

Free

Weekly Summer Paper Exclusively for Chincoteague

July 28, 2017

Free

Eastern Shore

HITCHING

POST

THE SHORE'S ONLY LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

YIPPEE YI YO KI YAY! HERE COME THE PONIES!



Photo by Angie H. Crutchley

A foal takes a breather in the midst of other ponies that made the swim from Assateague Island to Chincoteague as part of the 92nd annual Pony Swim. The story and photos begin on page 13.

“THE WATERMAN’S DAUGHTER” IS A MUSICAL DRAMA ABOUT A UNIQUE LOCAL WOMAN

Submitted Article

Get to know an unconventional Eastern Shore woman through a new musical drama that will be performed on Saturday, Aug. 5, at the Chincoteague Cultural Alliance’s Community Center for the Arts. “The Waterman’s Daughter” is about

Lilyan Stratton Corbin who grew up in the then remote town of Crisfield, Md., during the Chesapeake Bay oyster boom in the late 1800s. After running away from home at age 16 in 1898, Corbin went from the stage to the screen to the page, and later became the namesake for the Cris-

field library.

A self-made success, Corbin was most well known for her stage role in “The Virginian,” which toured the country several times, her marriage to the silent film star Frank Campeau, their famous divorce, and her books “Reno,” “Homing,” “The Wife’s Lessons,” and “The Feminine Philosophy.”

Corbin’s unique character is brought to life through the lens of her sister, Rose, who stayed in their hometown of Crisfield and exchanged letters with Lilyan. The story is told through songs, photos, dramatic narrative, and reenactments.

“The Waterman’s Daughter” is performed by Katrina Kadasky, who curated the multi-media production and composed seven original songs for it. Kadasky is a touring recording artist, singer, songwriter, guitarist, and actress from Vancouver Island, Canada. The play is produced by Jay Tawes and Jennifer Smith in partnership with The Somerset County Arts Council, The Lower Shore Performing Arts Company, and The Nelson Homestead.



Katrina Kadasky

Tickets for the Aug. 5 performance, hosted by The Chincoteague Island Theatre Company and CCA, are available for \$10 at Sundial Books (cash or check only) or online at <http://watermansdaughter.bpt.me/> Tickets at the door are \$12. The performance is at 6309 Church St. at 8 p.m, and doors open at 7:30. There will be a reception with cash bar before and after the show.



Submitted Photo
Lilyan Stratton Corbin, subject of “The Waterman’s Daughter,” a musical drama to be performed Aug. 5 at the Chincoteague Cultural Alliance Community Center.

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Storytelling Guild To Share Stories of Life on the 'Tump'

Submitted Article

The Chincoteague Storytelling Guild's July story swap will highlight local color as several Chincoteague residents ("Teaguers") share stories. This "Hear A Story/Share A Story" event on July 28 will feature Billy Beebe, Jay Cherrix, and maybe some surprise guests. Come join the

fun and hear what it's like living on the "tump."

This Chincoteague Storytelling Guild event will be held at the Chincoteague Center for the Arts (CCA Building) at 6309 Church St. It is free and open to all. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m., with the program beginning at 7 p.m.

As at previous meetings, the featured guests' stories will be followed by the opportunity for members of the audience to also tell a brief story. No one will be asked to tell a story; all speakers will be volunteers.

The guild continues to find residents of Chincoteague with stories to tell. Hear A Story/Share A Story

provides everyone a welcoming environment to hear stories told by notable local residents and to share tales of their own. At every story swap event like this, members of the audience have taken advantage of the chance to share a short story to a very warm and receptive crowd. Stories can be based on real situations, total fabrications, history, legends, fairy tales, small lies, big lies, innuendo and half-truths. A good story is a good story.

The Chincoteague Storytelling Guild is a partnership of the Chincoteague Island Library, the Museum of Chincoteague Island, and the Chincoteague Cultural Alliance (CCA). The guild continues to work with the Virginia Storytelling Alliance to advance the art of storytelling in all its forms.

Mark your calendars for the first Chincoteague Storytelling Festival on November 3-4 featuring Donald Davis, Sheila Arnold, Anthony Burcher, and Denise Bennett.

Free Film and Music in the Park This Weekend

Submitted Article

The Chincoteague Cultural Alliance continues its Summer Cinema Series on Thursday, July 27, in Robert Reed Park with "Shaun the Sheep," which was nominated for an Oscar for best animated feature film. From the makers of "Wallace and Gromit," the film stars an adventurous sheep who gets a little more action in the big city than he bargained for when he decides to take the day off and have some fun.

The film is great entertainment for both children and adults. As the Wall

Street Journal reviewer wrote, "Anyone who doesn't have a grand time watching "Shaun the Sheep" movie is suffering from a fractured funny bone that needs to be reset."

Come early and enjoy live music by keyboardist Bill Berger beginning at 6:30 p.m. The film begins at 8:15. Popcorn and cold drinks will be for sale.

