92nd Pony Penning is the Island's ‘Mane’ Event

Staff Report

For those born and raised in Chincoteague, the 92nd Annual Pony Penning will be a time to see family and reconnect with old friends. For others, friendships that were forged around a common interest will be renewed and reinforced. For newcomers, it will be a chance to see the event made famous by Marguerite Henry's book, “Misty of Chincoteague,” and later immortalized in the 1961 Hollywood movie by the same name, filmed mostly on location on and around Chincoteague.

For everyone, the Hitching Post has rounded up the schedules of this year's activities into a Pony Penning/Pony Swim guide. Thanks to contributors Chincoteague Island Volunteer Fire Department and the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce & Certified Visitor Center. This guide pertains only to Pony Penning and related activities.

Please peruse the rest of the paper for other family fun and equine encounter activities this week on Chincoteague.

June 22 and June 23

July 22 is the south-end roundup at 4 p.m.; the north-end roundup is 7 a.m. on July 23 (the public is not permitted at the north-end roundup). During these two days, the veterinarian will check the ponies to determine if they are healthy enough to make the swim.

June 24

The Beach Walk on Assateague Island is at 6 a.m. The Saltwater Cowboys will accompany the north herd ponies to join the south herd at the corral in the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, to await the June 26 swim and auction July 27.

This year, there will be 22 stallions, and 110 mares, and approximately 60 foals making the swim from Assateague Island to Chincoteague Island.

June 26

The ponies will swim from Assateague to Chincoteague, with charter boats lining both sides of the Assateague canal. For the first time, this year those who assemble in Veteran’s Memorial Park will be able to view the swim from a Jumbotron. The first foal to come ashore will be named King or Queen Neptune and given away in a raffle drawing. Tickets are sold during the carnival.

The swim will take place at slack-tide (the period in between tides). After the swim, the ponies are given a few minutes of rest before the Saltwater Cowboys begin to nudge them up Pony Swim Lane and onto the roadway for the parade to the fairgrounds.

With an announced swim time between 6 and 8 a.m., the shuttle bus will begin to run around 4 a.m. See page 8 – 9 for full shuttle details. Or-

(Continued on Page 2)
ganizers are asking riders to pay close attention to details, as day-tripping, handicap parking locations and pick-up points have changed from recent years.

**July 27**

Pony auction begins at 8 a.m., at the carnival grounds on Main Street.

**July 28**

July 28, the ponies will return to Assateague. The Saltwater Cowboys accompany the diminished herd to Pony Swim Lane, where they are nudged back into the water for their swim back to Assateague for another year.

For more information about the Chincoteague ponies and schedule updates, go to the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company's webpage, http://cvfc3.com/ or to the Chamber of Commerce website at www.chincoteague-chamber.com
Fun Facts About the Island

By Linda Cicoira

Part of the fun of visiting the island or living on Chincoteague is learning and knowing about the place. It has a rich history, interesting sights to see, and famous wild ponies, of course, and internet sites that inform and prepare everyone for all of it.

The Hitching Post has been checking some websites and found several to recommend.

Fascinating facts can be found at pangeashellfish.com/chincoteague-oysters/ After browsing through the pages there, you will be an expert in the field of what the Panega Shellfish Company calls “Oysterology.”

Chincoteague oysters are like no other — salty and good.

“In North America, there are 5 species of edible oysters commercially available, Eastern (crassostrea virginica), Pacific (crassostrea gigas), Kumamoto (crassostrea sikamea), European Flat (ostrea edulis) and Olympia (ostrea conchaphila/lurida),” the website tells.

Flat (ostrea edulis) and Olympia (crassostrea gigas), European (crassostrea virginica), Pacific (crassostrea gigas), Kumamoto (crassostrea sikamea), European Flat (ostrea edulis) and Olympia (ostrea conchaphila/lurida), the website continues. “The edible varieties of oysters can produce pearls, but it is very rare.”

“Oysters take on flavors influenced by their surrounding waters and topography, very much like wine and coffee,” the site also states. “This concept is known as ‘merroir’ for oysters. For example, an oyster grown closer to freshwater will taste less salty than an oyster grown in a salt pond... Environmental characteristics can influence an oyster’s flavor such as the minerals in the sediment of the growing area, the amount of seaweed nearby, or even the type of algae the oyster may be filtering.”

“Oysters are full of nutritional benefits!” the Oysterologists said. “They are low in calories and saturated fats, and jam packed with vitamins and minerals. Oysters contain 2.5 times the amount of iron and 10 times the amount of zinc compared to beef. One serving of oysters provides more than the daily recommended value of copper for adults. They’re a great source for vitamin B-12, which is essential for the function of the brain, nervous system, and blood formation.”

And here’s the information you’ve been waiting for, “Oysters are safe to eat year-round.”

“The R’ rule, which singles out the warmer months of summer (May to August), is an outdated rule (that started when refrigeration and scientific testing was not as prevalent,” the site stated. “Since summer tends to be the time when there are algae blooms, red tides, and higher counts of vibrio (a naturally occurring bacteria in the ocean), there are recommendations to avoid oysters during these months. However, the commercial shellfishing industry has strict regulations like closing shellfishing areas to take precautions against potential food-borne risks,” the site added.

If you want to learn more about ponies, we have that for you too. The website, http://www.pony-chincoteague.com involves the world’s First Chincoteague Pony Registry, a non-profit organization that has been around for more than 30 years.

