Off 13: The Eastern Shore of Virginia Guidebook,” is an indispensable volume for natives and visitors alike.

Mariner died in 2017. His work appears in Eastern Shore First courtesy of Miona Publications. This first appeared in his book, “Once Upon an Island: The History of Chincoteague.”

Mariner

(Continued from page 8)

That night, the captain sent 30 well-armed men ashore in a small boat. Landing at the southern end of the island and approaching the fort from its backside, they bypassed the sentries, stole into some of the small boats pulled up on the inside beach behind the fort, and by that means surprised and took both the schooner and the sloop. The eight militiamen inside the fort, badly outnumbered, were easily overcome. The fort's cannons were rendered useless, and leaving eight of their own sailors in control of the fort, the rest prepared to set out towards the main ship in the two captured vessels, taking their prisoners with them.

Col. George Corbin, leader of the local militia, hastened to the island with a party of militiamen. The sailors holding the fort, knowing from the Wallops Island informant that the local militia was well-armed, abandoned the fort, and Corbin arrived to find the two captured ships still within range of the

fort's now-useless cannons, the smaller ship aground on the shoals.

There followed a quick race, the Americans attempting to fix the cannons in time to use them, the British scrambling to get out of range.

By the time the fort's guns were firing, the ships were almost a mile away and only experienced small damage to their rigging. The Americans watched helplessly as the British transferred the cargo of flour to the main ship, set the schooner afire, and sailed off with the sloop in tow.

"Although we were worsted" in this incident, reported Corbin to Gov. Thomas Jefferson, "the enemy suffered a small loss." For the little boat on which the sailors had stolen ashore was recovered at the southern end of the island and with it "one swivel, two muskets, a brass blunderbuss, and several other small articles." These were quickly sold for more than £300, and the money was divided by the fort's liberators.

Of the eight prisoners taken from the fort by the British, one managed to escape, and Corbin was able to obtain the "discharge" of the others.

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Back when Wallops Island was a summer resort

Popular with tourists, it featured a hotel and other amenities aimed at attracting families

Wallops Island today is well known for its role in America's space program, but long before rockets were launched from Wal-



Curtis Badger

lops, the island was a very popular summer resort with a hotel and other amenities that complemented the summer tourism business of nearby Chincoteague.

The opening of the railroad in 1884 made the barrier is-

land beaches accessible to northern visitors, and shortly after the trains began running, various resorts appeared on the islands.

Hog Island, Parramore, Revels Island, and Wallops all had clubs and resorts within a few years of the coming of the railroad.

A group of investors from Philadelphia renamed Hog Island and began selling stock in shares of the Broadwater Land and Improvement Corporation. New York businessmen built the Accomack Club in the high marsh west of Parramore, and a group from Pittsburgh created the Revels Island Club. Most of the clubs were centered around hunting and fishing.

Another group from Pennsylvania created a club on Wallops
(Continued on page 11)



PHOTO COURTESY KIRK MARINER COLLECTION/EASTERN SHORE HERITAGE CENTER

The Wallops Island Association contracted Chincoteague builder William Conant to erect this two-storied clubhouse on Wallops Island. This photograph was taken of the clubhouse just as it was being finished in 1891.

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.

Wallops

(Continued from page 10)

Island, but this club concentrated more on family outings. The Wallops Island Association was formed in 1889, when its members purchased Wallops Island for \$8,000.

In the summer of 1890, they contracted with Chincoteague builder William Conant to build a two-storied clubhouse. On May 16, 1891, Conant presented them the keys to a handsome new facility, and thus began the first summer season of the Wallops Island Club.

Unlike the other clubs, Wallops did not focus on waterfowl hunting, and it operated mainly during the spring and summer months.

Visitors frequently included family groups, and the children were welcome. Local newspapers would make note of the opening of the club each spring.

The Wallops Island Club was organized and managed by an association of businessmen, so it is not surprising that the club was governed like any good corporation.

The shareholders held annual meetings, voted on business matters, approved budgets, and elected officers. The association operated for some 60 years.

Records of the annual meetings and the statements of assets and liabilities still exist, providing a vivid picture of the business side of running a barrier island club.

