The New Chincoteague Culinary Specialties

Story and Photos by Connie Morrison

The traditional tastes of Chincoteague have been all about seafood. Chincoteague oysters made a name for themselves – Chincoteague Salts – in the 1800s. Trade was so strong that during the Civil War, island residents voted unanimously to break with the rest of Virginia and remain part of the Union to prevent a blockade that would have interfered with their oyster trade with the North.

Two seafood festivals draw thousands to Tom’s Cove campground each year: the Seafood Festival in May and the Oyster Festival in October. Established restaurants are favorites of locals and visitors alike. Seafood’s position as an island specialty remains strong, but some other local temptations are gaining followings: tomato pie and locally made donuts.

Tomato Pie

We first heard about this savory pie on a Chincoteague Facebook page and were intrigued by its cheesy-tomato description. Cheese, tomato, pie crust, herbs: What’s not to love? Nothing, as it turns out.

We arrived at Church Street Produce midday on a Sunday to find the early pies had sold out, but owners Jerry and Paula Alms placed us on a waiting list for the day’s second batch, which would be ready between 4 and 5 p.m. If sweet pies are more to your liking, you’re in luck: there are plenty of those, too. Check the board behind the cash register for the day’s offerings.

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Astronomy and the Night Sky Summer Series Returns for its Fourth Season

Submitted Article

The night sky has inspired us forever, and the inspiration continues at Assateague Island National Seashore, which is an ideal location for viewing the wonders of the night sky as it holds some of the last remaining harbors of darkness on the East Coast.

See an unparalleled view of the night sky during the Astronomy and the Night Sky Summer Series event Friday, July 13, at the Virginia end of Assateague Island National Seashore at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge with NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center and the Delmarva Space Sciences Foundation.

The event starts with Astronomy 101 presentations at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge Herbert H. Bateman Education Center Auditorium at 7:30, 8, and 8:30 p.m. From 8:30 to 9:45 p.m., participants will have the opportunity to observe the night sky through high-powered telescopes located at the north end of beach parking lot #1. Participants will take a closer look into the vast solar system through observations of Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn.

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

This series is a collaboration among NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center, Assateague Island National Seashore, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, and Delmarva Space Sciences Foundation.

The NASA Visitor Center, located on Virginia Route 175 about six miles from U.S. Route 13 and five miles from Chincoteague, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

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

Submitted Article

The Chincoteague Island Arts Organization is pleased to have local singer/songwriter Dalton Elliott performing at the Island Theatre Annex on Friday, July 20. He heads to Nashville on Aug. 1, where he was invited to audition for American Idol.

Elliott has performed at many venues across the lower Eastern Shore as a solo performer and as lead singer with Virginia Creek, Chincoteague’s own hometown country band. Originally from Nashville, he now makes his home here in Accomack County.

His performance at the Theatre Annex will help fund the American Idol trip to Nashville.

The Island Theatre Annex is at 4076 Main St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the performance starts at 7 p.m. Admission is $10. A cash bar is available.

Bound for American Idol, Dalton Elliott performs at the Island Theatre Annex July 20 at 7 p.m.
Culinary Specialties (Continued From Front Page)

It all started about 10 years ago on Mother Earth Day, an annual island spring festival. Jerry Alms had made a batch of the tomato pies to sell. Jerry Alms makes all the pies, including the crusts — something his mother taught him to do.

“She (Paula) was hungry, so she cut a slice of one of the pies. I said, ‘We’ll just sell slices of that one.’” What they did instead was give away samples. A man would refuse a sample, he said, but the woman with him would take it and give a bite to him. He would then come back and buy a pie. “We sold out in an hour,” he said.

Paula Alms said they take them to the Blueberry Festival each year. “He’s like the Pied Piper of Hamelin,” she said. “People will will follow him … this big man with big trays,” and 36 trays will be gone in a matter of minutes.

The fruit stand is open Monday through Saturday “9-ish a.m. to 7-ish p.m.,” according to the flyers, and Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m., roughly from Memorial Day weekend until mid-September. By then, Paula has returned to the classroom (she teaches at Arcadia Middle School), and Jerry is back at his woodworking business.