Another site is one called “The International Museum of the Horse” at http://www.imh.org/exhibits/online/chincoteague-pony

“Chincoteague and Assateague Ponies inhabit the 37-mile barrier island of Assateague off the coast of Maryland and Virginia,” it states. “Both herds are essentially the same except for the area of the island on which they graze, divided only by a fence which is an extension of the border between the two states. These small, hardy horses have been the source of great intrigue and speculation throughout their history on the island, from how they arrived there to the love affair created by Marguerite Henry’s children’s book, ‘Misty of Chincoteague’ and the annual Pony Penning event.”

And speaking of Misty, here’s everything you ever wanted to know about that famous mare at http://www.mistysheaven.com/historyofmisty.html From links and articles to the tracing of her ancestors, there’s a lot to read.

“Misty was foaled July 20, 1946, at Beebe Ranch on Chincoteague.”

Her father was the “chestnut pinto, Pied Piper.” Her mother “was the smokey black pinto, Phantom.”

“Misty was a12-hand palomino pinto with the map of the United States on her side, and a blaze shaped like the state of Virginia. She was foaled into the pony herd of Clarence (Grandpa) and Ida (Grandma) Beebe.”
Feather Fund Makes Dreams Come True

By Jasmine Foeman

Submitted Photos

It all began with two young girls wanting a pony, a woman’s desire to help, and a lot of feathers.

In 1995, Lois Szymanski and her husband traveled to Chincoteague Island for the Pony Penning as they had done in years past. Their two daughters desperately wanted a pony and had saved $500. Unfortunately, it wasn’t enough, and the girls were losing heart.

Unbeknownst to any of them, David Savage, a fireman they had spoken to earlier in the day, was about to step in, in what the family later saw as a small act of divine intervention.

This is where Carollynn Suplee comes in. Suplee had been diagnosed with cancer - a brain tumor. She was worried that she might not survive the operation she needed to beat the disease. Leaning on her faith, she asked the Lord to protect her during surgery. This was the point she reported beginning to see feathers everywhere. She would see them in the most random places. Then one day she and her husband, Ed, were visiting the Grotto of the Lourdes in Thurmont, Md., and the bible in the garden was open to Psalms 91:4: “He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust.”

At that year’s Pony Penning, Suplee wanted to buy a pony to donate back as an expression of gratitude, but the Supees arrived after the buy-back ponies had been auctioned.

That’s when Savage told Suplee about the girls who would not get their pony. Suplee walked up to them and said that she wanted to help the girls buy a pony. At first, Szymanski and her husband were reluctant; but they, and the rest of the crowd, listened to Suplee’s story. She told the Szymanski that she knew she was meant to do this for them when a seagull feather came down in front of her when Savage was telling her about the girls, and also when she noticed a feather on Szymanki’s daughter’s shirt.

The Szymanskis relented and let Suplee help their daughters buy a pony. Szymanki says on the Feather Fund website, that they picked “a tiny brown pony foal with four white stockings.” Before seeing the pony, Szymanki’s daughter asked if they could name the pony Sea Feather. As if it were part of a greater plan, they noticed the colt had a white marking on its neck in the shape of a feather.

After that summer, Suplee and her husband came back to the auction and bought ponies for children to whom she felt drawn: children with a need and whom she felt could learn from their ponies. Patience, responsibility, and compassion are some of the lessons she believed ponies could instill in children. If she did not feel drawn to a child, then she purchased a turn-back pony for the fire department.

Sadly, Suplee’s story ended when she succumbed to the brain tumor and died in October of 2003, but her legacy has continued. Szymanski and Ed Suplee decided to start the Feather Fund.

More than three dozen ponies have been placed with children through the Feather Fund since 2004.

In order to be considered for a Chincoteague Pony, applicants must complete a form and meet the requirements, which were established partly through what Suplee was looking for in the children for whom she purchased ponies. Some of the requirements include: being between 10 and 18, having adequate housing and care for the pony, and demonstrating equestrian background. Applicants must also raise a portion of the money themselves. If a recipient can no longer care for his or her pony, there is an obligation to make the pony available to the Feather Fund “at a reasonable cost” to be placed in a new home.

Szymanski says that Sea Feather is doing great, and her grandchildren ride him. Her granddaughter is currently taking riding lessons and Sea Feather has been lent to approximately six - eight 4-H camps for kids to ride.

“The Feather Fund is like a family rather than an organization,” Szymanski says. Each year, the winners from previous years return for a picnic and reunion.

This year’s 38th and 39th winners are Alyssa Jastram, of Maryland, and Kensington Nelson, of California.

Jastram and Nelson have been riding since they were three and four, respectively. They both attended their first pony penning last year and fell in love with it. Both girls were asked what being a part of the Feather Fund family meant to them.

Jastram replied by saying, “I’m happy for my new family and to be able to participate with other people and friends who are interested in Chincoteague ponies.”

Nelson said, “Being a part of the Feather Fund family means to me that I will always have these friends and someone to rely on and be able to be myself around and never get told off for doing something wrong.”