On Saturday, July 29, CCA's Music at the Dock concert series presents Blue Crab Crossing in Robert Reed Park at 7 p.m. The band, which plays Bluegrass blended with rock and country, is know

for great instrumentalists and harmony-driven vocals. In 2011, Blue Crab Crossing won the Berlin Fiddlers Convention Band Competition. The group was so popular when it played the Island Coffeehouse that CCA booked it for this free outdoor performance.

Bring a chair or blanket to enjoy these CCA events in Robert Reed Park. CCA is a non-profit community arts organization supported by many volunteers and donors, the Town of Chincoteague, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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NASA Summer Astronomy Series Helps Visitors Explore Night Skies

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, Maryland, 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 a 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 series or the NASA Visitor Center, call 757-824-1344 or visit <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/visitorcenter>

Anonymous Tribute to a Mentor and Friend

After turning 50 a week ago, it made me realize how fast time goes by and I wanted to take time to pay respects to someone before too much time passes.

When I was much younger, I spent a lot of time with this person who taught me how to fish in the ocean and was responsible for a spark in ocean fishing on Chincoteague in the 90s. Even though he now spends most days flying under the radar, he is a Vietnam veteran. Thank you for that. He's the first to pay his condolences or attend a funeral on the island for so many friends who he considers family. He quietly contributes so much to the island and before too much more time passes, next time you see **George Garner**, maybe say "thanks," or "hello" or perhaps buy him a drink. That's what I plan to do. Thanks, George, for everything.

Charter Boat Association Sponsors Take a Kid Fishing Day

The Chincoteague Island Charter Boat Association is hosting Take a Kid Fishing Day on Monday Aug. 7, 2017 from 8 a.m. until about noon. The charter captains of Chincoteague Island would like to take Chincoteague area children ages 7-13 on their boats to enjoy a morning of fishing and to learn

about navigation and boat safety.

Call for more information at 757-894-1398. There a few spots left and pre-registration is required.

Deadline to register is Aug. 4.

Lunch will be provided and all kids will receive a gift from the Chincoteague Charter Boat Association.

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Day Trips and Side Trips Around the Eastern Shore

Through Aug. 5

Virginia Women in History, an exhibit honoring eight women past and present, Eastern Shore Public Library, M-W-F, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., T-Th, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 823610 Front St., Accomac, 757-787-3400, www.lva.virginia.gov/vawomen

Uncovering Home: A Visual Essay on Jamestown, an exhibit based on research about Jamestown's first permanent English settlement in America, Eastern Shore Public Library, Nassawadox branch, M-W-F, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., T-Th, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 7745 Seaside Rd., Nassawadox, 757-787-3400, www.espl.org

July 27

Movie: "Notorious," 7 p.m., Palace Theater, 305 Mason Ave., Cape Charles, Admission: \$5, <http://artsentercapecharles.org/>

July 28 - 30

Play: *Mel Brooks' Musical Young Frankenstein*, July 27-29 at 8 p.m., July 30 at 2:30 p.m., 34 Market St., Onancock, Tickets: \$20 Adults, \$18 Seniors, \$10 Students; add \$5 for reserved seating, 757-787-2050, northstreetplayhouse.org

July 28 - 30, Aug. 2

Movie: "Transformers: The Last Knight," 7 p.m., adults \$9, seniors \$8, \$7.50

children (12 and under with parent), Roseland Theatre (48 Market Street, Onancock), <http://www.roselandonancock.com>

Friday, July 28

The Silent Comedy of Hoop, 11 a.m., Cape Charles Memorial Library, 201 Mason Ave., www.capecharles.org

Building with LEGOS, 11 a.m., Eastern Shore Public Library, Nassawadox

4th Friday Street Festival, 5 - 8 p.m., Entertainment: Raucous Brothers (Reggae), downtown Pocomoke, Md., www.downtownpocomoke.com

Texas Hold 'Em Poker, doors open 6 p.m., game starts at 7 p.m., Bloxom Volunteer Fire Company, 757-710-0408

Saturday, July 29

Harbor for the Arts: Andrew McNight & Beyond Borders, 7 p.m., Central Park, 217 Peach St., Cape Charles, free, capecharlesbythebay.com

Aug. 3 - 5

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FRI JULY 28 • 6309 Church St 6:30 pm Storytelling FREE	SAT AUG 5 • 6309 Church St 8 pm The Waterman's Daughter <i>A musical drama about an unconventional local woman</i>
SAT JULY 29 • Robert Reed Park 7 pm MUSIC AT THE DOCK FREE Blue Crab Crossing <i>Bluegrass blended with rock and country</i> Bring a chair or blanket	Tickets: \$10 at Sundial Books (cash/check) or online at watermansdaughter.bpt.me/ \$12 at the door Cash bar reception 7:30

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Fishing from the Shore

By Bill Hall

Fishing, with just a few exceptions, took a turn for the worse this week as the bay's water temperature continues to climb through the 80s and the offshore yellowfin tuna bite has been consistently inconsistent.