The produce shop also sells fresh vegetables and fruit. To find it on Facebook, search @ChurchStreetProduce.com

Donuts

First, let’s get this out of the way: The long-standing sweet shop, Sugar Bakers, closed this year after 25 years of serving the island community. Not to worry. Several other locals have stepped up to ensure the donut supply continues unahated.

Sandy Pony Donuts is in its fourth summer. Parked in the strip mall lot off the traffic circle, just past the water park, this food truck is a morning favorite. Its donuts have humble beginnings...
~ Culinary Specialties ~
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— they all start as vanilla cake donuts — but from there they are transformed into sing-song flavor bombs like Yabba Dabba Donut (Fruity Pebbles topping) or Misty Mint (mint glaze with mini chocolate chips). For those who can’t resist breakfast bacon, the Porky Pony (honey glaze, cinnamon sugar, and bacon) should do the trick. Twenty-one other flavors are available, all made to order.

Island Hack: Sandy Pony Donuts closes at 2 p.m., so buy early if you want them for sweet treats later in the day.

Mr. Whippy, a favorite spot for ice cream treats, also makes its own cake donuts fresh daily with flavored icings that include glazed, cinnamon sugar, Oreo, honey glazed, strawberry, orange, lemon, chocolate, maple bacon, and cream filled. Cinnamon rolls, muffins,

Mr. Whippy has homemade donuts daily.

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~ Culinary Specialties ~ (Continued From Page 5)

and iced and hot coffee brews round out the offerings, available at 7 a.m. to accommodate breakfast seekers.

Island Hack: When the need for a late-afternoon pick-me-up hits, Mr. Whippy welcomes you with a separate window for coffee and donuts, allowing you to bypass lines of people waiting for ice cream.

Island Hack: Sweet tooth toss up? Head to Java House where you can indulge your pastry sweet tooth with fruity cream puffs and cool down with Chesapeake Bay Farms ice cream.

A newcomer to the donut market is Java House, which has house-made donuts and cream puffs, specializing in fruit flavors. “They are not fruit flavored,” said owner Cindy Filipic “they are made with fruit.” Open 6 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, Java House serves an assortment of other baked goods, Chesapeake Bay Farms ice cream, and a full menu of coffee specialty drinks.

Ice Cream

Of course, no article about island specialties would be complete without a mention of ice cream. Mr. Whippy and Java House were already mentioned as ice cream destinations, but Island Creamery is practically synonymous with Chincoteague. The flavor standbys one expects are all there, but it’s the clever combinations that make repeat visits fun (Rock-et Fuel, anyone?). Island Creamery opens daily at 11 a.m. and closes at 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and at 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.
Summer Space Camp

Virginia Space Flight Academy and the Chincoteague Pony Center teamed up to host students attending summer space camp on July 4. The young campers from Accomack and Northampton counties had dinner and fun, before making a stop at the Island Creamery, and then working their way into downtown Chincoteague to watch fireworks. Front row (L-R): Lexi Kelly, Bradley Bloomfield, Amber Bloomfield, Allison Garland, and Allison Chun. Second row (L-R): Porter Spence, Aydin Mock, Vashti Holmes, Tyler Zodan, Derek Boyle, Jonathan Zodan, and Ja’zuan Tull.
Fishing from the Shore
By Bill Hall

Just as the offshore fishing action heats up, along comes the unusually early formation of a tropical storm off the coast of the Carolinas, sending strong winds up the coast and putting a halt to most of last weekend’s fishing activities. The winds should start to calm down during the week and hopefully things will have settled down in time for this weekend. Until then, enjoy this weather shortened report.

Lower Shore – Chris Snook of Chris’ Bait & Tackle was quick to report that “not much happened” over the weekend. Most of those that attempted to venture out returned quickly with their tails between their legs. Just prior to the winds, the fourth island of the Chesaapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel produced some large spadefish. Spadefish were also caught around the Plantation Light. Flounder fishing along the bridge was described as “hit-or-miss” with some boats doing decent, while others were shut out. Cobia were still being cooperative during the day and red drum were biting during the evenings. Sharks were hitting both day and night. Small croaker were still biting out of Oyster.