The annual meeting of the association in 1928 was held on Oct. 1 at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia.

At that time the club had a net worth of \$77,907.63. Assets included 3,000 acres of land at \$15 an acre, a clubhouse valued at \$25,000, and other improvements including a stable and ice house, servant quarters and garage, boat-houses, pumps, and docks.

Floating assets included three launches, and livestock numbered 200 sheep at \$4 and 100 ponies at \$20. The only liabilities were several on-demand notes from banks.

The Wallops Island Club flourished until the early 1930s, when a combination of the Great Depres-



PHOTO COURTESY KIRK MARINER COLLECTION/EASTERN SHORE HERITAGE CENTER

Pictured is the Wallops Island Life-saving Station, which was washed away in the storm of 1933. The storm also claimed the life of a young guardsman.

sion of 1929 and the Storm of '33 eroded both the island and the investment accounts of its members.

Newspaper reports say that the great hotel was washed away, along with the Coast Guard Station, taking the life of a young guardsman.

World War II brought about a military presence on the mainland west of Chincoteague, as the Navy built an auxiliary air station to train pilots. In 1945 the Navy leased 1,000 acres on the south end of Wallops Island to use as a rocket proving ground, and,

fittingly, on July 4 of that year, it launched its first rocket.

Eighty years later, the other barrier island clubs are part of our local history. Wallops Island, on the other hand, remains very much a part of our future.

100 years ago
February 1926

Cape Charles plans space along beach for tourists

The 1926 program of the Cape Charles Booster Club, as outlined at the February meeting held in the firehouse in Cape Charles with the president, Otto Lowe, presiding, calls for extensive improvements along the lines of making Cape Charles a resort and putting the town before the traveling public.

A tourist camp, covering an entire block along the beach shore, equipped with lights, water, and sewerage, will be thrown open to the public by early summer without charge, and the town invites tourists from all sections of the country to come and remain at their leisure, where fishing, boating, and bathing can be enjoyed throughout the summer.

The combination breakwater and pier to ensure a safe harbor for pleasure boats within deep water anchorage will be the most extensive improvement of the program and a committee composed of six of the town's leading citizens are busy working out plans in detail for the work to begin by early spring.

The erection of a combination bandstand and summer pavilion at the foot of the town's business street will add much to the appearance of the beach front and at the same time serve as a haven to picnickers who gather almost daily throughout the summer months.

An advertising appropriation was authorized and the advertising committee will at once plan for road signs, descriptive leaflets for tourists' bureaus, and other advertising matters, which will state Cape Charles' natural resources, the advantages of the town and county, what the live "Go-Get-It" people are doing, and why the traveling public should plan to visit this section for a year-round resort.

— *The Roanoke Times*

Wild mule captured

The wild mule that escaped from a carload brought to southern Delaware 14 weeks ago and has roamed the banks of the Nanticoke River ever since was captured this afternoon by a crowd of about 100 people.

The mule was driven into a three-prong snare

made from the pattern used by old rabbit hunters, only on a much larger scale.

Hundreds of people have been endeavoring to catch the mule. Ropers from Chincoteague Island were imported some weeks ago to try their luck at capturing the mule, but it eluded them as easily as other horsemen of the peninsula. Every known means had been resorted to pen or trap the elusive animal.

Since the animal has been at large, it is said, he has been sold and resold several times and is now the property of Oscar Johnson, Broad Creek farmer, who has him safely locked in his stable.

— *The Daily Star*

Trapped in blazing sedan

Trapped in a blazing sedan when a lighted lantern ignited the gas in the tank, Mrs. Will Payne and her three young children faced a horrible death for a few moments.

The car, driven by the husband and father, ran out of gas, and a stop was made at a service station at Deep Creek. Filling the tank, the lighted lantern was unheeded until a puff of white flame shot up to the roof of the car, driving Payne back and cutting off the escape of his wife and children. He rushed to the opposite side of the car and opened a door, creating a draft that drew the flames outside. His wife, carrying the baby, stumbled out, pushing the children before her.