For more information on the Feather Fund, visit www.featherfund.net
Unobstructed, unspoiled 3343 feet of waterfront leading to the Chesapeake Bay with 3.619 acres to 101 acres of completely private pristine land with meadows fringed by woodlands and a fresh water pond. The property is accessed by a private road winding through lacy forest where wild turkey, quail and deer abound, yet just six miles to the new hospital and two miles to the airport.

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The adjoining land isolates this estate from the poultry factory farming onslaught by protective covenants so the pristine land will remain as one of the last protected, unspoiled large tracts of land in Accomack County.

Call 757-678-2658 for a private showing.
What to do this week in and around Chincoteague

Friday, July 21:
Family Fun Fridays - Sandy Island Shores, 8:30 am - 11:30 am, Check-in begins at 8:15 a.m., Chincoteague Bay Field Station, 34001 Mill Dam Rd., Wallops Island, www.cbfieldstation.org

Rocketry, 2 p.m., Approximately 30 minutes, All ages welcome, NASA Wallops Island Visitor Center, https://www.nasa.gov/content/wallops-visitor-center/public-programs

Friday, July 21 – Sunday, July 23:
Chincoteague Island Blueberry Festival, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., The Chincoteague Center (6155 Community Drive), www.chincoteagueblueberryfestival.com

Ladies Floozy Flounder Tournament, To benefit survivors of Breast Cancer, www.captbobsmarina.net/fishing_tournaments.html

Friday, July 21 – Saturday, July 22 & Monday, July 24 – Saturday, July 29:
Chincoteague Volunteer Fireman’s Carnival, 7 - 11 p.m., Chincoteague Island Carnival Grounds, www.cvfc3.com

Saturday, July 22, Tuesday, July 25, Saturday, July 29:
Chincoteague Island Farmer & Artisan Market, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St., www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/chincoteague-island-farmers-market.html

Saturday, July 22:
Imagination Playground, 11 a.m., Children can test their engineering and design skills in small rotations, Approximately 60 minutes, Geared toward ages 4 - 9, NASA Wallops Island Visitor Center, https://www.nasa.gov/content/wallops-visitor-center/public-programs

Peculiar Planet, 2 p.m., Short program to learn about one of the other planets in our solar system, Approximately 15 minutes, All ages welcome, NASA Wallops Island Visitor Center, https://www.nasa.gov/content/wallops-visitor-center/public-programs

Southern Herd Roundup, 4:30 p.m., “Saltwater Cowboys” round up the ponies on the Southern portion of Assateague, The Southern Pony Corral (along the beach road on Assateague Island), www.chincoteaguechamber.com/pony-swim

Monday, July 24:
The Pony Beach Walk, 6 a.m., “Saltwater Cowboys” moves ponies on from the North Corral to the South Corral, Assateague Beach, www.chincoteague.com/pony_swim_guide.html

Monday, July 24 - Friday, July 28:
"Misty of Chincoteague," 11 a.m., free admission, sponsored by Chincoteague Island Arts Organization, Island Theatre, 4074 Main St.

Tuesday, July 25:
US Coast Guard Open House, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Meet Coast Guard personnel, Coast Guard Auxiliary members and Virginia Marine Resources Commission Officers, Identification required at the gate, Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be on sale, chincoteague Coast Guard Station, 3823 Main St.

Tuesday Nights at the Museum: Where Island Tales Are Told, 7 p.m., Learn about the Chincoteague Ponies behind the Sunny & Jess Book Series, Adults $4, Free admission for children (12 and under), active military, & Museum Members, Chincoteague Museum, 7125 Maddox Blvd, chincoteaguemuseum.com/programs

Ponies Receive Vet Checks, All of the ponies will be checked by a veterinarian and can be viewed by the public in the Southern Corral (along the beach road on Assateague Island), www.chincoteaguechamber.com/pony-swim

Kitchen Gallery Soirée: “Horsing Around”, Noon-2 p.m., Free, Art celebrating Chincoteague ponies and an exhibit of Misty memorabilia. (Also open Sun. July 30, 3 – 5 p.m.) Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St., www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org

Kids Art Class “Horses of a Different Color”, 1-2 p.m., Free, Make a mixed media souvenir, Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St., www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org

Wednesday, July 26:
92nd Annual Chincoteague Pony Swim, Swim takes place at “slack tide” (approximately 30 minute period between tides where there is no current), Specific time announced at the carnival grounds the week of the swim, Memorial Park, 7427 Memorial Park Drive, www.chincoteaguechamber.com/pony-swim

Engineering Challenger, 2 p.m., Registration begins at 1 p.m. at the Visitor Center front desk, Approximately 60 minutes, Recommended for ages 6 and up, NASA Wallops Island Visitor Center, https://www.nasa.gov/content/wallops-visitor-center/public-programs

Thursday, July 27:
92nd Annual Chincoteague Pony Auction, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., helps to keep the overall size of the herd sustainable, Chincoteague Fairgrounds, Main St., www.chincoteaguechamber.com/pony-swim

Children’s Summer Programs at the Library, 1 p.m., Tales4Tots (children 2 - 5) will be held in the library, Young Explorers (children 6 - 10) will be held in the pavilion or Theatre Annex (across from the library), Parents/guardians must accompany their children, The Chincoteague Island Library, 4077 Main St.

