## Eastern Shore

# HITCHING POST

THE SHORE'S ONLY LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER





Photo by Angie H. Crutchley

## Running for Mare of Chincoteague in 2019

The world-famous Chincoteague Pony Penning begins this week, starting with the southern herd roundup on Saturday, July 20. Check out the article on Page 2 for all things pertaining to the swim, auction, and more.

## Pony Penning 2019 Begins Saturday

By Krystle Bono

It's that time of year again when the much anticipated blast of red smoke will signal slack tide, giving the Saltwater Cowboys the go-ahead to start the annual pony swim, an event that has paved a permanent path in history for Chincoteague and its herd of four-legged legends. Thousands will migrate to the island, up before the sun to stake out a piece of shoreline, all in hopes of catching a glimpse of the hundreds of fuzzy noses that will tread above the Assateague Channel and down Pony Lane, those very noses read about in the famous "Mistv" novel that ignited dreams of owning a famous Chincoteague wild pony in many an equine-loving child's heart.

For 94 years, the last part of July has centered on this monumental event, and it's the local Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company that harnesses this local holiday and brings it to life year after year. The week-long affair helps control the ponies' population, as well as helping to fund the company's

equipment necessities and pony veterinary care, with the company managing and overseeing the ponies.

Last year's auction brought in a record-breaking total of \$228,400, surpassing the previous record of \$209,900 from 62 ponies, set the year prior in 2017. In 2007, \$178,300 was raised from the sale of 73 ponies. A total of 53 ponies were sold last summer, with the average pony going for \$4,309. To date, the highest bid was placed in 2015 for \$25,000 on Surfer's Blue Moon, a buyback pony sponsored and named by the Chincoteague Pony Legacy Group. Buyback foals have been selected to replenish the herd and are bought, named by their sponsor, and returned to Assateague Island to live out their days.

The full week of events begins this Saturday with the south herd roundup, and concludes the following Saturday, with the adult pony swim back to their home pastures Friday morning. Below is the complete list of events, tips, and information as contributed by the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce and Certified Visitor Center for pony-spectators to make the most out of their trip to Pony Lane.

### Saturday, July 20 - South Herd Roundup (approximately 7 a.m.)

- Marking the first major event before the Pony Swim, the Saltwater Cowboys will ride out to the southern end of Assateague Island at about 7 a.m. to herd the more than 50 adults and foals that inhabit that particular part of the island into the Southern Corral. The public is welcome to come see and take photos of the ponies on Beach Road at the Southern Corral from July 21 through July 24. Note: This is a new time from previous years; normally, the South Herd roundup takes place during the afternoon the Saturday before the swim.
- The carnival will be open from 7 to 11 p.m. Rides, games, food, and raffles. Tickets for the Neptune Pony go on sale at information stand. You must have a ticket and be present at the carnival bandstand at 7 p.m. on Wednesday to win.
- Trolley service last call at 11 p.m. in front of carnival grounds (25 cents a ride).

#### Sunday, July 21 - North Herd Roundup - Public is NOT permitted (approximately 6 a.m.)

• The northern end of Assateague Island is home to approximately 150 ponies and their foal, the largest population on the island. The Saltwater Cowboys herd this group into the Northern Corral. Please note that this is not a public event, as this part of the island is not accessible. Special bus tours are offered on the Refuge Trek to visit the corral after the roundup.



Photo by Angie H. Crutchley Saltwater Cowboys bring a foal to the corral at the carnival grounds after the 2018 pony swim.

Call 757-336-3696 for reservations.

#### Monday, July 22 - Beach Walk

• North meets south when the Saltwater Cowboys release the Northern herd ponies and walk them along the shore of the Atlantic Ocean to join the ponies at the Southern Corral. The ponies will leave Northern Corral at daybreak. It is advised to be at Assateague Island National Seashore by 6 a.m. for parking purposes (the island opens at 5 a.m.). Bring your beach gear and stay for the day or walk behind the ponies to the corral and visit awhile. Bikers and hikers may ac-

(Continued on Page 5)





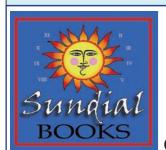
## **Historic Downtown Shopping & Restaurant District**





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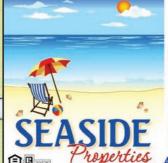
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## The Mitching Post

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## Saltwater Cowboys Remembered Fondly By All

By Stefanie Jackson

As the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company's Saltwater Cowboys prepare for the 94th annual pony swim

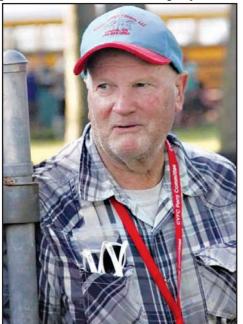


Photo by Stephanie Dennis Robert Dill, of Camden-Wyoming, Del., passed away in April.

and auction, it's time to remember the pony herders who have died since last year's event.

