



NEW BOOK CHRONICLES ADVOCACY FOR A SON

Peggy Downing talks about supporting those with special needs | Page 14

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The monthly journal of Eastern Shore life

Vol. 6, No. 6 | October 2022

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A Raffle will be held by
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Local company buys E.S. First

A new company owned by two area men with long careers in journalism has purchased the Eastern Shore Post, the weekly newspaper that has covered Virginia's Eastern Shore for more than 23 years, and the monthly feature publication Eastern Shore First.

Ted Shockley, the owner and editor of Eastern Shore First, and Jim Ritch, a photographer with the Post who served as a newspaper leader in Maryland and Delaware, completed the sale Friday, July 29.

The new company will publish the Eastern Shore Post, Eastern Shore First, and their associated websites. Ritch will hold the position of publisher. Shockley will be editor and general manager and will run day-to-day operations.

"This is a great opportunity to serve the businesses and readers of a very special area with two fine publications," said Ritch, who lives in Northampton County.

Said Shockley, who lives in Accomack County, "The Eastern Shore has always supported my career in newspapers. I deeply respect the Post's staff and community standing. This is a great way for me to further serve an area I truly love."

The Eastern Shore Post, which began in June 1999, had been owned since 2016 by Connie Morrison, who served as editor and general manager, and Ace Seybolt, an area businessman.

Morrison was ready to step away from day-to-day newspaper management but has been hired by the new ownership and will assist with the transition.

Seybolt, who is beginning a two-year term as president of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce, said he was pleased that local ownership of the Eastern Shore Post will continue.

"My family has lived in Accomack County for 14 generations," said Seybolt. "I am a businessman who has invested in several local businesses, including the Eastern Shore Post. I believe that successful, locally owned companies best serve our

community.

"I am confident through Jim and Ted's leadership the Eastern Shore Post will continue to reinforce the strength and value to our community of locally owned businesses."

Ritch was a regional vice president for Independent Newspapers Inc., of Dover, Del., served as editor of the Salisbury News and Advertiser, of Salisbury, Md., and was an editor at The Capital Gazette newspaper, of Annapolis, Md.

He got his start as a reporter with the Watertown Daily Times. Most recently Ritch owned companies that published church directories and did studio photography.

Ritch holds a master's of business administration degree from the University of Maryland College Park and a bachelor's degree in political science from Colgate University.

Ritch is president of the Cape Charles Rotary Club and is a longtime Rotarian. Ritch and his wife, Gloria, have two adult children.

Shockley is the former executive editor of The Daily Times of Salisbury, Md., and is associated weekly newspapers on the Delmarva Peninsula. For a decade he was editor of the twice-weekly Eastern Shore News, where he began as a freelancer in 1990. He started the monthly Eastern Shore First in 2017.

He is a board member of A&N Electric Cooperative and is a former board member of the Eastern Shore Public Library and Eastern Shore Community College, which he attended after graduating from Northampton High School.

Shockley holds a bachelor's degree in English from Salisbury University. He and his wife, Amy, have two children who both attend Old Dominion University.

Shockley thanked his wife, his father, Bill Shockley, of Cheriton; Ritch, his business partner; and friends for their support.

"Their encouragement and confidence in me means everything," he said.



Eastern Shore First is a locally owned monthly newsmagazine serving the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Published at the beginning of each month since May 2017.

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Founding Principles

1. Serve businesses, agencies, nonprofits and the public by offering cost-effective, high-value advertising in a publication committed to promoting the Eastern Shore's attributes to residents and visitors.
2. Serve the community by highlighting the people, businesses, places, events and amenities that make the Eastern Shore a great place to live and visit.
3. Be a relentless, active and giving community partner in all ways possible.

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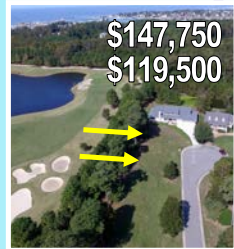
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Information contained herein believed accurate but not warranted.



Art opening, benefit and live theater slated

The community is invited to a fall Art Opening and Reception on Friday, Oct. 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lemon Tree Gallery & Studio in Cape Charles.

Over 100 artists display their work in the Gallery and the collection is curated by Gallery owner and international artist Clelia C. Sheppard. Featured for the fall show is guest Hampton Roads artist Richard C. Press, Sr. and his Living African Art exhibition.

The show will include live artists on opening night who have been painted to mirror Richard's work. Richard began his pursuit of art while attending Northampton County High School in Machipongo.

He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Education from Norfolk State University. After retirement from retail management, Press continued to paint, as well as teach art at Booker T. Washington High School.

Richard works mostly in acrylics and oils, which includes abstracts, impressionism, realism, and portraits. His works include commissions for murals and private pieces across the Hampton roads area. His most notable murals grace the walls of the First Baptist Church of Hampton, VA and the sanctuaries of the Whiting Funeral Home of Williamsburg, Virginia.

Richard Press' Living Art exhibits have gained notoriety as being unusual, exciting, and colorful. The City of Newport News featured Press' exhibit in their recognition of the 1619 landing of the first Africans in America. The Art Institute of VA Beach honored Press with a solo exhibit which featured the living models. It was the first time a solo exhibit was granted to any artist for this location.

The painting titled, "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow" by Richard is featured in USA Today's documentary "1619: Searching for Answers", an in-depth research of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in America in 1619.

"Much of my work is produced using acrylic and oil paints. Even though my subject matter includes a wide variety of genres, they include many thematic

compositions. Some of my most recent themes include biblical, social injustice, Afrocentric tribal art, abstracts, and anatomy. My current works give recognition to an Ethiopian people called the Omo River Valley Tribe. I not only attempt to represent the artistic ways in which they paint their bodies from their natural habitat, but I use live models to emulate my paintings. Most of the models and body painters are artist themselves." said Press.

A cash bar will be offered on Friday evening with proceeds being divided between the two non-profits that are managed through the Lemon Tree Gallery: Arts Enter and Experimental Film Virginia. Live music will be presented by Vernon Holloman, a professional musician his entire adult life. A graduate of the Berklee College of Music Class of '78, he had the pleasure to work with some legends like Maynard Ferguson and Buddy Rich. Vernon also opened for the Trammps (Disco Inferno) back in the 70s.

On Sunday, October 16 from 5 - 8:30 p.m. Arts Enter Cape Charles will celebrate 25 years of providing the arts to our community at its' 25th Annual Benefit by the Bay. An Eastern Shore sunset, classical music, food and friendship are complimentary but reservations are required. Donations and sponsorships are appreciated.

"We tried a new fundraising model last year as we were coming off the pandemic and it seemed to work well. Tickets were complimentary but the guests attending were all very generous as they understood what our non-profit provides to our community," commented Co-director MaryAnn Roehm.

"We are hoping to enjoy the same level of sponsorship and support this year." Dr. and Mrs. John Sheppard have offered their bayfront property for the event and are graciously donating the reception. Arts Enter depends on the generosity of patrons to stay afloat and retain the ability to provide programs such as the successful musical, Music Man and the comedy Don't Dress for Dinner. The Virginia Symphony Holiday Brass will perform in the Historic

Palace Theatre on December 17 as they did last year and it is with the help of generous benefactors such as Blue Heron Realty, that the performance is possible.

Arts Enter is very appreciative of the community support that it receives. Donations are tax deductible and can be arranged by calling the Gallery or during the Benefit by the Bay event. Music at the event will be provided by Harbor String Quartet, a touring performer made possible with support from the Virginia Commission for the Arts. Food will be prepared by Love & Rosemary. There will be a raffle for a pair of stunning hand made Greek earrings and an art sale featuring donations from various artists who display their work in the Lemon Tree Gallery.

No Halloween is complete without a bit of frightening ghostliness. On October 28 and 29 th at 7:30 p.m. and October 30 at 3 p.m. Arts Enter presents Night of Gothic Horror, an original Halloween play. Created by Wayne Creed and Amy Watkins, members of the Arts Enter Theatre Club will join others and our local heroine for a night of Gothic Horror on her journey by night where she will try to escape hungry, graveyard zombies and thirsty vampires. It will be a fun and horrific Monster Mash at the Historic and haunted Palace Theatre. Adult tickets are \$20. The scary night is appropriate for children who are fearless! Student tickets are \$10.