Summer Cinema Series, “Shaun the Sheep”, Film begins at dusk, Popcorn and cold drinks on sale, Rated PG, Robert Reed Downtown Waterfront Park, (in case of rain films are shown at CCA Headquarters, 6309 Church St.), www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/summer-cinema-series.html

Friday, July 28:
Chincoteague Story Telling Guild, 7 p.m., Refreshments begin at 6:30 p.m., Free admission, Chincoteague Island Library, 4077 Main St., www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/chincoteague-storytelling-guild.html

Pontes Swim back to Assateague, Memorial Park, 7427 Memorial Park Dr., www.chincoteaguechamber.com/pony-swim

Saturday, July 29:
Music at the Dock, 7 p.m., Free concert, Performance by Blue Crab Crossing, Robert Reed Park in Chincoteague’s historic downtown, www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/music-at-the-dock.html

All listings are provided for information only; call or check websites for updates and confirmation.
**Day Trips and Side Trips Around the Eastern Shore**

**Thursday, July 27:**

**Friday, July 21 - Wednesday, July 26:**
*“Cars 3”, 7 p.m. (July 23 also at 4 p.m.), Adults $9, Seniors $8, Children (12 and under with parent) $7.50, Roseland Theatre, 48 Market Street, Onancock, [http://www.roselandonancock.com/](http://www.roselandonancock.com/)*

**Friday, July 21 – Sunday, July 23 & Thursday, July 27 – Saturday, July 29:**
*“Young Frankenstein”, 8 p.m. (July 23 at 2:30 p.m.), Adults $20, Seniors $18, Student $10 (Reserved Tickets: Adults $25, Senior $23, Student $15), call 757-787-2050 for reserved seating, North Street Playhouse, 34 Main Street, Onancock, [http://northstreetplayhouse.org/etcetera-1/](http://northstreetplayhouse.org/etcetera-1/)*

**Friday, July 28 - Saturday, 29:**
*“Transformers: The Last Knight”, 7 p.m., Adults $9, Seniors $8, Children (12 and under with parent) $7.50, Roseland Theatre, 48 Market Street, Onancock, [http://www.roselandonancock.com/](http://www.roselandonancock.com/)*

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**Photos from Past Pony Pennings by**

**Angie H. Crutchley**
Pony Swim Planning Guide from the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce

*Swim time estimated between 6 – 8 a.m.*

**General Information**
- Free shuttle buses will begin at 4 a.m. Shuttle buses will run on Wednesday only.
- Do not carry large coolers or large umbrellas onto buses. Bring only what will fit in your lap.
- Volunteer guides will be on buses and at locations along the shuttle route to assist.
- Be prepared for hot and humid conditions at the swim site. Bring plenty of water, sunscreen and insect repellant. Seating is not provided.
- The swim area at Pony Swim Lane is marshland, so wear proper shoes. Flip flops are not recommended.
- Please be patient after the swim! Several hours before the swim, thousands of people are transported.
- Thursdays a.m.*

**Handicap accessibility**
- Handicapped-tagged vehicles will be permitted access into two front parking lots at the Chincoteague Municipal Center on Community Drive. Very limited parking is available. No handicap parking will be available at Veteran’s Memorial Park.
- There will be one bus equipped for handicap accessibility, which is accessed at the municipal center.

**The Shuttle Service**
- Shuttles start at 4 a.m. from the municipal center at 6150 Community Dr. This is the parking area for day visitors to catch the shuttle. There will not be parking available at other pick-up points.
- Immediately after the swim, two lines will form in front of Memorial Park (the drop off site for the swim). One line is for transportation to the carnival (where the ponies are going) and one line is for the municipal center and other locations.
- If you walk from Memorial Park to the pony landing site, you must be back in front of Memorial Park within 30 minutes of the ponies coming ashore to catch the shuttle.
- Several buses will go directly to the carnival grounds after the swim. Most buses will load at the front of Memorial Park and go to the municipal center, then to other stops. Buses will return to Memorial Park to reload until the swim area is cleared.
- Walking from the swim site to the carnival after the swim is recommended. The distance is approximately 1/2 mile.
- No buses will load behind the carnival grounds until the swim site is emptied.
- After the swim area is cleared, there will be no further stops at Memorial Park. Buses will only be available behind the carnival grounds on Willow Street.
- A long, single-file line will form behind the carnival immediately after the ponies arrive. The end of the line is to the south of the corral. You must get to the end of the line and work toward the buses. Be sure everyone in your party is counted for loading. The line moves quickly as buses become available.
- The last bus leaving from behind the carnival grounds on Willow Street will be approximately one hour after the ponies arrive at the carnival.
- At 11 a.m., the Pony Express, the island’s only trolley system, will begin service across from the main entrance of the carnival grounds on Main Street. Cost is $0.25/person.
2017 PONY SWIM SHUTTLE MAP

PLEASE NOTE:
HANDICAP PARKING is only available at Community Drive front two parking lots.
No handicap parking will be available at Memorial Park.