Depending on who you talk to, flounder fishing improved over the previous week, particularly offshore, as did the offshore black sea bass catch. In-shore whiting (kingfish, sand mullet) remain plentiful in the Chesapeake Bay, inside the seaside inlets, and in the ocean surf. Sharks are still plentiful on the seaside for anglers willing to chum them up.

Lower Chesapeake Bay – James, at Chris' Bait & Tackle, reported that the cobia bite, which has been exceptional this year, has finally showed evidence of slowing down. Flounder fishing has been hit or miss lately as the largest reported flatfish of the season was taken last week by J. P. Spinner and weighed an impressive 11-1! Spinner caught the huge doormat while wirelining along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. The fish was weighed in at Ocean's East Bait & Tackle in Virginia Beach. Sea mullet (kingfish, whiting) remain the most consistent catch, with anglers able to fill their coolers with the tasty bottom fish. Anglers cruising the pilings of the bridge tunnel are working schools of spadefish, most of which are small, but fish up to six pounds have been brought in. Spadefish are also available along the third and fourth islands of the span. On the seaside, croakers remain in relatively small sizes and in short supply.

Wachapreague – Captain Lindsay Paul was

fishing aboard the Foxy Lady with Captain Nat Atkinson when I called. They had a good day on Thursday with a mixed bag of yellowfin and dolphin,



Photo by Matt Abell
Captain Curtis Johns with his sons, Ray and Curt, with their three keeper flounder caught in Folly Creek while fishing with Captain Matt Abell.

but the tuna bite had dissipated going into last weekend. A few dolphin and some false albacore made up the bulk of catches throughout the first part of this week. Debbie Shrieves reported that the offshore fleet was flying numerous dolphin (mah-mahi) flags. Flounder fishing success was dependent on the tide and water clarity, with the most consistent catches coming on the last half of the flood (incoming) tide, near the inlets, in depths of 10-25 feet. Captain Matt Abell, led a charter consisting of Captain Curtis Johns and his two sons to a catch of 30 flounder inside Metompkin Inlet, of which only three fish met the legal size limit. On Monday, the Foxy Lady landed 25 flounder, keeping only two fish. Their best action occurred two hours into the ebb (outgoing) tide, near the Coast Guard station.

Chincoteague – Both Pete, at Captain Steve's Bait & Tackle, and Donna Rae, of Captain Bob's Marina, were in unison when describing the local angling action. Many flounder have been caught inside the inlet, but few have been big enough to keep. The north end of Chincoteague Channel has produced a few keepers. Among the undersized flounder have been undersized seabass and swelling toads (southern pufferfish). Small croakers were coming from near the inlet. Sea mullet (kingfish, whiting) were the most plentiful keepers and were biting inside the inlet and in the surf. Shark catches were made by chummers in Cockle Creek and a mixed bag of sharks were coming from just outside the inlet, including bonnetheads, Atlantic finetooth, sandbar, and blacktips. Offshore, larger flounder were being landed near the Blackfish Banks wreck, several weighing in the 4-5 pound range. Triggerfish and spadefish were abundant over the wrecks. Large "knothead" black sea bass were boated at the Parking Lot Wreck and the Marine Electric. Tuna fishing was described as "hit or

miss" at the Lumpy Bottom and the Parking Lot.

Upper Chesapeake Bay – Captain Matt Abell, at Sea Hawk Sports Center, reported that the rockfish population has started to dwindle in number, but one client did land a 25-inch fish. The speckled trout population remained stable, though they seem to be trending smaller in size. A few sheepshead have been pulled from the Tangier Target Ships. Matt also said that the offshore flounder fishing among the wrecks and railcars had picked up and said that anglers using Berkley Gulps and Spros bucktails were having the best success. Offshore action was described as "spotty" with a lot of boats stowing their tuna gear away to deep drop for tilefish.



Photo from Chris' Bait and Tackle
Kingfish (whiting) have been caught by the cooler-full.

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.