Jeb Brady of Bailey’s Bait & Tackle echoed the spadefishing action at the fourth Island and Plantation Light before the blow, describing it as “being on fire.” Cobia seemed more abundant on the surface, much to the delight of sight casters. The pier at Cape Charles was producing sand mullet and a few spot.

Wachapreague – Captain Lindsay Paul of Trident Tackle reported prior to it “blowing a gale,” he found a pair of gaffer dolphin along the 20-fathom line. The marlin bite was also strong with both blue and white marlin releases registered. However, tuna were noticeably absent in the offshore catches. Flounder limits were coming from some of the wrecks, but fishing was slow and vessels were taking most of the day in doing so. Inshore anglers were finding a few small flounder, but the keeper ratio was not good. Paul is hoping the storm stirs fishing activity up for the better.

Chincoteague – Jimmy Vasilou of Captain Steve’s Bait & Tackle said the wrecks off Chincoteague have been hot, with his captains limiting out on flounder in 3-of-3 trips last week. Jigs, such as 2- to 3-ounce Pop-eyes with long strips of squid were the top producing baits. Some spadefish and triggerfish were also among the catches. Further offshore, catches of dolphin (mahi mahi) were reported near the Washington Canyon, and an 83-pound yellowfin was caught at the Parking Lot. In the surf, kingfish/whiting and spot were hitting bloodworm baits. Inside the inlet, flounder catches were reported in Curtis Merritt Harbor, while croaker catches were coming from the waters off Memorial and Robert Reed Parks. Shark action was described as good with one boat landing approximately 40 over a period of a couple of days.

Donna Rae of Captain Bob’s Marina reported that
flounder fishing remains constant in Chincoteague Channel and on both sides of Queen Sound. Only about one out of every 10 flounder is a keeper, and there are plenty of bait stealers around in the form of undersized black sea bass, pufferfish, and the occasional bluefish. Croaker and kingfish catches were being made closer to the inlet. Sharks, whether wanted or unwanted, are providing the most action for anglers. Larger flounder are coming from the inshore ocean structures, as well as mostly undersized black sea bass. The offshore wrecks were producing keeper-sized sea bass. Rae claimed that there had been a steady yellowfin tuna bite at the Washington Canyon and on the east side of the Parking Lot. Anglers have also returned with catches of dolphin.

Upper Shore – Captain Matt Abell of the Sea Hawk Sports Center reported that due to the recent weather, there was not much fishing to talk about. Before the winds, there had been a decent flounder bite in Metompkin Inlet. He described the fishing over the railcars as just “O.K.” Offshore, there have been some marlin releases but very few tuna, and the tuna that were found were very deep. The Parking Lot had produced mostly false albacore and dolphin, with sea bass being pulled from the Parking Lot wreck. On the Chesapeake Bay side, bluefish were hanging around the ships off Tangier Island, while striped bass and white perch were in the mouths of the southern Maryland rivers.

Bill Hall was the first Eastern Shore resident to achieve Virginia Salt Water Master Angler Status. He has been named Virginia Saltwater Angler of the Year and Virginia Saltwater Release Angler of the Year. Bill is an I.G.F.A. International Committee Representative and a longtime member of the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament Committee. He is the Virginia Recreation Fishing representative on the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Panel and is a past recipient of the CCA-VA Virginia Outdoor Writer Conservation Leadership Award.

The Potts and Tayloe families enjoyed a great day of fishing in the lower bay, including landing this 42-pound cobia out of Cape Charles.
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<td>H 12:25 p.m. L 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>H 1:20 p.m. L 7:14 a.m.</td>
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Disclaimer: Tides are provided for information only and are not guaranteed for accuracy.
Assateague Bird Traffic

Photo by Linda Cicoira
PONY PENNING

The Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company announced the Chincoteague ponies will swim the Assateague Channel between 8 and 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 25. It’s the company’s 93rd Annual Pony Swim. The Saltwater Cowboys wait for slack tide, a time when there is no current, before nudging the ponies into the water to make the swim.