Official Pony Swim shuttle map provided in cooperation with the Town of Chincoteague and the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce.
**2017 TROLLEY SCHEDULE**

**GREEN ROUTE**

- Pine Grove: 5:02, 6:02, 7:02, 8:02, 9:02, 10:02
- Main St. & Church St.: 5:08, 6:08, 6:38, 7:08, 7:38, 8:08, 8:38, 9:08, 9:38, 10:08

**RED ROUTE**

- Pine Grove: 5:15, 6:15, 7:15, 8:15, 9:15
- High School: 5:20, 6:20, 7:20, 8:20, 9:20
- Main St. & Church St.: 5:22, 6:22, 6:52, 7:22, 8:22, 8:52, 9:22
- Beebe Ranch Turnaround: 5:59, 6:59, 7:59, 8:59
- Beebe Rd. & Ridge Rd.: 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30
- Memorial Park: 5:34, 6:34, 7:34, 8:34, 9:34
- Museum of Chincoteague Is.: 5:38, 6:38, 7:38, 8:38, 9:38

**ROUTE DAYS OF OPERATION**

- **The Green Route** will run the 3rd of June, and will run continuously June 6th through September 9th. The Green Route route will be run Friday and Saturday, starting September 15th through October 14th.

- **The Red Route** will begin on June 5th and will run every day through August 31st.

Trolley fare is 25 cents per person per ride. Exact change is appreciated. Free ride tokens are available at local businesses. Drivers do not carry cash. As a courtesy, please: no alcohol, no tobacco, and no pets. The Pony Express is seasonal transportation service provided by the Town of Chincoteague. This service is open to the public. Many of the motels, restaurants, shops, parks, recreational areas, ice cream parlours, and campgrounds are along our routes. Trolleys are equipped with wheelchair lifts. To inquire about Americans with Disabilities Act public transportation option, please contact the Town of Chincoteague during business hours at 757-336-6519, or The Pony Express at 757-854-8572, after 5 p.m.
**Butter cake with Blueberry Topping**

**Ingredients:**
- 1 (18-1/4-oz.) package yellow cake mix
- 1 egg
- 8 tablespoons butter, melted

**Filling:**
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1 (16-ounce) box powdered sugar
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla

**Directions:**
- Preheat oven to 300 degrees F.
- Combine cake mix, egg, and melted butter & mix well. Pat the mixture into the bottom of a lightly greased 13 by 9-inch baking pan.
- In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, then add the eggs and vanilla and beat together until smooth.

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**Top shelf ingredients — good vanilla and fresh eggs (duck eggs, if you can get them) — bring out the flavors in this simple cake.**

(Recipe Adapted from Paula Deen’s Ooey Gooey Butter Cake)

**Blueberry Topping:**
- 4 cups fresh blueberries
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch, dissolved into 2 Tbsp. water
- 1/3 cup water
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1/4 Cup sugar

- Place blueberries in a saucepan with water and sugar. Heat over medium-high heat until mixture comes to a low boil and blueberries just start to break apart.
- Add dissolved cornstarch to saucepan and bring mixture to a rolling boil. Turn heat down and simmer on low heat for 2-3 minutes, or until sauce reaches desired consistency. Add water, one tablespoon at a time, if the sauce gets too thick.
- Remove from heat. Serve warm or cold.

(Recipe By Connie Morrison)
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   Agent, Jane Bulette 757-710-0319

MLS 43199 - $598,800 - 3 BR, 4 BA & A ONE (1) BR APT. - HACKSNECK
   Agent, Tammy Mason 757-710-2295

MLS 43379 - $399,900 - 3 BR, 2.5 BA, DOCK & BOAT RAMP - ONANCOCK, VA
   Agent, Helen Glenn 757-710-3129

MLS 45978 - $399,950 - 3 BR, 3 BA, & A 2 BR GUEST SUITE - ONANCOCK, VA
   Agent, George Schoolfield 757-710-1871

MLS 43019 - $399,000 - 51 ACRE HORSE FARM - 4 BR, 2.5 BA - HALLWOOD, VA
   Agent, Jeremy Ware 908-328-8634

MLS 42879 - $432,100 - NEARLY 3 W.F. ACRES W/HUGE GARAGE/BOAT-HOUSE - BELLE HAVEN, VA
   Agent, Schuyler Hurlbut 757-710-9576

MLS 44521 - $249,000 - 3 BR, 2 BA, ELEVATED, PRIVATE DOCK - PARKSLEY, VA
   Agent, Jane Bulette 757-710-0319

MLS 44499 - $499,900 - 4 BR, 3 BA, PRIVATE DOCK - MELFA, VA
   Agent, Tammy Mason 757-710-2295

MLS 45077 - $399,000 - 3 BR, 2 BA BEACH HOUSE - PARKSLEY, VA
   Agent, Helen Glenn 757-710-3129

MLS 45510 - $499,900 - 3 BR, 3 BA, PRIVATE DOCK - ONANCOCK, VA
   Agent, Tammy Mason 757-710-2295

MLS 45649 - $275,000 - 3.98 AC, 2 CAR GARAGE & A DOCK - HACKSNECK, VA
   Agent, Bunny McLean 757-710-5952

MLS 45137 - $850,000 - 4 BR, 2 FULL & 2 HALF BATHS, PROTECTED WATERS - FRANKTOWN, VA
   Agent, Jane Bulette 757-710-0319
WEICHERT, REALTORS MASON-DAVIS LISTINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

MLS 45364- $279,000- 4 BR, 1.5 BA - IN TOWN- ONANCOCK, VA
Agent, Jane Bulette 757-710-0319

MLS 44191- $369,900- 3 BR, 2.5 BA - WATERFRONT- EXMORE, VA
Agent, Tammy Mason 757-710-2295

MLS 45576- $161,000- 3 BR, 2.5 BA, COUNTRYSIDE HOME- ONANCOCK, VA
Agent, Michael Steohano 757-710-0803