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		Friday, July 28		Saturday, July 29		Sunday, July 30		Monday, July 31		Tuesday, Aug. 1		Wednesday, Aug. 2		Thursday, Aug. 3	
Seaside	Assateague Beach	H 12:44 p.m. L 6:53 a.m.	H 1:35 p.m. L 7:41 a.m.	H 2:29 p.m. L 8:29 a.m.	H 3:27 p.m. L 9:17 a.m.	H 4:23 p.m. L 10:06 a.m.	H 5:16 p.m. L 10:56 a.m.	H 6:04 p.m. L 11:46 a.m.							
	Chinco Channel	H 12:48 p.m. L 6:52 a.m.	H 1:39 p.m. L 7:40 a.m.	H 2:33 p.m. L 8:28 a.m.	H 3:31 p.m. L 9:16 a.m.	H 4:27 p.m. L 10:05 a.m.	H 5:20 p.m. L 10:55 a.m.	H 6:08 p.m. L 11:45 a.m.							
	Gargatha Neck	H 1:40 p.m. L 7:32 a.m.	H 2:31 p.m. L 8:20 a.m.	H 3:25 p.m. L 9:08 a.m.	H 4:23 p.m. L 9:56 a.m.	H 5:19 p.m. L 10:45 a.m.	H 6:12 p.m. L 11:35 a.m.	H 6:25 a.m. L 12:25 p.m.							
	Folly Creek	H 1:33 p.m. L 7:17 a.m.	H 2:24 p.m. L 8:05 a.m.	H 3:18 p.m. L 8:53 a.m.	H 4:16 p.m. L 9:41 a.m.	H 5:12 p.m. L 10:30 a.m.	H 6:05 p.m. L 11:20 a.m.	H 6:18 a.m. L 12:10 p.m.							
	Wachapreague	H 1:19 p.m. L 7:01 a.m.	H 2:10 p.m. L 7:49 a.m.	H 3:04 p.m. L 8:37 a.m.	H 4:02 p.m. L 9:25 a.m.	H 4:58 p.m. L 10:14 a.m.	H 5:51 p.m. L 11:04 a.m.	H 6:39 p.m. L 11:54 a.m.							
	Quinby Inlet	H 12:44 p.m. L 6:32 a.m.	H 1:35 p.m. L 7:20 a.m.	H 2:29 p.m. L 8:08 a.m.	H 3:27 p.m. L 8:56 a.m.	H 4:23 p.m. L 9:45 a.m.	H 5:16 p.m. L 10:35 a.m.	H 6:04 p.m. L 11:25 a.m.							
	Machipongo	H 1:14 p.m. L 7:01 a.m.	H 2:05 p.m. L 7:49 a.m.	H 2:59 p.m. L 8:37 a.m.	H 3:57 p.m. L 9:25 a.m.	H 4:53 p.m. L 10:14 a.m.	H 5:46 p.m. L 11:04 a.m.	H 6:34 p.m. L 11:54 a.m.							
Bayside	Tangier Sound Light	H 5:01 p.m. L 11:02 a.m.	H 5:52 p.m. L 11:49 a.m.	H 6:45 p.m. L 12:37 p.m.	H 6:59 a.m. L 1:27 p.m.	H 7:56 a.m. L 2:18 p.m.	H 8:55 a.m. L 3:10 p.m.	H 9:50 a.m. L 4:00 p.m.							
	Muddy Creek	H 5:17 p.m. L 11:37 a.m.	H 6:08 p.m. L 12:24 p.m.	H 6:22 a.m. L 1:12 p.m.	H 7:15 a.m. L 2:02 p.m.	H 8:12 a.m. L 2:53 p.m.	H 9:11 a.m. L 3:45 p.m.	H 10:06 a.m. L 4:35 p.m.							
	Guard Shore	H 5:09 p.m. L 11:33 a.m.	H 6:00 p.m. L 12:20 p.m.	H 6:14 a.m. L 1:08 p.m.	H 7:07 a.m. L 1:58 p.m.	H 8:04 a.m. L 2:49 p.m.	H 9:03 a.m. L 3:41 p.m.	H 9:58 a.m. L 4:31 p.m.							
	Chescon. Creek	H 4:44 p.m. L 10:45 a.m.	H 5:35 p.m. L 11:32 a.m.	H 5:49 a.m. L 12:20 p.m.	H 6:42 a.m. L 1:10 p.m.	H 7:39 a.m. L 2:01 p.m.	H 8:38 a.m. L 2:53 p.m.	H 9:33 a.m. L 3:42 p.m.							
	Onancock Creek	H 4:58 p.m. L 11:05 a.m.	H 5:49 p.m. L 11:52 a.m.	H 6:03 a.m. L 12:40 p.m.	H 6:56 a.m. L 1:30 p.m.	H 7:53 a.m. L 2:21 p.m.	H 8:52 a.m. L 3:13 p.m.	H 9:47 a.m. L 4:03 p.m.							
	Pungoteague Creek	H 4:14 p.m. L 10:19 a.m.	H 5:05 p.m. L 11:06 a.m.	H 5:58 p.m. L 11:54 a.m.	H 6:52 p.m. L 12:44 p.m.	H 7:09 a.m. L 1:35 p.m.	H 8:08 a.m. L 2:27 p.m.	H 9:03 a.m. L 3:17 p.m.							
	Nassawadox	H 2:59 p.m. L 8:41 a.m.	H 3:50 p.m. L 9:28 a.m.	H 4:43 p.m. L 10:16 a.m.	H 5:37 p.m. L 11:06 a.m.	H 6:33 p.m. L 11:57 a.m.	H 6:53 a.m. L 12:49 p.m.	H 7:48 a.m. L 1:39 p.m.							
	Occhohan. Creek	H 3:58 p.m. L 9:59 a.m.	H 4:29 p.m. L 10:46 a.m.	H 5:22 p.m. L 11:34 a.m.	H 6:16 p.m. L 12:24 p.m.	H 6:33 a.m. L 1:15 p.m.	H 7:32 a.m. L 2:07 p.m.	H 8:27 a.m. L 2:57 p.m.							
	Cape Charles	H 1:48 p.m. L 7:49 a.m.	H 2:39 p.m. L 8:36 a.m.	H 2:39 p.m. L 8:36 a.m.	H 4:26 p.m. L 10:14 a.m.	H 5:22 p.m. L 11:05 a.m.	H 6:15 p.m. L 11:57 a.m.	H 6:37 a.m. L 12:47 p.m.							
	Kiptopeke Beach	H 1:26 p.m. L 7:18 a.m.	H 2:17 p.m. L 8:05 a.m.	H 3:10 p.m. L 8:53 a.m.	H 4:04 p.m. L 9:43 a.m.	H 5:00 p.m. L 10:34 a.m.	H 5:53 p.m. L 11:26 a.m.	H 6:15 a.m. L 12:16 p.m.							