The car was destroyed and the flames also took hold of the hose from the service tank. The latter was extinguished in time to prevent an explosion. Mrs. Payne and the oldest child, Harry, 9, were badly burned, while Mr. Payne and the other two children escaped with slight burns.

— *The News and Advance*

Fifteen Shore high schools recognized

There are 15 accredited high schools on the Eastern Shore of Virginia — nine in Accomack County and six in Northampton, according to word received last week from Sidney B. Hall, supervisor of rural education of Virginia. This is the largest accredited list of schools in the history of the Shore. They are as follows:

Accomack County — Accomac, Bloxom, Chincoteague, Onancock, Onley, Painter, Parksley, Temperanceville, and Wachapreague.

Northampton — Cape Charles, Cheriton, Capeville, Eastville, Franktown-Nassawadox,

and Exmore-Willis Wharf.

The 15 schools now shown on the accredited list are said to rank among the first in the state. All have modern, up-to-date plans, except Exmore-Willis-Wharf, which was recently burned. A bond issue was voted two weeks ago for the erection of a new brick building for this school. The superintendents, J.M. Shue, of Accomack, and D.W. Peters, of Northampton, report the best corps of teachers and the largest enrollment of recent years.

— *Ledger-Star*

75 years ago
February 1951

Nine killed in crash of marine plane

A U.S. Marine transport plane crashed in a rain and wind storm about 15 miles north of Cape Charles today, killing all nine aboard.

The plane, an R4-Q Fairchild Packet, had left its base at Cherry Point, N.C., at 1:08 p.m. bound for Floyd Bennett Field, N.Y., to pick up equipment, an officer at the Marine base said.

Observers at the scene said the big ship shattered into two large pieces when it crashed into a marsh on the Chesapeake Bay side of the peninsula near the town of Eastville.

The removal of some of the bodies was hampered by the fact that the nose of the plane came to rest on the bank of Hungar's Creek and the fuselage settled into the water.

The first three bodies were recovered by Herbert Charnock, an Eastville carpenter working on a house about 100 yards from the crash.

Two other bodies were removed afterward, but late tonight a spokesman from the Chincoteague Naval Air Station — which sent crews to the scene — said all efforts to remove the other four bodies had been called off for the night.

He blamed the weather and the nature of the wreckage. Two of the remaining bodies are visible and two cannot be accounted for, the spokesman said.

A Marine officer at Cherry Point said none of the dead will be identified until all the next of kin have been notified.

Charnock, the first man to reach the crashed aircraft, said the plane came over the building on which he was working, made two complete spins, and then nosed into the ground.

After pulling three of the Marines out of the wreckage, he was unable to do anything more

(Continued on page 13)

Yesteryears

(Continued from page 12)

by himself and called Sheriff George Turner, of Northampton County, for aid.

Units of the Virginia State police and an air-sea rescue squad from the U.S. Air Force's Fort John Custis — located south of Cape Charles — were immediately called out by the sheriff.

The plane snapped a power line as it nosed downward and stopped electric clocks in the area at 2:16 p.m.

A heavy rain was falling at the time of the crash, witnesses said, which made it impossible to see more than a few yards. When police reached the scene, the rainfall was turning to snow.

Pieces of the plane were scattered over a 300-yard area.

Lights were still burning in the big transport and gasoline was spilled over a wide area. But there was no fire.

— *The Baltimore Sun*

Virginia armory prospects are brighter

Prospects for the construction of a \$120,000 armory in Onancock appeared brighter today.

Letters received from Senator Harry F. Byrd and Senator A. Willis Robertson brought encouragement.

Battery "D," 129th Anti-Aircraft Battalion of the Virginia National Guard, which has its headquarters here, has received notice that it must vacate its quarters in the Sturgis Building by March 1.

Official word from Washington was that a new law authorizes the federal government to provide \$90,000. The additional sum would come from the state and the town.

However, there was no immediate solution to the battery's housing predicament. But this was overshadowed by the news that Onancock is in the No. 1 priority category to receive immediate consideration.

— *The Daily Times*

Motorist shot, robbed of \$3 by hitchhiker

Police in a dozen eastern states are searching for a blue convertible coupe believed to be driven by a hitchhiker who shot and robbed a New Jersey farmer on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

late Friday.