Before the show on Saturday, October 29 from 3-7 there will be a first ever Strawberry Jam event sponsored by the collection of shops on Strawberry Street including Local-Ish Art, Love and Canna, Drizzles, Edible Picasso, Lemon Tree Gallery and At Altitude.

The Fangtastic Festival is an outdoor festival and collaboration of Strawberry Street businesses in Cape Charles. Its' focus is to offer a unique experience that includes art, music and food, reflecting the local culture and products for residents.

For more information, call Local-Ish Art at 757-210-8164 or the Lemon Tree Gallery at 757-331-4327.

Hall releases new book on the Shore's roots

Local history devotees will welcome a new book, "An 'Uncertain Rumor' of Land: New Thoughts on the English Founding of Virginia's Eastern Shore," by Jenean Hall.

This book takes the familiar subject of "first settler" and shines additional light to reveal a more complex story than most have imagined.

"I began this journey intending to trace my grandmother's ancestors," Hall said, "but when I realized that her story goes back to the earliest of English roots here, I wanted to know as much detail as possible."

Hall moved to the Eastern Shore to work as a school psychologist, and

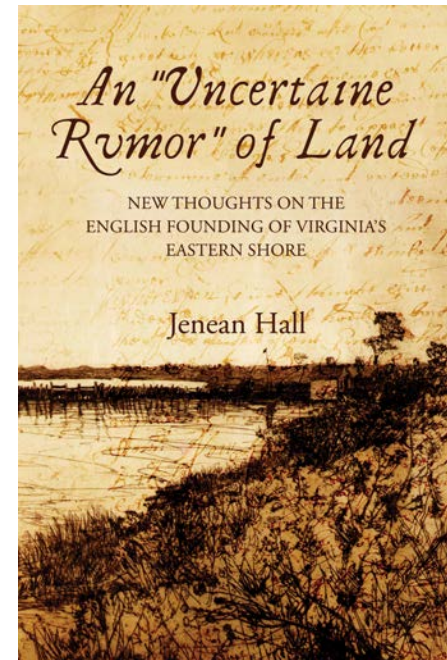
she has stayed 42 years, devoting her retirement to local history research. According to her findings, unintended consequences of the Great Charter of 1618 contributed to the earliest permanent English settlement here. This was closely followed by the 1622 attack that devastated the colony but turned many eyes toward the Eastern Shore.

"When telling a story that veers from that of our revered historians, it's important that the reader can retrace the line of reasoning," Hall said. On that note, it is a well-cited book with a glossary to help clarify some unusual terms and conditions of the 17th century.

The book's title stems from a comment referring to land that may or may not have belonged to Lady Dale whose cattle were placed on the Eastern Shore. This account dispels some of the rumor and gives a clearer picture of a truly remarkable time in colonial Virginia and Eastern Shore history.

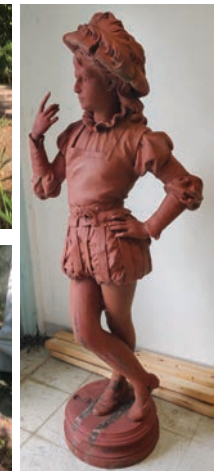
A familiar story is found here, but more "new thoughts" than you may have imagined possible after 400 years.

An "Uncertain Rumor" of Land will be released by KWE Publishing, LLC on October 4, 2022, and can be ordered through fine bookstores everywhere.



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Cardoza, ESCC student, makes the campus sing

“Music, and the opportunity to share it with others, has really been shaping who I am,” says Annistin Cardoza, a high school dual enrollment student at Your Eastern Shore Community College.

Annistin, 16 years old, has been home-schooled and completing her studies at ESCC since last spring.

“I graduate in 2023!” Annistin excitedly announces as she ponders what the next step will be. “Being exposed to different people, thoughts, and ideas is so helpful and necessary when it comes to starting to figure out what direction I want to take.”

Often, Annistin can be seen on campus with her guitar in tow. “Working with my church worship team and youth group has spilled over into wanting to share music with others here on campus.”

Annistin’s songwriting skills received attention this past spring with the Potomac Youth Network and their Fine Arts Competition. Former ESCC student Hanna Bradford and Annistin both placed in the competition, and Annistin’s original tune “All the Ways” won first place in her category.

The first verse of “All the Ways”

This world could never satisfy the cravings that you fill

This world will never love me the way I know you will

All that I am, and all that I can be,

It feels like a part of myself is waving back at me.

“Sometimes it feels like your faith is the only light that you can truly count on, and that’s what the song is about,” Annistin explains. “I wrote the song when I was 14 and it’s helped me through difficult times.”

Annistin has recently worked on producing a recording and video for the tune which joins about



Annistin Cardoza

twenty other originals she has composed. As Annistin looks at fields of study ranging from nursing to ministry, she feels confident music will remain a constant

in her life. Working with ESCC instructor and club sponsor Christina Duffman, Annistin is starting a music club at the college.

Annistin says, “I see this as such a great opportunity to bring people together and maybe even jump start some other students’ interest in both playing and appreciating music of all types.”

Christina adds, “The club offerings at ESCC are growing! Annistin’s enthusiasm for a music club was inspired by students in other ESCC clubs. We are all very excited about the possibilities.”

Annistin observes, “I see students with AirPods on campus all the time, and I always think how cool would it be to share with each other what we’re listening to and to discuss it.”

Annistin sees potential in teaching opportunities as well. “I’d love to see an atmosphere where one student can show each other chords on a guitar and also perform and play together.”

ESCC president Dr. Shaeffer notes that ESCC offers programs to students from age 16 to 76. “That’s why our YES! culture stands for Your Eastern Shore. The college belongs to you and to everyone else on the Shore, that’s what ESCC means by inclusion.”

He explains, “We have programs for high school dual enrollment, English as a second language, GED, college transfer, programs that lead directly to jobs, basically something for everyone.”

Christina adds, “But it’s more than just classes and programs. We have a vibrant college community where all are welcome. We truly enjoy growing together.”

That growth can now include notes and melodies thanks to Annistin and her future fellow club members.

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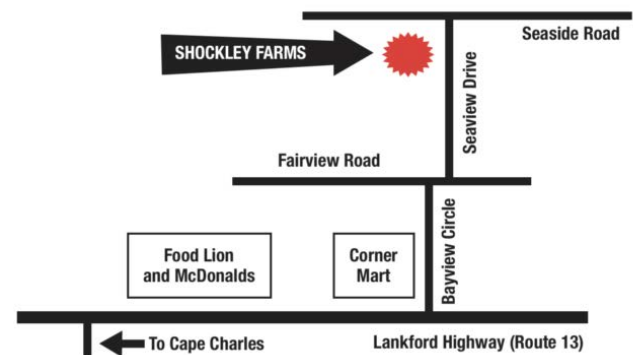
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Free safety and marksmanship training Oct. 15

NOAAWIVA Sportsmen Inc. will host the Brownells/NRA Youth Sportsfest Saturday Oct. 15 at 30516 Chincoteague Road, Oak Hall, starting at 8:30 a.m. and continuing until about 3:30 p.m.

The range is about 200 yards east of T's Corner, marked by signs. Due to the large number of participants who usually show for this fun annual event, parking will be along Chincoteague Road in front of Food Lion, with free shuttle transport provided to

and from the range itself.

This event is free for all girls and boys from 8 to 18 years of age. All safety equipment and ammunition will be provided. Lunch and soft drinks are provided free to the whole family. Junior and Senior prizes and trophies will be awarded to the winners. All you need to do is show up and check in.

The activities will include: Safety and Shooting Event Orientation, Air Rifle Target and Metallic

Silhouettes, (8-18 years old); .22 Rifle Target Shooting (8-18 years old); Shotgun Shooting with Clay Birds (11-18 yrs. old); and Junior Service Rifle Shooting (13-18 yrs. old), after lunch. Certified Instructors will supervise each shooting activity.