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

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2017 TROLLEY SCHEDULE

GREEN ROUTE										RED ROUTE											
EVENING HOURS ONLY										EVENING HOURS ONLY											
Pine Grove	5:02		6:02	7:02	8:02	9:02	10:02			Pine Grove	5:15		6:15	7:15	8:15	9:15					
Maddox Blvd. & Deep Hole Rd.	5:05	5:35	6:05	6:35	7:05	7:35	8:05	8:35	9:05	9:35	10:05	High School	5:20		6:20		7:20		8:20		9:20
Main St. & Church St.	5:08	5:38	6:08	6:38	7:08	7:38	8:08	8:38	9:08	9:38	10:08	Main St. & Church St.	5:22	5:51	6:22	6:51	7:22	7:51	8:22	8:51	9:22
Beebe Rd. & Ridge Rd.	5:13	5:43	6:13	6:43	7:13	7:43	8:13	8:43	9:13	9:43	10:13	Beebe Ranch Turnaround		5:59		6:59		7:59		8:59	
Memorial Park	5:17	5:47	6:17	6:47	7:17	7:47	8:17	8:47	9:17	9:47	10:17	Beebe Rd. & Ridge Rd.	5:30		6:30		7:30		8:30		9:30
Pony Centre	5:21	5:51	6:21	6:51	7:21	7:51	8:21	8:51	9:21	9:51	10:21	Memorial Park	5:34		6:34		7:34		8:34		9:34
Museum of Chincoteague Is.	5:25	5:55	6:25	6:55	7:25	7:55	8:25	8:55	9:25	9:55	10:25	Museum of Chincoteague Is.	5:38	6:08	6:38	7:08	7:38	8:08	8:38	9:08	9:38
GREEN ROUTE: Designated "Free Rides" courtesy of the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce										Carnival*, Pony Swim, Pony Auction, Pony Swim Back Extended Hours											
SEPT.: 30th - Chili Chowder Cook Off - 10am - 10:30pm										JULY: 1st - Fireworks - 5pm - Midnight 26th - Pony Swim - TBA - Midnight											
OCTOBER: 7th - Oyster Fest - 10am - 10:30pm (Ride free 10am - 5pm)										JULY: 27th - Pony Auction - 7am - 1pm** 28th - Pony Swim Back - 6am - 1pm**											
										** Last Call for Trolley during Carnival is 11:00pm											

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.

What to do this week on and around Chincoteague

Friday, July 28 - July 29

Chincoteague Volunteer Fireman's Carnival, 7 p.m. - 11 p.m., Chincoteague Island Carnival Grounds, www.cvfc3.com

Friday, July 28

Misty, 11 a.m., Island Theatre, 4074 Main St., free admission, sponsored by Chincoteague Island Arts Organization, <https://chincoteagueislandarts.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>

Chincoteague Story Telling Guild, refreshments at 6:30 p.m., story telling starts at 7 p.m., free admission, Chincoteague Island Library, 4077 Main St.
www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/chincoteague-storytelling-guild.html

Saturday, July 29

Farmers and Artisan Market, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St., www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org

Imagination Playground, 11 a.m., approximately 60 minutes, geared to ages 6-9, NASA Wallops Visitor Center, Building J20, Route 175, Chincoteague Rd., Admission: Free, www.nasa.gov/content/wallops-visitor-center

Peculiar Planet, 2 p.m., approximately 15 minutes, all ages welcome, NASA Wallops Visitor Center, Building J20, Route 175, Chincoteague Rd., Admission: Free, www.nasa.gov/content/wallops-visitor-center