Enjoy these photos from previous swims.

Photos by Angie H. Crutchley
**Green Route**

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**Additional Information**

Trolley fare is 25 cents per person per ride, or one token. Exact change is appreciated. Free ride tokens are available at local businesses. Drivers do not carry cash. 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. The operator complies with all ADA rules and regulations. ADA trips will be arranged where logistically possible.
What to do this week on and around Chincoteague Island

FRIDAY JULY 13
★ 1-3 p.m. - Captain Timothy Hill House - 5122 Main St., Chincoteague - 973-831-5961 - free admission - www.captaintimothyhillhouse.com
★ 7-11 p.m. - Chincoteague Volunteer Fireman's Carnival - Chincoteague fairgrounds, Main St. - http://cvfc3.com/
★ 7:30 p.m. - Astronomy & Night Sky Summer Series - NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Ctr. - admission free, park entrance fees apply

TUESDAY JULY 17
★ 6-9 p.m. - Art Class: Woven Ground Vessels - Community Center for the Arts, 6309 Church St. - pre-registration required online at www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org or at Sundial Books

WEDNESDAY JULY 18
★ 9-11 a.m. - Art Class: These Grounds are for the Birds - Community Center for the Arts, 6309 Church St. - pre-registration required online at www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org or at Sundial Books
★ 9 a.m.-1 p.m. - Farmers and Artisans Market - Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St. - free admission and parking - www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org
★ 2 p.m. - NASA STEAM Lab: Paper Rockets - NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitors Center - 757-824-2298 - free admission - www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/visitorcenter

ONGOING
★ 9 a.m.-5 p.m. - Assateague National Seashore, Tom's Cove Visitor Center - 757-336-6577 - www.nps.gov/asis/index.htm/
★ 10 a.m.-4 p.m. - NASA Visitor Center - free admission - 757-824-2298 - www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/visitorcenter

Day Trips and Side Trips Around the Eastern Shore

FRIDAY JULY 13
★ 4-6 p.m. - Workshop: How to Create an Acting Reel - 34 Market Street, Onancock - $15/ages 13+ - www.northstreetplayhouse.org
★ 5-8 p.m. - July Summer Party - Historic Onancock School- Facebook @Friends of Onancock School

SATURDAY JULY 14
★ 6:30 p.m. - Texas Hold ‘Em Poker - American Legion Hall, Cheriton
★ 7 p.m. - Bingo - Eastville Volunteer Fire Co. Bingo Hall
★ 7 p.m. - Reel & Raw Film Performance - Lemon Tree Gallery, Cape Charles - $15/admission, free/18 & under

TUESDAY JULY 17
★ 7 p.m. - Antique Automotive Club of America Region Monthly Club mtg. - Sage Diner, Onley

WEDNESDAY JULY 18
★ 3-7 p.m. - Workshop: Wine & Design with Kathy Grook - Lemon Tree Gallery, 301 Mason Ave., Cape Charles - $55/per person - 757-331-4327

THURSDAY JULY 19
★ 3-7 p.m. - Blood Drive - Epworth United Methodist Church, Willis Wharf

All listings are provided for information only; call or check websites for updates and confirmation.

The Hitching Post is a publication of The Eastern Shore Post, Onley, Virginia. Contact us at 757-789-7678. Editor, Connie Morrison; Copy Editor, David Martin and Angie H. Crutchley; Ad Manager, Troy Justis; Advertising Associate, Sam Sellard; Ad Designer, Kimberly Perry.
Kids’ Puzzle Page

Kids’ Maze

SCRAMBLERS
Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag.

- MEGAL
- Lieber
- EAGIL
- Avoid
- ORIGEN
- Border
- JIDONA

“Go to Sam’s Sport Shop for all the latest in equipment!”