If there's rain that day, the event will be held Oct. 22. For further information & directions: email tjonesy@verizon.net, or call Terry Jones at 757-709-2401.

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301 MASON AVENUE | CAPE CHARLES, VA

OCT
7 | **6:30**
PM



LIVING AFRICAN ART

by Featured Artist Richard Press

Opening Reception October 7, 2022
6:30pm - 8:30pm | Lemon Tree Gallery
Music by Vernon Holloman | Cash Bar
Live models on opening night

OCT
14 | **5:30**
PM



EXPERIMENTAL FILM VIRGINIA

2022 Film Screening
Historic Palace Theatre

FREE EVENT

OCT
16 | **5:00**
PM

BENEFIT BY THE BAY
celebrating 25 years

October 16, 2022
5:00pm - 8:30pm

Butlers Bluff - Cape Charles
Music by The Harbor String Quartet
Food by Love & Rosemary | Cash Bar | Art Sale
Registration required | Tickets are complimentary | Donations welcome

OCT
28 & 29 | **7:30PM**
30 | **3:00PM**

Night of Gothic Horror
A Halloween Play

October 28 & 29 7:30pm | October 30 3:00pm
At the Historic Palace Theatre | Adult Tickets \$20 Fearless Children \$10

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FROM EASTERN SHORE AUTHOR

Curtis J. Badger

WILDERNESS REGAINED

The Story of the Virginia Barrier Islands

Curtis J. Badger

Second Edition

One of the most popular local books of 2021 was “Wilderness Regained – The Story of the Virginia Barrier Islands” by Curtis J. Badger. For 2022, Badger has taken his history of the islands to another level. “Wilderness Regained” has been re-issued and greatly expanded to include even more information on the islands, including:

■ A chapter titled “Peninsulas in Repose” examines the history of the necks of the Eastern Shore, the wooded areas accessible by water where the English settlers first set up homesteads. The Eastern Shore’s “necks of the woods” were America’s original communities.

■ Thomas Downing was born to slaves on Chincoteague Island and became known as the Oyster King of New York, one of the wealthiest businessmen in the city, who just possibly provided a stop on the Underground Railroad as well.

■ The Broadwater Club on Hog Island was built by Joseph and Elise Farrell from Germantown, Pennsylvania who bought hundreds of acres on Hog in the 1880s and also attempted to develop Parramore. They also began the first shellfish aquaculture operation on the Shore.

■ The crew of the Life-saving Service on Hog Island were given medals of honor by the King of Spain for the heroic rescue of the ship San Albano, saving the lives of 26 men, and the ship’s cat.

■ The University of Pennsylvania football team had summer practice on Hog Island in the 1890s, and followed up with a National Championship.

The new, expanded edition of Wilderness Regained can be purchased through the publisher, Salt Water Media of Berlin, Maryland. For online purchases visit www.saltwatermedia.com or phone 443-513-4422.

ACCOMACK COUNTY ANNOUNCES

Fall CLEAN UP



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022
PROJECTED SPRING CLEAN UP DATE MAY 13, 2023

The Accomack County Department of Public Works is pleased to announce the countywide "Fall Clean-Up" to be held on *Saturday October 8, 2022*. In an effort to encourage citizens of Accomack to remove unsightly refuse from their yards, homes, and communities, the **Accomack County Board of Supervisors will waive tipping fees at the North Landfill and South Transfer Station for residential waste and recyclable materials brought in on this day.** The waiver will also be open to non-residents possessing an Accomack County Solid Waste Decal. Commercial for hire waste haulers will be required to pay standard tipping fees.

Landfills will be open on Saturday, October 8, 2022 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm to accept residential garbage, yard waste, and construction/demolition debris. The landfill will also accept the following recyclable materials:

- Tires (car and small truck only "LIMIT" 12 per person/day)
- Used Motor Oil, Scrap Metal, and car and truck batteries.

Recycling materials, such as plastic bottles, milk jugs, detergent bottles, any #1 or #2 plastics, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, telephone books, cereal boxes, metal and aluminum cans, may be recycled at any of the County's 7 Convenience/Recycling Centers "FREE" year round.

Landfills and Convenience Centers will not accept materials deemed to be hazardous, such as: Paint, Pesticides, Biological hazards, asbestos, and heavy metals. Please check with the attendants at these sites as to where and how to dispose of hazardous materials.

The Department of Solid Waste looks forward to working with the citizens of Accomack County on this program and encourages everyone to mark their calendars for the Spring Clean Up - the second Saturday of May every year! A projected date for next spring is Saturday, May 13, 2023. For additional information, please contact the Public Works Department in Accomack at (757) 787-1468.

PLEASE DO NOT LITTER!

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Contact VDOT at 757-787-1550

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Peggy Downing holds a copy of a new book she has written, "My Name is David."

A lifetime of advocacy, chronicled in a new book

Peggy Downing was the vanguard of ensuring special ed was available locally

BY CAROL VAUGHN

Peggy Downing is writing a book about her son, David Downing, 65, who has Down Syndrome.

Mother and son, who formerly lived in Northampton County, now share an apartment at Commonwealth

Senior Living in Onancock.

Downing has nearly completed the book, to be titled "My Name is David."

It is not her first venture as an author.

Her memoir, "Backward Glances," published in 1997 and originally written for her grandson, has been reprinted numerous times and still is

available at local bookstores.

"I wrote it for my grandson, for him to know what it was like for me to grow up when I did," she said, adding, "I wrote it for him and then somebody said, 'Why don't you have it published?'"

Old photographs and Downing's sketches of everyday items from the

time period are scattered throughout the book.

Writing the book "was the most fun I've ever had," she said.

She kept scores of letters she received from readers of that book "from all across the country" and as far away as Israel.

Downing also wrote a volume of poetry, "The Healing Power," after her husband, Parkes Downing, died in 2011.

Downing has a specific purpose for writing her third book — to encourage other parents of children with Down Syndrome, a condition in which a person has an extra chromosome, which changes how the baby's body and brain develop, and which can cause both mental and physical challenges.

She was similarly encouraged by Dale Evans' book, "Angel Unaware," which someone at her church gave her to read before David, her third son, was born — and before the Downings had any idea the baby they were expecting would have Down Syndrome.

Evans' book was about her experiences with her own Down Syndrome child.

"I read it and I thought, 'I don't know why she gave it to me. I don't know anybody like this.' I had never heard the word (Down Syndrome) before," Downing said.

Then, when David was born and doctors told her he had Down Syndrome, the book came to her mind.

"It was such a beautiful book, it broke all the ice for me," she said.

"I thought, if I can write a book, or write something, that will help somebody else like that book helped me ... because it's unbelievable how much

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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A lifetime of advocacy, chronicled in a new book

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

strength I got from that,” she said, adding, “God prepares us. He walks ahead of us a lot of the time, preparing the way.”

When David was born, doctors at first told his parents he would not live.

He was given a complete blood transfusion and doctors still gave him little chance of surviving but said, if he did live, he would not live to be 20 years old.

They also told the Downings that David would “not know you for his mother and his father” — which turned out not to be the case at all.

“That’s all they kept saying — he will not, he will not, he will not,” Downing said, adding, “... I wish the doctors today that told me what he would not, could not, do could see what he does now.”

“He’ll be 66 Nov. 11. It is unbelievable that he is that age,” she said.

David, a friendly fellow, is particularly popular among the residents of Commonwealth Senior Living, where he enjoys playing bingo and other social activities.

“David makes friends wherever he goes. He is happy as a lark,” his mother said.

The book she is writing describes what has happened on the Eastern Shore because of David and other children like him — including the creation of a vocational center for people with special needs and the institution of special education classes in the schools, among other initiatives the Downings spearheaded after David was born.

“Because of David, look what we have now,” she said.

Downing delved into her stack of scrapbooks, dating back to the 1960s, to gather her thoughts for the book.