Music at the Dock: Blue Crab Crossing, 7 p.m., Robert Reed Park in Chincoteague's historic downtown, free concert,
www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/music-at-the-dock.html

Sunday, July 30

"Horsing Around" Art Show, 3 - 5 p.m., Kitchen Gallery, Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St., www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org

Monday, July 31

Community Bingo, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., CCA Community Center for the Arts (6309 Church St), games cost \$0.25
www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/community-bingo.html

Tuesday, Aug. 1

Tuesday Nights at the Museum: Where Island Tales Are Told, 7 p.m., \$4 admission for adults, free admission for children (12 and under), active military, and museum members, Chincoteague Museum, 7125 Maddox Blvd., chincoteaguemuseum.com/programs

Space Story Time and Craft, 11 a.m., NASA Wallops Visitor Center, www.nasa.gov/content/wallops-visitor-center/public-programs

Peculiar Planet, 2 p.m., NASA Wallops Visitor Center, www.nasa.gov/content/wallops-visitor-center/public-programs

Wednesday, Aug. 2

Farmers and Artisan Market, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St., www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org

Engineering Challenge, 2 p.m., registration begins 1 hour prior to the program 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>

Game Night, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., The Chincoteague Center, 6155 Community Dr., \$3 per person or \$8 per family, snacks and drinks for sale, 757-336-0614, www.thechincoteaguecenter.com/meet-greet-open-house

Night of the Living Dead, 8 p.m., Chincoteague Island Arts Organization Annex, 4074 Main St., Admission: \$5, <https://chincoteagueislandarts.org/fright-nights-annex/>

Thursday, Aug. 3

Children's Summer Programs at the Library, 10 a.m., Tales4Tots, The Chincoteague Island Library, 4077 Main St., 757-336-3460,
<http://www.chincoteague.com/chincoteagueislandlibrary/>

Summer Watercolor Class, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m., beginner - intermediate, Tryfan Gallery, 3594 Main St., call 757-336-6222, or email danielptthomas@gmail.com

Friday, Aug. 4

Incredible Inverts, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Chincoteague Bay Field Station, best for ages 7 and up, but all are welcome, Fee: \$15 per person, www.cbfieldstation.org/incredible-inverts-workshop

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

Comedian with Northampton Ties is a Bagg Full of Funny

By Angie Crutchley

The Northampton High School class of 1997 is holding its 20th class reunion in August. When it came time to raise funds for the celebration, members of the class got creative — and pulled a really funny option out of their Bagg of tricks. For the first time ever performing on the Eastern Shore, world-famous comedian Ian Bagg will share his jokes at Arts Enter in Cape Charles on Friday, Aug. 4, at 7:30 p.m.

Bagg, who is married to NHS class of '97 alum Kerrie Ann Caison, has been on Comedy Central, The Tonight Show, and was a finalist on Last Comic Standing in 2015. The Los Angeles couple, parents to dogs Lou (which Kerrie Ann found in a ditch in Cheriton) and Minnie Pearl, bought a second home in Cape Charles last year.

“I wanted to get to know the community and my neighbors,” said Bagg on doing the show locally, and who refers to the Shore folks in his act as the “Bridge-Tunnel Bridge-Tunnel” people.

“The first time I saw Ian Bagg was last fall. I laughed so hard that tears were flowing down my cheeks,” said Amanda Daughtrey Heath of Townsend. “Of course, he called me out and called me a crybaby in front of the crowd! That just sent me into hysterics, and made my friends laugh even harder — at me! This is a show that should definitely be seen with friends.”

Last Comic Standing propelled Bagg into the spotlight and he soon found himself being followed around like the Grateful Dead. I’m sure Jerry Garcia isn’t the first person most think about when talking about the Canadian transplant, whose very nature lends itself to talk of hockey playoffs and maple syrup, but seeing the regulars at his shows does conjure memories of tie-dyed hippies traveling miles to see their favorite performer.

He tours constantly all over the world. He went on tour with Gabriel Iglesias to Australia and Europe, aboard a private jet. He played in front of crowds of more than 7,000 people on a regular basis. He just went back to his hometown of Terrace, British Columbia, for a two-night fundraiser for a mom battling leukemia.

“I initially didn’t want to do Last Comic Standing,” said Bagg. “But my wife made me.”

His reasoning was that he didn’t want to be in a contest. But he ended up enjoying the experience and the exposure it presented.

“I got a whole new fan base from people who watch TV from 8 to 10 p.m. Now I have people in Ohio who know who I am,” he said. Everything snowballed from there. He has hundreds of thousands of hits on many performances on YouTube. He’s been touring non-stop since the show aired.