Irving Pack, 21, of Lakewood, N.J., is in serious condition in the Northampton-Accomack Hospital with two bullet wounds in his head. An unidentified hitchhiker allegedly shot him, robbed him of about \$3 in cash, and drove off in his car, leaving Pack lying beside the road.

Pack reportedly picked up two hitchhikers in North Carolina while he was returning from Florida. One of the men got out at Little Creek late Friday. The other continued on.

Pack stopped along an empty stretch of road on Route 13 in Accomack County, 40 miles north of Cape Charles. The hitchhiker shot the man who had given him a ride, one bullet striking Pack's left cheek, fracturing both jaws. The other hit Pack's left eye. The shooting was believed to have occurred shortly after 11 p.m.

About 20 minutes later, two New Jersey truck drivers, northbound, found Pack staggering in a dazed condition on the road. They drove him to New Church, where State Police maintain a weighing station, and two troopers, C.E. Seymour and G.E. Webb, took Pack to the hospital.

State Police said the car was a blue 1950 Pontiac convertible bearing New Jersey license plates L/X 692.

— *The Virginian-Pilot*

Two escaped monkeys still sought near Accomack farm

Two fugitives from a monkey house were not present for roll call yesterday when 170 monkeys were shipped to Florida.

The pair escaped from Walston Farm's animal recuperation center with seven others about a week ago. A New York doctor left a cage door open after inoculating and inspecting more than 300 of the animals.

After making their break for freedom, the monkeys banded together in small groups. And with the exception of two, they soon tired of the wilds of Accomack County and drifted back to the farm.

They were trapped in oversized wire cages baited with their favorite diet of bananas. But the stubborn pair were sighted by a neighbor romping in their first snow and scurrying for cover near Croperville Road during the weekend.

Meanwhile, the other monkeys were rolling towards Miami University, where they will be used for medical research. However, 200 will still be able to greet them — when caught!

"They can find shelter and stay healthy on green

leaves, bark, bread scraps, and edible fruit," Mrs. Theodore R. Freitag, wife of the farm owner, said.

Mr. Freitag said the pair will probably come back when the weather warms. "They are by no means vicious and will go to any extreme to keep out of trouble," he said. Mrs. Freitag is afraid that some sportsman might mistake them for wild game and shoot them.

There is other activity on the farm. The monkeys, which first arrived last spring, are no longer the whole show.

Mr. Freitag said he believes he has the only Mexican burro in this section. The little animal is about 2 ½ feet high and 4 feet long.

Also, two African sun bears, weighing about 45 pounds each, are stealing the playful spotlight with their antics. They are only one year old, Mrs. Freitag said.

When asked how the animals fared in the cold weather, Mrs. Freitag said their house is electrically heated at all times and that they have lost no animals because of the weather this year. Mr. Freitag designed and built the house last year.

— *The Daily Times*

50 years ago
February 1976

Oil spills affect 1,500 waterfowl

State and federal authorities report more than 1,500 wild ducks and other waterfowl, including 40 swans, are either dead or dying from a number of oil spills reported in the Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

John V. Roland, coordinator of the State Water Control Board's pollution response program, said Monday the oil spills represented "possibly one of the biggest" pollution incidents in recent memory.

The heaviest concentrations of oil came in on the Eastern Shore, where more than 950 oil-covered wild waterfowl were counted and identified by an official from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Darcy Davenport, a special agent pilot for the federal service out of Lexington Park, Md., flew over the area Monday and reported he sighted "approximately" 950 oil-covered ducks, about 40 swans, and half a dozen loons covered with the heavy oil.

Davenport said the heaviest concentrations of oil were sighted in a three-mile stretch north of Silver Beach, 22 miles north of Cape Charles.

The spill extended about 20 miles from Cherrystone Creek, just north of Cape Charles, to Nandua

(Continued on page 14)

Yesteryears

(Continued from page 13)

Creek, Davenport said. The U.S. Coast Guard has estimated 2,000 gallons were spilled on one two-mile stretch of the Eastern Shore.

Davenport said most of the birds either were on the beach or headed for it. Experts have said birds covered with oil have little chance of survival.