“I want to get this done for David so he will see — and see his picture and say, ‘Oh, that’s me,’” she said.

The book “tells you how much joy he brings that I didn’t know anything about. Maybe they do now, I don’t know; but if somebody has a child and doesn’t



Peggy Downing is pictured in 1997 when her first book, “Backward Glances,” was published.

know much about Down Syndrome, and has something like this, it would mean everything in the world because it shows what he can do,” she said.

When David was 6 years old, the school system didn’t have any classes for special needs children like him.

“I went to Bill Lawson (then Superintendent of Northampton County Public Schools). They had nothing. And I asked him about education for David,” Downing said.

A special education class at the Cheriton school was for children who could learn to read, and not suited for children like David.

Lawson, who jokingly called Downing “a necessary nuisance,” told Downing if she could gather enough parents of special needs children who were interested in forming a class, he would hold a meeting.

“So, I stayed on the phone ... and I called every parent. I called the nurses at Nassawadox to give me

the names — and they would at that time. ... and I said, ‘Let’s meet.’ And we did,” she said.

The parents were told if they could get 12 students tested and willing to enroll, a class would be started.

They did.

As result, the school district started a special education class for children like David in the basement of Exmore-Willis Wharf School, taught by Sally Reynolds.

Students from both counties attended the class.

Parents had to take their children to and from school.

“There was nothing. It was up to you to do the work,” Downing said.

Frances and Jules Green, of Parksley, among others, also were instrumental in supporting that first class, which their daughter attended.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

A lifetime of advocacy, chronicled in a new book

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

"I'm so grateful to Bill Lawson and Lester Parks (the school principal)," Downing said.

Parks at the end of that first year said the class was "the best thing that could ever have happened to this Exmore Willis-Wharf School because it taught the other children that, even though you are different, you want the same love — you are slower doing it, but you need the same love as anybody," Downing said.

In addition to getting special education classes for children like David on the Shore, Downing spearheaded the drive to found an ARC (formerly called the Association for Retarded Citizens) group on the Eastern Shore.

Downing has six scrapbooks, dating from 1963

to the present, filled with memorabilia about the ARC.

"It starts with the beginning of the ARC. After we started the class, we met at the end of the year ... to talk about the class and how we made out — and we got so much support from each other that we decided we would meet more than once a year, so we started meeting," she said.

A woman at a state ARC meeting Downing attended in Norfolk then encouraged her to organize an ARC chapter on the Eastern Shore, which she did.

The group began meeting monthly, sharing information and experiences.

"It was so much support to know that other people were going through the same thing you were," she said.



Peggy Downing, right; son David; and Parkes, her late husband.

"I'm so grateful that God gave me the desire to start the ARC," Downing said.

Reflecting on her life, including growing up at Happy Union farm in Northampton, being a wife to Parkes, mother to her three sons, and a grandmother, Downing concluded, "We've been blessed. We've been blessed — all of our lives. And I'm still being blessed."



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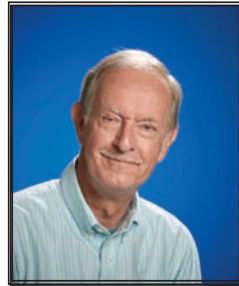
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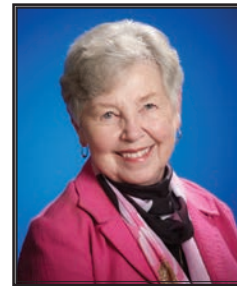
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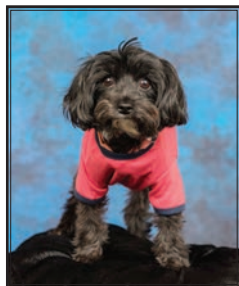
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Bobbi Flowers Shumway at the restaurant she owns, Wolff's Sandwich Shoppe, in Atlantic.

Shore cooking," she said. It is open Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wolff's Sandwich Shoppe, perched at the corner of Atlantic and Nock's Landing roads, is a throwback during a time of chain eateries and fuel-stop delis.

It draws its name from longtime former owner Ron Wolff, who purchased it in the early 1980s. Before that, it was owned and operated by Elmer Thomas.

Four years ago, Wolff was ready to retire and Shumway, who was working at a Pocomoke City restaurant, was ready to try something new. The deal was made.

"I didn't want to lose anything of what he had," she said of the restaurant. "I just wanted to add to it.

Shumway painted the walls and updated the dining room. But she has held her prices low, even through the pandemic and inflation.

The restaurant's location near NASA and Navy installations — and its central location in a small town and agricultural community — keep it busy during breakfast and lunch hours.

It is not unusual for NASA personnel visiting town or Navy trainees visiting Wallops to get their first taste of the Eastern Shore at Wolff's.

Shumway, who pairs a studious, understated demeanor with a quick smile, has been asked by new-in-town Navy personnel examining the menu to explain scrapple — a dish they'd never seen or eaten. It is hard to estimate how many people have subsequently tried it.

Breakfast favorites include pancakes, one of the more popular staples. Lunch sandwiches include time-hon-

Four years after ownership change, town institution thrives under Shumway

appreciate a good meal and a good deal.

"We try to be friendly, fast, and cook to the best of our ability," said Shumway, who graduated from Arcadia High School in 1986 and moved to Northern Virginia before returning home more than 20 years ago.

"We're just hometown, Eastern

the spot.

She never considered that someday she would own the venerable breakfast-and-lunch eatery that serves as the hub of town.

But the match makes sense. Shumway, who has worked in restaurants for 40 years, is like her customers — hard-working and supportive people who

Wolff's Sandwich Shoppe is the hub of Atlantic

BY TED SHOCKLEY

Bobbi Flowers Shumway remembers stopping at Wolff's Sandwich Shoppe in Atlantic for a bite to eat while growing up in the town.

The order was usually the same — a bacon cheeseburger and onion rings, ordered for takeout — and always hit

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Wolff's Sandwich Shoppe is the hub of Atlantic

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

ored griddle favorites and signature items including a turkey bacon melt that is a top seller.

When she bought the restaurant, Shumway added salads to the menu.

The eatery seats 44 people and during breakfast and lunch, the dining room fills and call-in orders flow. Sometimes, workers will order both meals at once.

"A lot of times, people will get their breakfast and they'll order a sub for lunch, too," she said.

Four years after buying the restaurant, Shumway credits her cus-

tomers for helping the eatery survive challenges of the pandemic, and she credits her two employees — Dallas and Margie — for their hard work and dedication.

She also appreciates Ron Wolff's guidance. "He was very helpful in every aspect," she said.

"I couldn't think of a name so I asked him if I could keep the name," she said.

She's also proud to be back in her hometown as the owner of an institution — even if the role surprises her.

"I never thought I would own a restaurant," she said.



The Reuben with onion rings at Wolff's Sandwich Shoppe in Atlantic.

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Cape Charles resident Kate Gomer, a student at the University of Virginia, laughs during an encounter in Thailand.

browsed other possible opportunities.

Nowhere piqued my interest like Chiang Mai, nor were any other options as affordable. Thanks to the Eastern Shore's Bayly-Tiffany Scholarship, a semester in Thailand would cost less than a semester in Charlottesville. At the end of my third year, nothing stood in my way; studying abroad was a go.

The advice everyone gave was: If you think you're underpacking, take out more clothes. I am notorious for overpacking, but I was able to limit myself to only four T-shirts, along with the 12 other tops stuffed in my bag. I mean, seriously, I was packing for a whole semester. Four T-shirts appeared to be the absolute minimum.

On departure day, I awoke to my alarm clock at 3 a.m. and prepared myself for the proverbial journey across the bay and possible emotional dropoff at the Norfolk International Airport. For me, leaving is easy. I've never been one to get homesick, and the fact that this flight headed for a two-week layover with my brother before flying across the world undeniably eased my nerves.

I'm a natural procrastinator and, I like to think, a skilled one, too. When it came to having fears about the coming months, I delayed that until the last minute. I broke down in the passenger seat of my brother's truck while once more heading toward airport departure gates.