Three of the judges, Roseanne Barr, Norm Mac-



Photo by Angie H. Crutchley
Comedian Ian Bagg, who will appear at the Palace Theatre in Cape Charles in August as a fundraiser for the Northampton High class of 1997.

donald and Keenan Ivory Wayans, thought he was great and their votes helped him become a finalist on the show. Although, according to Bagg, they were sometimes fickle.

“It was like doing comedy for your great aunt. They’d sometimes forget they’d even seen me the day before,” he laughed. “But then they’d love me and say I was doing great. And I was like, ‘Oh, finally, they’re back on their meds.’ I just love Roseanne. I would just comb her hair if I could.”

NHS class of '97 alumni Laura Morgan, of Quinby, said, “The class of 1997 is beyond thrilled that the hilarious comedian Ian Bagg will be performing at the Palace Theatre on Aug. 4. Ian is Kerrie Ann Caison’s husband; she is also a '97 graduate. After you see him once, you are sure to never miss another show when Ian is in town. You WILL laugh your face off.”

Bagg loves the Shore, but there are two things that really stand out for him: “First, there is SOOO much family.

“And watch your speed limit on the Shore, people. Do not do 62. Do not do 65,” he commented on the commitment by law enforcement officers to keep it 55 mph on the highway.

“We saw Ian Bagg when he was in town at The Funny Bone in Virginia Beach,” said Crystal Sturgis Hart of Exmore. “It was a girls’ trip and I laughed so hard I thought I had lockjaw. I bought four tickets for his show in Cape Charles. I will be there with my girls!”

“We’ve been working on a sitcom based on the reality show. Scripts are being written right now,” said Bagg. “It’s basically blue state meets red state,” he joked. The reality show referenced was one he and his in-laws made a pilot for three years ago. The premise was that he would get a “real job” if this comedian thing didn’t work out. His brothers-in-law are watermen and entrepreneurs. He worked on the water a few days with the Caisons, whom he refers to as “tough-living people.”

“They made me pick oysters and clams for a few days,” he said of the early-morning work routine. “I’m pretty sure clams are there mid-afternoon. So why did we have to go so early?”

When quizzed on his knowledge of the Shore and seafood he said, “I don’t know things about crabs except they’re blue sometimes.”

The readers will just have to use their imagination on his definition of a sook.

“I tell you something else, too,” he said, now in a full-fledged improvised comedy routine. “Skates are total &\$\$%5! And if I’ve offended anyone by saying that then they have a family full of skates!”

While his love for sea creatures may not be evident, what is evident is his great love for the Shore and his wife and wife’s family.

Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased by going to <http://bit.ly/IanBaggTickets>. Tickets are first come, first serve as there are a limited number of seats available.

The NHS class reunion is the night of Saturday, Aug. 5, above the Cape Charles Coffee House.



Submitted Image
Comedian Ian Bagg will appear at the Palace Theatre Aug. 4. Online tickets can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/IanBaggTickets>

Auction Ponies Help Pay Cost of Fire Equipment

The pony auction is always an exciting time, with the feisty foal debuts, friend and family reunions, buy-back bidding and Feather Fund wishes brought to completion. It's easy to forget the reason for the auction is to fund the vehicle and equipment and other needs of the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company.

The results from the 2017 pony auction weren't available in time for this week's Hitching Post, but below are the results from auctions since 1999, courtesy of the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce and Official Visitor's Center.

- 2016 - 57 ponies sold (including 7 buy-backs), average cost \$2,659, high bid \$11,000, low bid \$550, total sales \$151,550
- 2015 - 61 ponies sold (including 12 buy-backs), average cost \$2,780 (record), high bid \$25,000 (record), low bid \$500, total sales \$169,519
- 2014 - 54 ponies sold, average cost \$2,772.23, high bid \$21,000, low bid \$750, total sales \$149,700
- 2013 - 54 ponies sold, average cost \$2,161.58, high bid \$12,000, low bid \$650, total sales \$116,725
- 2012 - 67 ponies sold, average cost \$1,442.16, high bid \$7,200, low bid \$400, total sales \$96,625
- 2011 - 69 ponies sold, average cost \$1,442.02, high bid \$6,700, low bid \$450, total sales \$99,500
- 2010 - 59 ponies sold, average cost \$1,310.00, high bid \$8,100, low bid \$375, total sales \$77,275
- 2009 - 70 ponies sold, average cost \$1,344.29, high bid \$11,700, low bid \$500, total sales \$94,100
- 2008 - 74 ponies sold, average cost \$1,413.85, high bid \$9,500, low bid \$400, total sales \$104,625
- 2007 - 73 ponies sold, average cost \$2,442.47, high bid \$17,500, low bid \$700, total sales \$178,300 (record)
- 2006 - 78 ponies sold, average cost \$2,150.64, high bid \$7,500, low bid \$350 (3-year-old), total sales \$167,750
- 2005 - 66 ponies sold, average cost \$2,255.30, high bid \$8,000, low bid \$900, total sales \$148,850
- 2004 - 74 ponies sold, average cost \$1,618.24, high bid \$4,000, low bid \$850, total sales \$119,750
- 2003 - 71 ponies sold, average cost \$1,798.59, high bid \$6,600, low bid \$1,000, total sales \$127,700
- 2002 - 89 ponies sold, average cost \$1,818.00, high bid \$7,800, low bid \$950, total sales \$161,800. Six buy-back foals were sold for a total of \$34,000.00.
- 2001 - 85 ponies sold, average cost \$1,961.00, high bid \$10,500, low bid \$1,000, total sales \$166,725
- 2000 - 84 ponies sold, average cost \$2,060.00, high bid \$7,500, low bid \$1,300, total sales \$173,085
- 1999 - 86 ponies sold, average cost \$1,620.00, high bid \$4,200, low bid of \$800