— *The Daily Progress*

Fate of Captain's Cove to be determined

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is pondering the fate of 173 acres of wetlands that a Virginia developer wants to turn into vacation homesites over the objections of environmentalists.

The wetlands are along the shore of Chincoteague Bay, near Greenbackville, on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

The First Charter Land Corp. of Falls Church has asked the Army Engineers for a permit to dredge the six dead-end finger canals and fill 148 acres of salt marsh and meadow in order to complete a second-home development known as Captain's Cove.

The National Wildlife Federation, the nation's largest conservation organization, has asked Col. Newman A. Howard Jr., head of the Corps of Engineers' Norfolk district office, to recommend denial of the permit and to require First Chapter to fill several dead-end canals that it dug illegally several years ago.

The developer pleaded guilty to four criminal violations of the Rivers and Harbors Act and paid \$4,000 in fines in 1972 for digging canals without permits. Both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Marine Fisheries Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce have urged the Corps to require the developer to fill those canals and to deny the permit now. EPA has charged that the increased work would cause "increased environmental insult."

"We are not against vacation homes," says Thomas L. Kimball, executive vice-president of the National Wildlife Federation, "but Captain's Cove is typical of projects across the country where developers are recklessly and needlessly destroying priceless and irreplaceable wetlands that it took nature thousands of years to create.

"The granting of a permit would, in effect, reward the developer for his previous illegal action. It would also violate the national policy against

encouraging development in flood-prone areas."

NWF and other environmental groups opposing the project maintain that the water in the dead-end canals will be stagnant and thus damage the aquatic ecosystems of Chincoteague Bay. The Captain's Cove area, they point out, is rich in waterfowl, shellfish, bay fisheries, and fur-bearing animals.

An environmental impact statement on Captain's Cove prepared by the Corps of Engineers noted that "marshlands such as those found on the project site serve as a complex and unique role in providing productive fish and wildlife habitat and in influencing the productivity of Chincoteague Bay and the surrounding ecosystem."

Col. Howard, as district engineer, is expected to make his recommendation as to whether the permit should be issued by the middle of this month.

— *The Daily Times*

Accomack OK given on plan for new schools

A \$2 million bond issue for upgrading the Accomack County schools has been approved by the board of supervisors.

"The school administration is delighted at the outcome, which will provide better education for all county students, from kindergarten through high school," a school spokesman commented.

The bond issue represents phase one of a three-part plan to improve schools and expand curriculum that was presented by the school board to the county supervisors last week. The total package deal amounted to \$7 million.

The resolution passed for \$2,300,000 was brought to motion by Supervisor Warren Nock. It includes \$2,225,000 to build a consolidated high school for the 700 students in grades 9 through 12 in the northern half of the county who now attend Atlantic and Parksley high schools; \$40,000 for the site purchase for a consolidated high school to serve the southern end of the county, and \$75,000 for land acquisition for the vocational/education center to be located mid-county.

The motion was seconded by C.D. Fleming and brings phase one of the proposed improvement into a beginning immediately. An amendment to the resolution was a motion by C.D. Marsh to include the provision that states that the southern high school be finished in 1979, at the latest.

Acceptance of phase one allows the county to start the replacement of the fire-gutted Atlantic High School. Although the new school building will cost \$2,805,000, the county will receive a half million dollars for insurance due to a December fire

that partially destroyed the 40-year-old school. In addition, \$50,000 more is realized from matching vocational education, agriculture, and home education funds contributed by the state, which decreases the total construction price of the Atlantic-Parksley complex to \$2,225,000.

The \$7 million package as first requested by the school board is for complete reconstruction of the entire school system in the county. The funds will construct, renovate, and equip the educational institutions that carry an enrollment of 6,200 pupils at this time. Funds for the school restructuring are obtained through the Virginia Public School Authority and other sources.

— *The Daily Times*

25 years ago
February 2001

Barrier Islands Center to open in summer; directors hired

If one could follow the footprints of the past across the Eastern Shore's barrier islands, one would walk with Native Americans hunting and fishing, witness plundering pirates, catch a glimpse of Revolutionary War and Civil War history, and watch stalwart people try to maintain a way of life on the shifting sands.