MLS 43680- $335,000- 3 BR, 2.5 BA, WATERFRONT- ONANCOCK, VA
Agent, Nancy James 757-710-3089

MLS 45511- $995,000- 4 BR, 5.5 BA - WATERFRONT- ONANCOCK, VA
Agent, George Schoolfield 757-710-1871

MLS 45739- $240,000- 2 BR, 2.5 BA, MARSH VIEW- GEOTHERMAL-
SHORE AREA- VA Agent, Bunny McLean 757-710-5952

WWW.MASON-DAVIS.COM 757-787-1010

MLS 44366- $249,000- 4 BR, 2 BA - IN TOWN- ONANCOCK, VA
Agent, Jane Bulette 757-710-0319

MLS 45437- $299,900- 4 BR, 3 BA, 45 ACRES-WATERFRONT-ONANCOCK, VA
Agent, Michael Stephano 757-710-0803

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WATERFRONT- JAMESVILLE, VA Agent, Tammy Mason
Clamming on the Eastern Shore

By Captain Pete Wallace

There are many methods for capturing clams: treading, Virginia-style rake, basket-style rake, dredging, tonging, bull rake, signing, shiny cock, farming and, no doubt, a few other ways that I have overlooked. There are also many different species of clams; I will be referring to “hard clams.”

I am just going to address the ways of capturing clams that can easily be done by recreational clammers. Clams vary in depth, from one inch to a few inches, in tidal saltwater sand and mud. The depth depends on temperature and predators. They can be found anywhere between tidal flats that go dry at low tide, out into the deepest holes in the bay. Clamming is always best done at low tide.

You can check the tides in the area that you are planning to clam at www.saltwatertides.com.

Treading is done by feeling for clams with your feet. This can be done on exposed tidal flats or in water up to a few feet deep. Treading is one of the most popular methods of commercial clamming. Experienced treaders can often gather over 2,000 clams in a day. They usually work in chest-deep water, and slide the clams up one leg with the foot of the other. The only things required for this type of clamming are feet.

Additional equipment that is recommended, not just for treading, but for all methods of clamming, are socks and a container to put your clams in.

Virginia-style rake is done on exposed tidal flats and in water up to a few inches deep. This is done by pulling the rake through a few inches of soft sand or mud until you feel contact with a clam and dislodge it. Don’t try to bury the prongs of the rake in the sand, just go down a few inches.

Signing is done on exposed tidal flats with a two-prong “signing rake” by walking the flats looking for a “signing hole,” which is a small figure-8 shaped breathing hole created by the clam. Reach down and dislodge the clam with the signing tool.

Clams are most often more plentiful at depth changes and drop offs.

Commercial clams are graded into different size categories starting with the smallest being “Pasta” or “Count Necks” then “Little Necks,” “Special Necks,” “Top Necks,” “Cherrystones” and the largest being “Chowders or Quahogs.” This grading is most often done by sorting machines. To simplify things, I am going to sort them as small, medium and large. Small clams are referred to as “steamers”, because they are most often steamed, then dipped in butter. They can also be combined in different sauces. Medium clams are served on the half shell, typically with cocktail sauce. They can also be made into clams casino, single fried or casino, use a clam knife. Another option is the clam ram (www.clamram.com) but do not use any other type of knife. After opening the clam, you must cut the mussel from both sides of the shell, and the lip from both sides of the shell.

Steamers open when they are done. If a steam pot is not available, you can cook them on the grill. In either case, remove them when they open. The easiest way to open chowder clams is to first freeze them, then use a clam knife to cut the mussel from the top and bottom shells, and then remove the lips.

If you are on vacation, there are some simple ways to enjoy your clams. Steamed clams are one of the easiest methods, either in a steaming pot or on the grill. Clams casino can be made by opening the clam, then twisting off the upper shell. Detach the clam from the bottom shell with a clam knife. Add relish and a small strip of bacon on the top and put on the grill or in the oven until the bacon is done.

Single fried are done by removing the clam from the shell, rolling it in flour and pan frying it in butter.

With the large clams, freeze them overnight or longer. If you want to use them that day, you will need to open them with a clam knife. Remove the clam from the shell, cut off and remove the sack. Cut the tongue into small chunks. For chowder, buy your favorite vegetable soup and add clam chunks. For clam fritters, mix eggs, Bisquick and clam chunks, then pan fry in oil. Stuffed clams can be made by mixing Italian bread crumbs and clam chunks together, then by packing in a half shell and bake.

The juice from the clam helps all these recipes, so save as much as possible. These recipes are not meant to replace grandma’s secret ones, just a quick way to enjoy one of the Eastern Shore’s most tasty seafoods. There are also loads of recipes online. If you have the time, clams are well worth the effort to improve on these recipes. You are allowed to take 250 clams for personal use, without a license in Virginia.

On Fish Tales “Eastern Shore Adventure,” we typically tread or rake on exposed sand bars and mud flats. We supply the rakes, socks and basket.

There are also loads of mussels along the banks of the marsh. These mussels need to be purged by leaving them in saltwater for a day or two. Steam them and add to sauce, or just dip them in butter.
NASA Visitor Center Summer Astronomy Series at Assateague Island National Seashore

Submitted Article

Our local national park beaches hold some of the last remaining harbors of darkness on the east coast. By night, Assateague Island visitors have an unparalleled view of the stars and beyond.