My distress wasn't from anxieties about living in a foreign country, being unable to speak the language, or not understanding the customs. It was a more innate fear — a fear of being alone. I confessed this to my brother in more juvenile terms through tears and snot: "What if I don't make any

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

In Thailand, study abroad semester is realized

Cape Charles resident Kate Gomer reports from trip to Southeast Asia

BY KATE GOMER

Every morning I wake up assuming that I have fallen asleep atop a towel at the Cape Charles beach. Living in Thailand sounds more like a dream than a reality. Every morning I realize this is untrue; the beds here are just hard.

When I left home for the University of Virginia in the fall of 2019, a semester abroad sat at the top of my college bucket list, neighboring "streak the lawn." I found the latter almost too easy to check off, but after the pandemic, I worried I might never accomplish the former.

As borders began to reopen, my

fears waned. Finally, everything was in place — until UVA denied academic travel to Thailand and required me to defer my start date.

Seeing my peers country-hop through Europe while most of Asia remained off-limits forced me to question my decision to apply to a program in Thailand. In my minimal free time, I



Cape Charles resident Kate Gomer on the streets of Thailand.

In Thailand, study abroad semester is realized

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

friends?”

Don't worry, mom and dad, I have made friends. If I hadn't, I'm sure the calls home would be more frequent.

I have been living for two months in Chiang Mai, which recently earned the title of “World's Friendliest City” and is the largest city in northern Thailand. Apart from the climate and prices, life here isn't as drastically different from home as you might expect.

Unlike the Shore, Thailand only has three seasons: cool, hot, and rainy, or as the locals say: “ron”, “ron maak”, and “ron maak maak” (hot, very hot, and very, very hot). It is monsoon season now. Despite the forecast calling for endless rain, this has meant a few short downpours every couple of days,

occasionally accompanied by thunder and lightning.

The storms here are reminiscent of my childhood when I would eat crabs on the porch with my dad. Droplets serenaded us by battering the nearby crepe myrtle leaves, and the cracking of the claws was indistinguishable from the claps of thunder.

On the other hand, the sun beats down harsher than any summer day in Cape Charles. As if oblivious to the heat, locals cover themselves head to toe in an effort to avoid the brutal rays. Umbrellas shroud faces rain or shine — faces I can only assume will be wrinkled by smiles if not from sunlight.

The writer's reports from Thailand will continue next month.

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Hollywood Plantation, now home to Bay Creek, is near Cape Charles.

Hollywood farm, Carver Theater graced town

Cape Charles' history is told in two well-known properties

BY KIRK MARINER

Hollywood overlooked Old Plantation Creek from its north bank, in Old Plantation Neck. The house is thought to

have been built by a Norfolk architect after the site became the property of John Nivison in 1798. It later became the property of Littleton W. Tazewell (1774-1860), another Norfolk resident and a U.S. senator who had already

served in the Virginia legislature and Congress and was still, in years to come, to be Governor of Virginia.

In 1883 the Tazewells sold out to William L. Scott (1828-1891) of Erie, Pennsylvania, the highly connected and

very rich "Coal King" who paid the then-phenomenal sum of \$55,000 for 2,107 acres of farmland and timber. Scott's many business interests included the railroad that was then about to be built down the Eastern Shore, and on the northern edge of his property he laid out a completely new town where the railroad would end. In 1884 the tracks reached their terminus and Cape Charles was born.

Scott was Cape Charles' richest and most prominent citizen. He made a number of additions to the house, entertained on a lavish scale, and in 1886 played host to President Grover Cleveland, in 1888 to Governor Fitzhugh Lee of Virginia. To indulge an old passion for racehorses, he built a race track where a number of winning horses were trained. He was not long a resident, however, for he died in 1891—worth, it was said, between twenty and thirty million dollars. He was buried in Erie in a coffin adorned with 76 pounds of silver and thirty yards of silk.

Hollywood declined over the years as Cape Charles grew. In 1975 the energy company Brown & Root purchased most of the Scott estate, but its plans for developing it never materialized. In 1996, Richard "Dickie" Foster purchased the property and began Bay Creek, the second development to arise on the old tract. By then the old Tazewell/Scott house itself, long abandoned, stood in ruins.

In this photograph, the section to the left is the original house of the Tazewell period; the larger section on the right dates from Scott's ownership.

Carver Theatre

When motion pictures found their

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Copyright 2008, 2016 by Kirk Mariner. This is reprinted from his book, "Glimpses of a Vanished Eastern Shore," with permission of Miona Publication. Mariner, a retired United Methodist minister and local historian and writer, died June 8, 2017. His work is featured monthly in Eastern Shore First.

Hollywood farm, Carver Theater graced town

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

way to the Eastern Shore, the peninsula was racially segregated, and though there were a number of movie theatres in the two counties—fully sixteen in 1931—movie-going was scarcely available to African Americans. The only theatre on the Virginia Shore that regularly admitted African Americans was the Stratton in Cheriton, where black customers sat in a balcony, but that theatre was destroyed by fire on March 16, 1940.

Even as the Stratton lay in ruins the Cape Charles Theatre Corporation, under the leadership of William H. Tabb, was beginning construction of the Shore's first African American movie theatre. The new Carver Theatre—its name, in honor of scientist

George Washington Carver, was submitted in a contest by Bessie Trower—opened on May 24, 1940. Built of cinder block, it had a seating capacity of 400.

Unlike the other theatres of Cape Charles, the Carver did not advertise in the local newspaper, so there is little record of what films showed there. In 1947 a soda fountain/restaurant known as the Carver Spot was built adjacent to the theatre.

The theatre continued in operation until the mid-1950s, after which the building was put to a number of uses. Beginning in 1975 it served for several years as the Alpha and Omega Church, and was later demolished.

The Carver Theatre stood between 518 and 532 Jefferson Avenue.



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FIRST Curtis Badger

In praise of teachers

BY CURTIS BADGER

I did a podcast with David Phillips recently for the Barrier Islands Center, and David asked me to talk about teachers and the effect they have had on my career as a writer and photographer. It was a great question, and it made me think about all the people who have influenced me and the ways they have done so.

Influence is something of a mystic phenomenon. It hovers around us, sometimes for a long period of time, and suddenly it appears and raps on the door and makes us sit up and take notice. It can also be a process, a procession, like traveling from restaurant to restaurant and having a small course at each.

I was influenced by my English teacher in high school this way. Art Fisher was from Parksley, got his master's degree at William and Mary when he was in his mid-20s, and came to work at Onancock High School. Art taught me for three years. He was gung ho about the English language, and he was dedicated to the written word and the feelings words can express. He was young and had an edge about him. He enjoyed being in the classroom, and the students fed off his energy and enthusiasm.

The school system rewarded Art's passion and

skill by promoting him to administration. He deserved more money, but to give him a raise would mean taking him out of the classroom. It made no sense at all.

He was an outstanding teacher; reward him for teaching well. If he had his choice between teaching and being an administrator, for the same salary, I have no doubt Art would have chosen teaching.

My mystic phenomenon moment came with a teacher I had at Onley Elementary School for first and second grades. Her name was Eliza Belote, Miss Liza. She was a diminutive woman who lived on a farm just outside of town. Miss Liza had a habit of completing her lesson about 10 minutes before the closing bell rang. We were all tired and wanted to go home, but we had to sit there for 10 more minutes.

Miss Liza would turn to the class and ask, "Would anyone like to tell a story?" My little arm would wave and I would get up and tell a story. I have no idea what I came up with, but I told a story. It was like improv for 7-year-olds. No one ever threw an eraser at me, so I must have been tolerable. That, or they were all asleep.

Many years later, it hit me. Miss Liza had influenced my life in a way neither of us realized at the

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

The writer of this piece, Curtis Badger, grew up on Virginia's Eastern Shore, attended Emory & Henry College, spent four years in the Air Force, and immediately returned to the islands and salt marshes of his home. He is a writer and photographer whose work is widely published. He and his wife live on Pungoteague Creek and have an adult son.