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 <p>MLS # 44904 Circle Dr. This cute cottage is perfect for your island getaways!!!! Two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, utility room, bath, workshop, shed and carport. Minutes from Assateague beach, shops and restaurants. \$143,000</p>	 <p>MLS # 45713 Chicken City Rd. This bright and airy Cottage is ready for you to be a part of our beach town. This cottage has 2 bedrooms with one bath, a large living/dining area with an enclosed porch to enjoy your morning coffee or kick back and relax after a day on the beach. Most furnishings convey. \$145,000</p>	 <p>MLS # 44668 East Side Dr. This beach home package includes a 2BR, 1BA stick built home, with LR, DR and kitchen and a 12' x 60' mobile, with 2BR, 1 BA and large enclosed porch. Views of Assateague Island. \$225,000</p>
 <p>MLS # 45362 Piney Island Dr. You will enjoy picturesque views from this beautiful waterfront parcel. Dock your boat at your door. 2 bedroom septic installed. \$197,000</p>	 <p>MLS # 45582 Starboard St., Captain's Cove 3 bedroom 2 bath waterfront home boasts cathedral ceilings with gas fireplace, sunroom, living room, kitchen, new bulkhead. Community pools, marina, tennis and golf courses. \$319,000</p>	 <p>MLS # 44161 Silver Sails Landing New Construction 2BR, Den, 2-1/2 Baths, first floor Master Bedroom w/full Bath, walk in closet, LR, DA with hardwood floors. Granite counter tops, deck and screened porch, garage and Community pool. \$254,900</p>

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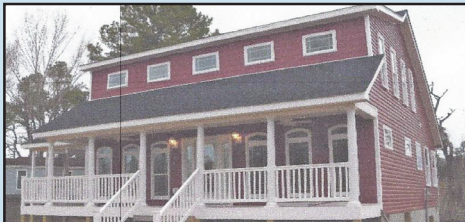


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Beach Walk Unites Ponies and People

The Saltwater Cowboys continued their long tradition of uniting the northern and southern herds on Monday with the traditional daybreak beach walk along the surf at Assateague National Seashore.

As crowds lined the way, the cowboys guided the herd toward the corral on the beach road in the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge where they joined the southern herd to await the swim to Chincoteague on Wednesday.



Photos by Denise Bowden
Saltwater Cowboys accompany the north-end herd along the beach to the corral on the beach access road in Chincoteague National Wildlife to await their annual swim to Chincoteague on Wednesday.

92nd Annual Chincoteague Pony Swim

*Photos by Angie H. Crutchley and
Story by Connie Morrison*

A red flare pierced the pale morning sky just before 7 a.m. to signal the beginning of the 92nd annual Pony Swim. It was one of the earliest swims “in a long, long time,” said Denise Bowden, Chincoteague vice mayor and spokesperson for the volunteer fire company.

The early swim time was not a deterrent to morning crowds which enjoyed a respite from the usual searing heat as they waited for the spectacle. Two additions to this year's swim: drones jockeyed for position overhead, while those who gathered to watch the swim at Veteran's Memorial Park were treated to a Jumbotron broadcast of the event.

The swim is held on the last Wednesday of July. The Saltwater Cowboys await the flare to indicate slack tide — what NOAA defines as a time “when the water is completely unstressed and

there is no movement either way in the tidal stream” — to ease the crossing of the approximately 150 ponies that swam the channel from Assateague to Chincoteague island.

With encouragement of the cowboys, and mares nudging the foals into the water, the ponies began the approximately four-minute swim as they and their ancestors have reliably done the last 92 years, although there are accounts of roundups dating back well before the 1900s.

As pony noses above the water took shape as ponies neared the Chincoteague shore, a young boy whooped, “Yip-pee-yi-o-ki-yay! Here come the ponies!” The first foal to make it across each year is named King Neptune or Queen Neptune and auctioned at the carnival. This year a king took the crown, with the winning ticket drawn Wednesday night from the 2,000 or so tickets sold.









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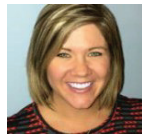
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