Discover the starry night sky Friday, July 28, over the Berlin, Md., end of Assateague Island National Seashore with NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility’s Visitor Center and the Delmarva Space Sciences Foundation. The event starts with Astronomy 101 presentations at the Assateague Visitor Center at 7, 7:30, 8, and 8:30 p.m. Astronomy themed activities also will be held from 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Then from 8:30 to 10 p.m., participants will have the unique opportunity of observing the night sky through telescopes and binoculars located at the north ocean beach parking lot. Participants will take a closer look into our vast universe through observations of Mercury, Saturn, Jupiter, the Milky Way Galaxy and Earth’s moon.

The event is free and open to the public. The Astronomy 101 presentation will take place regardless of the weather. However, the telescope viewing is subject to cancellation due to inclement weather. Park entrance fees apply.

This series is collaboration between NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility’s Visitor Center, Assateague Island National Seashore, Assateague State Park and Delmarva Space Sciences Foundation.

For more information about the Astronomy and Night Sky Summer Series or the NASA Visitor Center, call 757-824-1344 or visit http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/visitorcenter
NEW LISTINGS!!

WE LOVE OUR PONIES!!

It’s Pony Week, and here are a few of the newest additions!
For more information, contact your local Chincoteague Saltwater Cowboys.
You’ll find both ponies & cowboys at the carnival grounds, Thursday the 27th!

OUR AGENTS ARE WORKING THIS WEEK!!
WE’VE GOT A NEW BATCH OF HOMES FOR SALE; SOMETHING FOR EVERY BUDGET!!
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Meghan Oliver @ 757-894-0798  John McGoldrick @ 757-710-3771
The Pony Centre is open Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and is located on Chicken City Road, one half block south of Maddox Blvd. Pony Shows will be held Monday thru Thursday of Pony Penning week at 4 and 7 p.m. and pony rides will be ongoing all day. Riding lessons are offered from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information about any of these activities, please call 757-336-2776.

The mythical Misty has left her hoof prints in the hearts of children for generations, but her actual hoof prints can be found in the concrete sidewalk in front of the Island Theatre on Main Street. The film “Misty of Chincoteague” premiered at the theater simultaneously with its premiere in Hollywood in 1961. The Chincoteague Island Arts Organization is sponsoring free showings of the film at 11 a.m., July 24 - July 28, at the Island Theatre. Sponsors urge the public to arrive early, it is a popular activity.

Across the street is the Robert Reed Waterfront Park where a bronze statue of Misty reminds everyone who put Chincoteague on the map. Stroll down northward on Main Street to Miss Molly’s Inn, where Marguerite Henry lodged while writing “Misty.”

Pay your respects to the Misty in person at the Museum of Chincoteague Island. Misty and her offspring, Stormy, are preserved and on display so generations can see the pony that inspired Henry’s classic novel.

Thanks to the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce and the Chincoteague Pony Centre for contributing information for this article.
An afternoon of Wine, Music & Art

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**ACROSS**
1. China's Mao — Jung
2. Thumb locale
3. Cries of unveiling
4. Spanish fleet
5. Post-bender headache
6. Poetry Muse
7. One-sided view
8. Old stage actress Duse
9. "Things go by so fast!"
10. "As far as I'm aware..."
11. Brunches, e.g.
12. Kwik-E-Mart clerk
13. Writer Seton
14. Iris localize
15. Pres., advisory gp.
16. New (Yanni, e.g.)
17. Become king after being a prince, say
18. Quid of behavior
19. — Schwartz (toy rattle)
20. Kuwaiti royal
21. A third of IX
22. Totally up the creek
23. Semi section

**DOWN**
1. Greek letter
2. Perm place
3. Foe
4. "Ball...
5. Bristock's river
6. Piano Peter
7. Party to a financial transaction
8. Gigged
9. Yank with #13 jersey
10. Hip-hop bud
11. "Listen up!"
12. "— lied!"
13. Help do bad
14. Plentiful
15. Bad start?
16. Cheese in an Italian deli
17. Intensively
18. Make certain
19. Some Spanish paintings
20. Spiked staff
21. Harsh cleanser
22. "I dunno" gesture
23. "Oneras" (clue)
24. "ET ship"
25. Avis rental
26. Unemotional
27. "Vietnamese New Year"
28. Actor Katz
29. Dusk-dawn linkup
30. Move quickly
31. Rail supports
32. Pertain to
33. Singer Glen
34. Fad dance of the 1980s
35. Bro
36. Sonata, e.g.
37. Honorary
38. Actor Scott
39. Paycheck area
40. Bitter brew
41. Part of Bob
42. Ono of Sanit's
43. "Ski" element
44. Sierra maker
45. Fortieth anesthetic
46. Actress
47. Peoples
48. "Sn" element
49. "St" element
50. "Winter drifter"
51. 83 — aspo
52. Fat of the Christian right
53. Ride a wave
54. Antler sportor
55. "— Mark (realtor chain)
56. Unemotional
57. Greek letter
58. "Ball..."

**BROADWAY OPENINGS**
1. of southeast France
2. "Sn" element
3. Enzylmale
4. "Winter drifter"
5. "St" element
6. "— Mark (realtor chain)
7. Unemotional
8. Greek letter
9. "Ball..."