In praise of teachers

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

time. It was the mystic phenomenon that lingered in the ether until it suddenly made itself known. I have something in my DNA that makes me want to tell stories, and Miss Liza accidentally hit the hot button that turned it on. I would watch an episode of *Dragnet* on TV with my parents, and the next day I would write my own *Dragnet* script. My father would type it for me.

I loved to take pictures when I was growing up, and I realized that taking pictures was like writing. It was all about telling stories. I was doing it visually with the camera, and with the written word when writing. "I saw something remarkable and I wanted to

share it with you. I experienced something that moved me and I want to tell you about it."

Teachers are too seldom praised, too little appreciated, expected to be too many things for too many people. I know it must be hard for you. It is a job I could never do.

But you are influencing children with everything you do, even the smallest gesture, and you might not even know it until many years have passed. Someday a former student of yours is going to have an epiphany, and she is going to realize that it was you who miraculously touched that hot spot in her DNA, and at that moment she will know what she will do for the rest of her life.

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100 years ago
October 1922

Jesse Hurst beaten with iron axle box

Jesse Hurst died at the Peninsula Hospital, Salisbury, Md., Sunday night, October 1st, about 11:15 o'clock of injuries he received Friday night, September 29th, about midnight, when he was beaten into unconsciousness with an iron cart axle box by unknown parties and left in the yard in the rear of his store on the road leading from Greenbush to Parkside, at the point where the road turns off to go to Drummond's Mill.

Mr. Hurst made his home over the store as did a Mr. and Mrs. Mark Sisler, who came to the county from North Carolina about 11 months ago.

According to Mr. and Mrs. Sisler they retired about 7 o'clock that evening. They did not know what time Mr. Hurst closed the store. Some time about midnight, Mr. Hurst was called to come down stairs.

They paid no attention to that as it was not out of the ordinary for customers to call him after he had retired to make purchases at the store.

They were lying awake, when some one flashed a light in their door. They called, "Jesse," and as no reply was forthcoming, got up to investigate.

When they went down the stairs to the back door, they found it open and Mr. Hurst sitting up unconscious with marks showing he had been beaten. Sisler went immediately to the home of David Sterling, some few hundred yards distant, to summon help.

When they returned, Hurst had crawled from the door to a fence down the hill, some fifty yards distant.

He was taken to the store and his brother, Dr. Ira Hurst sent for. Other neighbors were also notified. There was a discrepancy at the coroner's inquest in the testimony given by Sterling and Sisler, Sterling claiming that Sisler did not help carry Hurst into the store, while Sisler claimed that he did.

The next morning Mr. Branch, of Norfolk, was sent for to bring his blood hounds to the scene,

which he did on the noon train Saturday. On the same train that the blood hounds arrived, Mr. Hurst was taken to the Peninsula Hospital, Salisbury, Md., for treatment where he died Sunday.

— *Peninsula Enterprise*

To open Chincoteague Road November 15

The much talked of road from the mainland to Chincoteague is completed and will be opened for traffic November 15th.

The only work to be finished is that of covering the shells, of which the road is built, with sand and there is no doubt but that it will be finished several days before the formal opening.

The work on the steel span across Queen Sound is finished. This was the last work on the bridges, of which there are six in number, to be done and was made necessary because the wooden structure was washed away in one of the storms last winter.

It is the general opinion that it could not have been washed down at a better time as the storm was one of the worst in years and showed just where the weak spot was.

The people of the Island are making big preparations for the 15th of November, and will celebrate the opening of the road in a novel way.

Ex-President Woodrow Wilson, Governor E. Lee Trinkle and Senator Claude A. Swanson have been sent special invitations for the occasion.

Mr. Wilson has written that he will attend if his health will permit.

Committees have been appointed to provide dinner and supper for all visitors at a nominal charge. These will be served in the auditorium of the new school building.

The road from the mainland to Chincoteague is $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. It was built by throwing up mud forty feet wide. On top of this there are several layers of shells.

The roadway is wide enough for two cars to pass without any trouble and is several feet higher than the mark of the highest tides.

— *Peninsula Enterprise*

Mill of A. T. Hickman Lumber Co. destroyed by fire

The mill of the A. T. Hickman Lumber Co., Painter, Va., was destroyed by fire early Saturday morning, September 30th. The fire was discovered about 2 o'clock by Isaac Gaines, a watchman, around the shaving box on the outside of the pit to the furnace under the boiler.

The alarm was given but before anyone arrived was beyond control. At 3:30 o'clock it was in ruins. The loss is estimated at about \$7500 with no insurance.

This mill was recently purchased from Mr. C. C. Perdue by the A. T. Hickman Lumber Co., through Messrs. W. B. Mapp and A. T. Hickman, who it is understood are the losers as the stock in the company had not been allotted.

Many improvements had been made to the property and new and improved machinery had been installed. In the loft of the mill was a carload of No. 1 dressed heart lumber.

Other lumber in the mill and wood were also burned. From the best information obtainable the mill will be rebuilt at once and the company organized just as if there had been no fire.

— *Peninsula Enterprise*

Parsons guilty, gets life term

Charles W. Parsons was convicted of the murder of George Lewis, at Cape Charles, August 16, last, by a jury in the Circuit Court of Northampton County, Saturday afternoon, September 30th, after considering the case for a little over an hour. His punishment was fixed at life imprisonment. Lewis was shot to death.

Lewis was a striker from the N. Y. P. & N. R. and the defense contended the killing was an outgrowth of trouble Parsons had had with the striking railroad men.

Attorneys for Parsons moved to set aside the verdict and argument on this motion will be held No-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30



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FIRST Area headlines of yesterday 100, 75, 50, 25 years ago

FROM PAGE 28

November 18th. Meanwhile, Judge Wescott set bond for the release of Parsons at \$100,000. When the verdict was read Parsons was visibly affected.

Surety for the \$100,000 bond demanded for Parsons' release was given by R. A. Parsons, of Cape Charles, brother of the accused; Frank Parsons, Jr., of Capeville, a cousin; and Mrs. C. M. Hurlock, a sister. Immediately afterwards Parsons returned to his home accompanied by members of his family.

— *Peninsula Enterprise*

75 years ago October 1947

W.E. Johnson to be named clerk of U.S. District Court

Assistant United States Attorney Walkley E. Johnson will be appointed clerk of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia this Fall, Judge Sterling Hutcheson, senior judge of the district, announced yesterday.

He will succeed Carol K. Moran, appointed by the former senior judge, Robert N. Pollard, who retired from the bench last April.

The appointment of the clerk is the personal responsibility of the senior judge of the district, and Judge Hutcheson's decision came almost as a birthday present for the 6-foot-4-inch, 270-pound attorney, better known as "Tiny," who will be 46 years old Monday.

A definite date for the appointment had not been decided upon yesterday, but it is probable that it will be effective after the middle of November, when Mr. Johnson's work in connection with the October and November criminal sessions of court in Richmond and Norfolk, respectively, has eased.

The order of appointment will be entered after a specific date has been decided upon, Judge Hutcheson said.

The Eastern District includes courts in Alexandria, Norfolk, Newport News and Richmond, with active clerk's offices in all but Newport News. There is one deputy clerk in Alexandria; there are five in

Norfolk and four in Richmond.

Mr. Johnson said no decision has been made as to whether his headquarters will be in Norfolk or Richmond.

A native of Belle Haven, Accomack County, Mr. Johnson attended public schools on the Eastern Shore and the Virginia Episcopal School, Lynchburg.

He studied at the University of Virginia for three years, following which he taught high school English and coached athletics for three years on the Eastern Shore.

Mr. Johnson worked in the circulation department of the Miami Illustrated Daily Tab in 1925 and 1926 and studied law at the University of Virginia, receiving his degree in 1931.

From 1931 to 1940 he practiced law in Accomack County and in 1940 affiliated in the practice of law with Skinner and Ferguson in Newport News.