Now, because of the Barrier Islands Center, this walk through history will be possible.

"So much is coming together, between the building restorations and bringing on board of such high-caliber executive directors for the center," said Barrier Islands Center President Thelma Peterson.

Renovations have begun at the historic Poor House Farm, a distinct set of buildings along U.S. Route 13 in Machipongo, including a two-story almshouse built about 1840 to provide shelter to poor Whites and a second almshouse for Blacks built about 1870.

Overseeing the adaptive reuse of the buildings into a museum and cultural center are Kara Funk, executive director, and Richard Funk, education/program director, who recently set up their office at the center.

Along with building restoration, a new entrance to the center off Young Street is to be complete by the end of March.

"Once we can get the people here, the next phase is setting up the exhibits," said Richard Funk.

— *The Daily Times*

Shore First | Education

Pearson speaks at college

To launch Black History Month 2026, the Eastern Shore Community College Student Government Association provided students with a special event on Tuesday, Feb. 3, featuring a lunch from Sage Diner and a special guest speaker, Stan Pearson II, along with a number of big giveaways at the conclusion of the event.

Over 100 students were in attendance and enjoyed engaging with the popular celebrity speaker.

Pearson, who has been well received with audiences throughout the Virginia Community College System, is based in Atlanta and is an award-winning motivational comedian, speaker, and event emcee who has a gift of being able to connect with a range of ages and backgrounds in his audiences.

“Your Time is Now” was the theme of his ESCC appearance, and students enjoyed hearing practical messages of building confidence, great friendships, and strong habits that will help them better themselves from the inside out.

Also a successful author, Pearson has published a series of self-help books, citing family as inspiration for much of his writing. His books, like his personal appearances, promote personal growth and have helped him continue to better his own communication skills as he travels the world with various engagements.

With a background that has included everything from working for a car rental company to having a position at Texas A&M as associate director of student activities, Pearson has worked for a governor and a U.S. Senator.

He earned his master’s degree in business administration with a concentration in management. While working for a consulting firm, he formed his own speaking company, Breathing Diversity.

When explaining the name of his company, Pearson explains, “There are two things that you cannot live without — you cannot live without breath-



COURTESY PHOTO

Stan Pearson II spoke Feb. 3 at Eastern Shore Community College.

ing and you certainly cannot live without diversity.”

His thought-provoking and inclusive message helps ignite change in the lives of his audience, and promoting emotional intelligence, leadership, and diversity results in success.

ESCC students were slow to let their guest speaker leave the podium, as insightful and well thought-out questions were posed by many.

Pearson even stayed longer as event cleanup began, to engage individuals with remaining questions and conversation.

Several copies of Pearson’s latest book were given away to winning students in addition to a full collection of popular Beats headphones and portable speakers provided by the SGA Club.

One of a broad selection of clubs and organizations on campus, the SGA will be represented with others on Wednesday, Feb. 11, as the college hosts its Spring Semester Club Day with a Valentine theme in the Main Academic Building Atrium.

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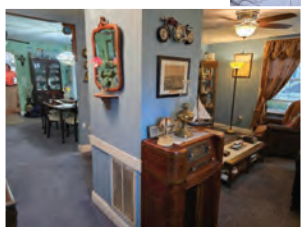
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MAIN STREET

We are delighted when we see these GOOD SIGNS in a neighborhood.

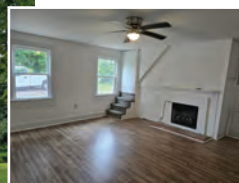
Children riding their bikes around and playing, vegetable gardens, roads with no potholes, also, no privacy fences, no dogs tied up on chains, and flower gardens. A lovely place for a walkabout, green spaces about, nearby boat ramps, and, most importantly, residence waves as you pass by. Here are listings that meet this criteria.



**D#8 Bayside Village
Doll House
\$345,000**



On a street lined with homes beaming with pride, 1 block is the town dock that welcomes fishermen and newly arrived navigators. 1 more block is the county boat ramp, and a dock where slips are available to rent. at a private dock. 1,692 sq' on 3 levels with rooms that flow gently to each other. Roof, electric, windows, plumbing, all recent improvements and a 4-car carport. In the walk-about town of Harborton.