---

**MAGIC MAZE ● MAJOR HARBORS**

Y N J G D A X U R P O L J G D
A X V S P N U K N E I F I C A
R X H V S A Q O B A L J A H E
C E A A S X V O T R B P B R P
N L V S J H K N Y L F R M D B
Y X A U V R O T K P E U O M
K N N W O T E F R W D I
G E A Y S C D D U L U H B Z
X W W O U T N O T S G N I K R
Q E B O I H C A R A K A N L J
N I G F R O D A V L A S D C A

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Antwerp  Freetown  Kobe  Salvador
Boston  Havana  Mumbai  Tokyo
Duluth  Karachi  Nassau  Vancouver
Durban  Kingston  New York

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

9 | 7 | 2 |
---|---|---
4 | 5 | 1 |
3 | 1 | 4 |
8 | 5 | 9 |
7 | 9 | 4 |
3 | 4 | 2 |
5 | 9 | 3 |
6 | 8 | 5 |
4 | 3 | 1 |

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆◆
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Kids’ Maze Solution

Puzzles4Kids by Helene Hovanec

CRISSCROSS – WHERE’S AL?
Each word will fit into one spot in the grid. Use the starting letters as a guide and fit each word into its spot. All words will be used, so cross off each one after you put it into the grid.

3 Letters
- ALE
- ALL
- PAL

4 Letters
- ALPS
- ALSO
- BALD
- KALE
- SALT

5 Letters
- ALIEN
- CHALK
- EQUAL
- LEGAL
- MEALS
- PSALM
- SMALL

6 Letters
- ALWAYS
- ANIMAL
- DENIAL
- GALLON
- LOCALE
- SALAMI
- SOCIAL

7 Letters
- FACTUAL
- TALLEST
Fishing from the Shore
By Bill Hall

The biggest change along the local fishing front over the last week has been the unexpected arrival of decent numbers of medium sized spot in the upper bay off Onancock. These are not the large “yellow-bellies” that you would expect to see in the late summer/early autumn, but the majority of these fish are keeper size. Target these tasty panfish along the channel edges while drifting, using small hooks adorned with bloodworm, Fishbites, or the soft claw portions of a peeler crab.

Croakers, among the smallest members of the drum family, are still well below the numbers and sizes expected for this time of year on both sides of the Eastern Shore. Let’s hope that there is a surge in the population of these tasty bottom fish prior to the first Saturday in August. That’s when the Onancock Volunteer Fire Company will be hosting its first Croaker Tournament from the Onancock Town Wharf. Prizes will be awarded to the three largest croakers, the top croaker catch by a youth and the top croaker catch by a female angler. In addition, there will be a category for any active fire, EMS, and/or police personnel. There will also be an award for the largest “non-croaker” catch. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Onancock Volunteer Fire Company. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 5. For more information, contact Adam James at 757-710-2731.

Chincoteague – Donna Rae, of Captain Bob’s Marina, reported that flounder were still a “chore” to be found with the throwback to keeper ratios being 13-1 inside the Chincoteague Channel, and down to 6-1 north of the American Legion building. There were some flounder, undersized black sea bass, and small bluefish landed from the town pier. A few legal-sized flounder and small croakers came from the Assateague Channel near Memo-
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tide Table</th>
<th></th>
<th>Friday, July 21</th>
<th>Saturday, July 22</th>
<th>Sunday, July 23</th>
<th>Monday, July 24</th>
<th>Tuesday, July 25</th>
<th>Wednesday, July 26</th>
<th>Thursday, July 27</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assateague Beach</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>6:37 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>7:33 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1:56 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinco Channel</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>6:41 a.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>7:37 a.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>8:32 a.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>9:25 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gargatha Neck</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>7:33 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1:39 p.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>8:29 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>2:35 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folly Creek</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>7:26 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1:24 p.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>8:22 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>2:20 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wachapreague</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>7:12 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1:08 p.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>8:08 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>2:04 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinby Inlet</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>6:37 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>12:39 p.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1:35 p.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>7:33 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machipongo</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>7:07 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1:08 p.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>8:03 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>2:04 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangier Sound Light</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>10:52 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>5:09 p.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>11:52 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>6:06 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muddy Creek</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>11:08 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>5:44 p.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>12:08 p.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>6:39 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guard Shore</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>5:40 p.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>6:35 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chescon. Creek</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>10:35 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>4:52 p.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>11:35 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>5:49 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onancock Creek</td>
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<td>L</td>
<td>5:12 p.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>11:49 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>6:09 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pungoteague Creek</td>
<td>H</td>
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<td>L</td>
<td>4:26 p.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>11:05 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>5:23 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassawadox</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>8:50 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>2:48 p.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>9:50 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>3:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occohannock Creek</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>9:29 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>4:06 p.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>10:29 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>5:03 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Charles</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>7:39 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1:56 p.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>8:39 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>2:53 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiptopeke Beach</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>7:17 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1:25 p.m.</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>8:17 a.m.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>2:22 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disclaimer: Tides are provided for information only and are not guaranteed for accuracy.
CHINCOTEAGUE PONY CENTRE

CHINCOTEAGUE PONY SHOW
MON - THURS AT 4PM & 7PM,
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Silent Auction til Friday noon to benefit the Chincoteague Pony Drill Team

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