Mr. Johnson was appointed assistant to the United States attorney, then Sterling Hutcheson, in September 1940. For the past seven years, during which he has done legal work in Alexandria and Richmond, he has had his headquarters in Norfolk.

The assistant attorney maintains an apartment in Norfolk but has his home in Belle Haven. He is married to the former Miss Virginia Clore, of Madison Courthouse, and has two children, a daughter, Frances Wyatt, 15, and a son, Walkley E. Johnson, Jr., 13.

— *Peninsula Enterprise*

50 years ago October 1972

Cape Charles records rare victory over Northampton

Cape Charles — For only the second time in seven years Cape Charles has defeated the larger Northampton High football team.

The latest accomplishment came Friday night with the Indians scoring an impressive 32 to 0 victory over their larger opponent.

The win raised Cape's overall record to 3-3 on the season.

Northampton is a Group 2A school with about 1,000 enrollment.

The Indians struck for 18 points in the first half and added TDs in the first and fourth quarters.

Gerald Elliott got the Indians going with a 73-yard return of an intercepted pass. Anthony Waldo duplicated the act in the second period running a steal back 32 yards.

Fullback Rich Bland closed out the first half scoring with a seven-yard TD run. Quarterback Jeff Reed ran six yards for the third quarter score and Aaron Beckett raced 32 yards for the score with a punt return.

Cape Charles travels to Chincoteague Friday night.

— *The Daily Times*

Dr. Fiege to head new college

Dr. John C. Fiege has been named president of Eastern Shore Community College at Wallops Island, the Virginia Department of Community Colleges announced yesterday.

Fiege, dean of instruction at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College in Clifton Forge since 1969, was chosen by the local college board.

Fiege, 44, received his doctorate in educational administration from Illinois State University. He also holds a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University and a bachelor of science degree from Towson State College.

Eastern Shore's \$1.3 million campus will be constructed at Melfa in Accomack County. The State Board for Community Colleges said it hopes to seek construction bids in January and to finish construction by late next year.

— *The Times Dispatch*

Old Hospital to be demolished

Nassawadox — Northampton-Accomack Memorial Hospital officials hope the old hospital building here will have been demolished and the grounds cleared by no later than Oct. 1973.

Bids will be opened in the new hospital building

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

FROM PAGE 30

Oct. 30 on the sale of the old brick structure, much of which was built in 1928.

Administrator Robert Cramer said the contractor or person purchasing the old hospital will be given a year to tear it down. In addition all underground passages at the old hospital must be filled in and the land graded level.

Cramer said there were no immediate plans for the hospital grounds once demolition is completed. But there are indications they may be landscaped. This would give a direct open view from the west main street of Nassawadox toward the new Northampton-Accomack Memorial Hospital about one-quarter mile distant.

The old four-story brick hospital was in a rapidly deteriorating condition when it was abandoned for the new structure a year ago, Cramer said.

Since then studies by the hospital board of trustees have revealed that the old structure would cost more to repair than is feasible. It was being considered as an extended care patient facility, but hospital officials said engineering studies showed that rebuilding it for this would cost about as much as a new building.

The bid request on the old hospital reads that the structure will be sold "as is, where is, and is to be dismantled and completely removed from the site, and the site to be cleared and graded at the expense of the successful bidder."

Cramer said the pump house at the old hospital and the nurses quarters would remain. These are relatively new buildings in good condition he added.

— *The Daily Times*

'Misty,' famed pony, is dead

Chincoteague, Va. — Misty of Chincoteague, a pony about which a book and movie thrilled thousands of youngsters, died Monday.

The brown and white pony was 16 years old.

"She was like a member of our family," mourned her owner, Ralph Beebe. "We had her in our household for 15 years."

She died "mostly of old age" but had remained in

good health until three days ago, when she had fever and chills, Beebe said.

It was "Misty," a book by Marguerite Henry, that brought Chincoteague—an island in the Chesapeake Bay—much of its fame for the annual roundup of ponies from Assateague Island by Chincoteague firemen.

Misty stayed in the Midwest for 12 years with the author, but was returned to Chincoteague after the book—in which Misty was the heroine—was written. Misty also was the subject of a movie.

Beebe said the pony will be mounted by a taxidermist and placed in her stall on the Beebe ranch "so children can enjoy her."

Misty will become part of a future museum, he said, and there will be a monument to her.

The famous pony is survived by Stormy, born during the 1962 Ash Wednesday storm that devastated much of Chincoteague and drowned many of Assateague's ponies, and Stormy's offspring—Thunder, Breezy and Windy.

— *The Danville Register*

Mainland sewage plant urged for Chincoteague

Chincoteague — An Eastern Shore engineering firm has told county officials in Accomack County they favor a mainland sewage treatment plant to serve Chincoteague Island and the surrounding area.

Total estimated cost of such a plant would be \$6.4 million.

But Charles E. Cooley of Shore Engineering of Melfa, has told the Accomack County supervisors that three treatment plants for Chincoteague sewage are possible. The island community has been pressed by the State Dept. of Health to install town sewage since 1966.

In addition to a mainland plant near Wallops Station, Chincoteague could locate a treatment plant on the south end of the island, costing about \$5.4 million. A third plan would call for a plant on the east side of Chincoteague, near the narrowest point of Assateague Channel, costing about \$6.6 million.

Shore Engineering recommended the Wallops

area plant on the mainland because of the possibility of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration joining in use of it, because the higher-elevated mainland site could handle sludge easier, and because such a plant could serve much of the adjoining Atlantic District in the future.

Cooley said sludge treatment on the mainland would cost only about half of the estimated \$300,000 yearly it probably would cost on low-elevated Chincoteague.

The mainland plant would dump treated water into Mosquito Creek.

— *The Daily Times*

Chincoteague girl on college team

Chincoteague — Virginia's Eastern Shore can boast of at least one member of the Women's volleyball team at Chowan College in Murfreesboro, N.C.

Lois Young, the daughter of Mrs. Eula M. Bue is a member of the squad at the two-year private college. The group is coached by Mrs. Janet Collins.

Lois, a Chincoteague High School graduate, will be playing in a six game schedule against four North Carolina institutions.

— *The Daily Times*

25 years ago October 1997

Fire departments join to voice dislike of Chincoteague bridge

Chincoteague — Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company members, joined by members of several other Shore fire departments, voiced their opposition to a plan calling for a new bridge to join Chincoteague at an intersection on Main Street directly in front of the firehouse.

Several local fire companies including Saxis, Greenbackville, Tasley and Atlantic were on hand to support CVFC's opposition to the plan, "C3," at the

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Virginia Department of Transportation Design public hearing at the Chincoteague Community Center.

VDOT recommended bridge option C₃, the cheapest of the three options, C₁, C₂ and C₃ which were presented in the April public hearing. Since then, C₃ has been the subject of major health and safety concerns for this small barrier island community.

"The C₃ location will simply inhibit our ability to respond in a timely manner. Seconds in response to emergencies are vital," said Donald Leonard, a 55-year CVFC member and life-long island resident.

"This is a health and safety issue. The C₃ location puts our citizens at risk," said Island Supervisor Wanda Thornton. "[C₃] hasn't been well

thought out. When the fire company says that [C₃] will delay their response time, we had better listen to them."

"The town and the fire company weren't involved until this thing was nearly complete. If VDOT had presented proposals much earlier, then the concerns could have been expressed earlier. The solution has to be one the fire company is happy with. I will oppose anything the fire company isn't happy with." Thornton said.

— *The Daily Times*

Abandoned baby's father could face charges

Parksley — Authorities on Wednesday said they expect to file criminal

charges against a 17-year-old boy for impregnating a 12-year-old girl who police said abandoned her newborn baby this week in a thicket along a busy Accomack County road.

Accomack County Sheriff Robert D. Crockett declined to identify the boy, a resident of Parksley, because he is a juvenile. The sheriff said his investigation is continuing, but acknowledged a felony charge of statutory rape could be lodged against the boy.

Accomack County Commonwealth's Attorney Gary Agar refused to speculate on what action his office will take against the 17-year-old. Agar said he wanted to look at "the black letter of the law" before commenting.