**L#10 Maple Wood
Premiere
\$295,000**

1700s-1920. Refreshed and restored, 1843 sq' home located in Pungoteague, that has a rich history dating back to Native American inhabitants. The area saw European settlement by the early 1600s and played a role in early American theater, with the first play in English America, Ye Bare and Ye Cubb, staged there in 1665. Elevated site on 3/4 acres. 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, an Eat-in kitchen, a utility room, a deck, a heat and air spit system, and a detached two-car garage. New everything, roof, plumbing, split system heat, air, electric, etc. Bright and spacious.



**S#19 Farmette of
10.83 acres
\$122,400**



Straight away, Alicato Road is a delightful part of the landscape. It is even-grade cleared land with good elevations. The only restriction is a 750 sq' minimum home, 35' set back from the road and 25' from the boundary lines. It is suitable for a family compound with multiple building sites and is wonderful for animals and people alike.



**S#7 Seaside
Woodlands
\$199,000**

21.42 acres of indigenous woodlands lie off a private road, close enough to the sea to smell and feel the breezes. Surrounded by cultivated fields, and has a nearby country boat ramp and dock on Parkers Creek, which is easily navigable to the Virginia Inside Passageway, barrier island, and the Atlantic. Very private indeed.



**M#14 Waterfront Site
\$115,000**

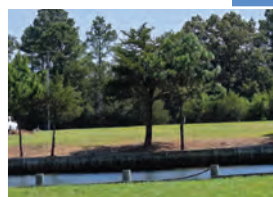


Premier waterfront home site designed for seamless living on land and sea. Tie up alongside the bulkhead that easily can accommodate 3 vessels with deep drafts. The water is known to have 7.5' at MLW. New electric service for use in a home and boats. The grounds have been made ready for construction. There is a HOA with yearly dues of \$50.; that is strictly optional to join. The county boat ramp is around the bend and to the town center of Onancock, Salty life in Schooner Bay conveys with Lot #1 on a 1/2 acre homesite.



**R#2 Southside
Chessconessex Home
Site
\$59,000**

Stones throw to the county boat ramp is this 1/2 acre building site with 4 bedroom septic, and well installed too. Located approx 5 miles outside of the town limits of Onancock in the small watermen's village. No restrictions besides setbacks from state roads. Chesapeake Bay waters are just around the corner.



**D#9 Schooner Bay Lot
\$88,000**



Schooner Bay is a small development just minutes from the town centre of Onancock. This waterfront community boast deep waterfront canals and a public boat ramp that gives you access to the Chesapeake Bay, where the fish are waiting to be lured. Section 4, Lot 18 is half an acre with 100 feet of waterfronage and bulk heading. Optional Association dues are just \$50. yearly. There are restrictions & covenants in place to keep Schooner Bay a lovely place to live, retire or have a holiday home. Surveyed.



**C#9 Chesapeake
House
\$168,000**

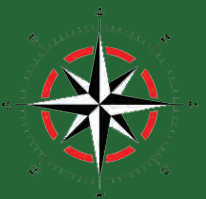
Once included accommodations for the rather famous Hilda Crocett's Chesapeake House B&B, it is now offered independently. It has 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, a sitting room, a coffee/tea bar, and a sprawling front porch. It is 1680 sq' with air conditioning. There is a detached 18 x 18 laundry room and workshop. The majority of the home has been renovated tastefully. 1/4 acre. The beach and town centre are nearby, on the wonderful island of Tangier.



**B#13 Franklin City
Bugalow
\$168,000**



Franklin City bugalow, circa 1935. 1.48 acres conveys with this 1137 sq' home, being handicap accessible. 3 bedrooms, enclosed front and back porches, 1 full bath. Needs a bit of polishing, yet does have an updated roof and siding. There is a detached workshop and a 1-car garage. Well known for its oysters and clams, Franklin City is a walk-about town with folks upgrading to holiday homes. There are rental slips at the nearby marina, where vessels are easily navigable to the Atlantic to Chincoteague Bay.



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