Snowflakes
by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.

Puzzle Card

Pyramid of Word Power

Don’t get lost looking for these words! Starting with the given word NAVIGATES, at the bottom of our word pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with NAVIGATES.

1. Follows a planned course.
2. Fine wines.
3. Original inhabitants.
4. What rich people do.
5. Found on pitchforks.
6. What billy goats are supposed to eat.
7. To pose for a picture.
8. A player, as in tag.

Illustrated by David Coulson

Fast + Food Court

Answers: Napper, scarf, solar, magic, gabled, amidship.
Last Week’s Answers

Alamosa  Frisco  Keystone  Silverton
Avon     Gold Hill  Leadville  Telluride
Dillon   Granby  Ouray  Yampa
Eagle-Vail  Gunnison  Salida

Weekly Sudoku

by Linda Thistle

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!
Chincoteague - 2BR/2.5BA pond front townhouse w/ views of Assateague Channel. New roof, sold furnished MLS# 47994 $189,000

Captains Cove - Charming 3BR/2.5BA home w/ cathedral ceilings, sunroom, fireplace & attached 2 car garage MLS# 47655 $209,000

Chincoteague - Waterfront 4BR/3BA home with 400' pier and large waterside decks. Successful vacation rental. MLS# 47537 $645,000

Captains Cove - Updated 3BR/2BA home with all new paint, carpet & bonus room. MLS# 48049 $475,000

Chincoteague - Affordable 3BR/2BA home w/ detached garage and enclosed porch. MLS# 47281 $119,999

CHINCOTEAGUE & CAPTAINS COVE

CHRISTIE’S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Two office locations to serve you!

CHINCOTEAGUE
6426 Maddox Blvd. (next to PNC Bank) 757/336-5100

CAPTAINS COVE
37054 State Line Rd. (on the right) 757/824-5195

www.LONGANDFOSTER.com

#LnFChincoteague

NEW LISTINGS!!

Atlantic - Spacious 3BR/2.5BA home w/ vaulted ceilings, fireplace, & screen porch. Price recently lowered MLS# 47864 $325,000

Chincoteague - Completely renovated 2BR/2.5BA townhouse. Great location, turn key MLS# 48027 $179,000

Captains Cove - Updated 3BR/2BA home with all new paint, carpet & bonus room. MLS# 47658 $189,000

Chincoteague - Commercial building w/ large 2nd floor apartment with water views. MLS# 48061 $299,000

Temperanceville - Over 25 acres of commercial land w/ 1067' of highway frontage. MLS# 48029 $75,000

Chincoteague - Almost 4 acres of gorgeous land that includes SIX septic systems. Great location, the possibilities are endless. MLS# 48049 $475,000

Captains Cove - Renovated 3BR/2BA home with new floors, appliances, granite counters, bathrooms, and paint throughout. Features an open deck overlooking the backyard, and a shed & garage for extra storage space! MLS# 48103 $142,500

Cape Charles - Fully renovated 4BR/3.5BA historical home surrounded by park land. Features new roof, septic, HVAC, plumbing & more. Small portion of home dates back to 1754 with original 16" plank flooring! MLS# 48075 $320,000

Chincoteague - Commercial building w/ large 2nd floor apartment with water views. MLS# 48061 $299,000

Chincoteague - Completely renovated 2BR/2.5BA townhouse. Great location, turn key MLS# 48027 $179,000

Mimi Murphy 757/894-8760
John McGoldrick 757/710-3771
Meghan Oliver 757/894-0798
Jenny Barker 917/612-8799

CALL US!
VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

CHINCOTEAGUE RESORT VACATIONS

We still have rentals available!

Josie’s Dream
Water Views
Sleeps 6 - $675/week*

Sundance on Marsh Island
Waterfront
Sleeps 4 - $950/week*

Sunset Bay 316
Waterfront
Sleeps 8 - $1750/week*

ChincoteagueResort.com
6426 Maddox Blvd. Chincoteague Island, VA 23336 • 757/336-3100

* Weekly rate does not include tax & fees