The sheriff's announcement came one day after police said an unidentified Parksley Middle School seventh-grader abandoned her unclothed baby girl in some brush off Route 316, just south of Parksley.

County education officials said they plan no changes in their abstinence-based sexual education curriculum, which starts as early as the fourth grade in Accomack County schools.

"Ultimately, (teen pregnancy) comes down to a poor decision, in any of these cases," said superintendent Bill Owings, who noted Accomack does teach its elementary and middle school children about contraceptives and the reproductive system. "It's a societal problem."

Health officials acknowledge Accomack is caught up in the problem. In 1995, the county ranked 35th out of 135 Virginia jurisdictions for teen pregnancies, giving it one of the highest rates in the state.

There were 104 pregnancies among females 10 to 19 that year, according to state statistics.

Crockett said authorities suspect the 12-year-old girl in Tuesday's case abandoned her baby out of fear. She delivered the infant by herself in her bedroom about 6:30 a.m. Tuesday and then walked it to a nearby thicket as her father slept in the house.

The girl had apparently hidden her pregnancy from her parents and teachers for weeks by wearing baggy clothes.

Agar said his office will charge the 12-year-old mother with neglect and abandonment.

— *The Daily Times*

Masten Lumber receives sales recognition

Masten Lumber Do-It-Best received special recognition for the ninth highest multiple store paint sales among approximately 3,500 HWI member-retailers for the 1997 fiscal year ending June 30.

The Exmore location was ranked 58 out of 100 for single store paint purchases.

Masten stores are located in Chestertown, Md., Pocomoke City, Milford, Millsboro, Clayton and Exmore. The retailer has been serving customers on the Delmarva Peninsula since 1955.

Founded in 1945 and based in Fort Wayne, Indiana, HWI is a hardware and building materials buying cooperative serving member-retailers in the U.S. and 30 foreign countries.

Masten has been an HWI member since 1991.

— *The Daily Times*



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FIRST Little Box of Thoughts...continued

Finding a trove of collected quotes

I discovered a treasure trove of Grammie's original Little Box of Thoughts articles. She always made a copy to keep for herself before sending the original to the paper, and they date back to 1987 when I was just 8 years old. This month I'm going to share some of those quotes and the dates she submitted them.

"Doubts are more cruel than the worst of truths"

Jean Baptist, 12/9/1989

"One day in retrospect, the years of struggle will strike you as the most beautiful"

Sigmund Freud, 12/9/1989

"Going to church doesn't make you a

Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile."

W.A. "Billy" Sunday, 4/25/1987

"There is no greater glory for a man as long as he lives than that which he wins by his own hands and feet"

The Odyssey, 11/28/1987

"Prayer is not a lazy substitute for work; it is not a shortcut to skill or knowledge. And sometimes God delays the answer to our prayer in final form until we have the time to build up the strength, accumulate the knowledge, or fashion the character that would make it possible for Him to say "yes" to what we ask.

Roy Pearson, 3/14/1987

"Much is being said and written about saving the democracies. The best and wisest way to save our democracy is to use it. You are the sovereign people. The gentlemen in the government and in the congress are the servants of the people. Do not forget this important fact. And do not let them forget it."

Dorothy Detzer, 7/1/1992

"Half of your life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save."

Will Rogers, 1/8/1992

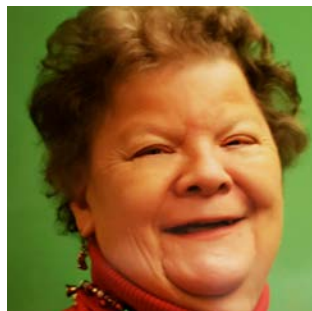
"There is nothing wrong with using four-letter words in explaining the facts of life to children — words like love, kiss, help, care, give...."

Sam Levenson, 3/8/1995

"Blessed are the mothers of the earth. They combine the practical and spiritual in the workable way of human life."

William L. Stringer, 5/11/1994

COMPILED BY MELANIE FREEZE MASON



The writer of this piece, Melanie Freeze Mason (left), is an Eastern Shore native whose paternal grandmother, Barbara Sturgis (far left), compiled a feature for the Eastern Shore News called "Little Box of Thoughts." Sturgis died in 2017 and while looking through some of her keepsakes, Mason found her books and clippings and decided to continue her grandmother's tradition of curating wise sayings and sage advice. Her monthly compilation, "Little Box of Thoughts...Continued," will appear in Eastern Shore First. Reach Mason at mfreeze12@yahoo.com.

A tribute to reading from a practicing reader

Life has always involved reading, always.

When I read about Nurse Ratched, I felt contempt for uncontrolled bureaucracy. When I read about Holden Caulfield, I shared his contempt for hypocrisy. When I read about Huck Finn and Jim the runaway slave, I saw how love and friendship trump societal norms.

When I read as Jesus Christ prayed for and forgave those crucifying him, and then — in his dying moments — forgave the common thief being crucified with him, I read it again. I've read the passage frequently since.

And when I read how the great Rick Bragg, my favorite all-time author, annually acquired his family's Christmas tree in the dead of night from the Alabama roadside, I laughed at the scene he created with words, and still do.

On my best days, when I am happy and well-fed and there is peace and plenty among the people I love and like, I relax by finding something to read — newspapers, books, magazines, or the strange and entertaining missives of Facebook.

On my worst days, when it seems everywhere I look there is sadness and strife, hardship and hate, I seek refuge and perspective by finding something to read — anything, really, to make sense of the circumstances or make me forget about them entirely.

In fact, every day I can usually be found reading something, even though I'm a far cry from being well-read or an academic of any sort. I'm not an "avid reader" or "voracious" reader, two adjectives usually used to describe a true bookworm, which I'm not.

I'm just a reader — no more and no less. If you've read this far, maybe you are, too. Somehow, probably because of good mamas and talented teachers and the availability of books and newspapers, we became this way.

We developed the skill over the years thanks to writers who provided us with reams of words, some of them thoughtfully and skillfully written, some just written without much skill or thought.

Along the way, I tried my hand at creating something to read for

others. Sometimes it works out. Sometimes it falls flat. Almost always, I try again.

Being a reader is my kind of club. I never had a great talent for music or mechanics, athletics or academics. I'm not a fitness enthusiast or a good cook or altogether organized. And I'm not very contemporary — I'm of the opinion that music, television, movies and professional sports have been on a downturn since 1984.

But something really good to read was always available. And for the most part, I was capable of reading and understanding some of it.

That's probably why I fell in love with bookstores and libraries, with their familiar scents of paper and pages. In my life, I've purchased only one book online, and I'm not proud that I did. I'd rather be among the shelves and the stacks, thumbing through the books themselves, test-driving a passage or two before I select one.

That's probably why I did better in school at subjects that involved reading. Give me a textbook with a bunch of mathematical formulas and I won't get far. But if there was some sort of narrative, I could usually follow along.

I weep for those who can't read. I'm proud to know people whose life work is teaching literacy to those of all ages. They do important work, away from the glamor and fanfare, to convey this important skill.

I weep for those who don't read. Maybe they can, but they don't. Their lives don't include magazines on the table, newspapers on the couch or Southern Living magazine in the bathroom.

The back page of Southern Living, by the way, is the forum for the aforementioned Rick Bragg, the author and Pulitzer Prize winner whose funny observations and poignant stories would hook even the most reluctant reader.

The next time you're in the bathroom, grab the magazine and flip to Bragg's column.

It's a great way to join the readers' club. Holden Caulfield, Nurse Ratched, Huck Finn and Jesus Christ await.

The writer of this piece, Ted Shockley, is editor of the monthly newsmagazine Eastern Shore First.
Reach him at ted@easternshorefirst.com.

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62,135 MILES **\$19,994**
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75,879 MILES **\$20,994**
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55,603 MILES **\$21,994**
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PRE-OWNED 2013 CHEVROLET TAHOE LTZ



124,553 MILES **\$23,994**
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49,234 MILES **\$24,994**
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