Every July, men from over the country ride with the Saltwater Cowboys to help round up the Chincoteague ponies. One of those men was Robert Dill, of Camden-Wyoming, Del.

Dill was 71 when he died on April 25. He rode with the Saltwater Cowboys for more than 40 years, and he was named an honorary member of the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company for his commitment to its cause.

The fire company announced Dill's passing on Facebook on April 26, calling it a "tremendous loss to our family."

Dill was known as the man who told the auctioneer about each foal before it was brought out - whether it was a boy or a girl and its coloring and other features, according to the post.

"Ride on Saltwater Cowboy!" Lydia Walker responded. "Your time here is done. You served well and should be proud."

"Bobby was one of the kindest peo-

ple I knew," Shelly Wolfe said. "He never had a bad thing to say about anyone and was always trustworthy and dependable!"

Davita Gardner added, "He always had a smile and ... was a friend to everyone that met him."

Beatrice Briggs remembered working with Dill at Delaware Auto Exchange. He also worked at Dill's Livestock Auction and Carroll's Livestock Sales earlier in his career.

Rebecca Keefer wrote. "We have been excited with news of new foals that we forget life continues to happen to humans. These men are replaceable with someone else but their individual personalities are not!"

Just two days earlier, April 23, another Saltwater Cowboy, Edward Reynolds, had passed away. He was 75. Reynolds hailed from Bedford, Va., a town that's nearly a six-hour drive from Chincoteague.

His death made headlines for being the result of a traffic accident. Reynolds was riding his tractor down the road in Bedford, near his home, when he was struck by a tractor-trailer attempting to pass in a no-passing zone, according to a news release.

The Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company mentioned the accident in its Facebook announcement of Reynolds' death, saying he was "tragically killed."

"Ed will be greatly missed," the post said.

Betty Shisler agreed. "Ed was one of the reasons we still love the island and the ponies. Over the years we have had some sad things happen and Ed was always there for us. Ed was one of the best men we have ever known,"



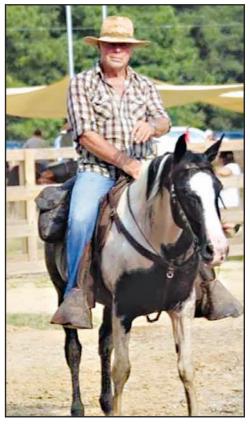


Photo by Stephanie Dennis Ed Reynolds, of Bedford, Va., passed away in April.

Another regular visitor of Chincoteague, Jackie Mingia, recalled meeting Reynolds in his hometown of Bedford when she attended an apple orchard festival and rode a horse-drawn buggy he was driving.

"He said he was a 'Saltwater Cowboy.' I immediately knew what he was talking about and was excited to meet him and told him I go to Chincoteague all the time. He was a very pleasant man."

Others called Reynolds a "nice man" and a "gentleman."

"He's riding with those ponies that crossed over," Karen Zeigler wrote.

One of those ponies was also memorialized recently - Butterfly Kisses, who had to be euthanized during last year's Pony Penning after breaking her neck in a freak accident, a slip and fall, at the carnival grounds.

Butterfly Kisses was the sole pony featured on the official poster for the 2019 Chincoteague carnival. Local artist Kevin McBride has designed the posters for more than 30 years.

## Museum of Chincoteague Island

**Pony Penning Week Museum Hours** 

Mon - Sun, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

\$4 admission Kids 12 & under are FREE

757-336-6117 • 7125 Maddox Blvd. chincoteaguemuseum.com

### **Special Events**

Misty & The Beebe Family: Hear stories of growing up with Misty from Billy Beebe

July 22 & 23: 11:00 AM & 12:00 PM each day



**Buckaroo Bingo** At Chincoteague Center 20 Games of Bingo! July 23: 2:00-4:30 PM

> **Book Signing** Suzanne Immen

Children's books based on the lives of the author's Chincoteague ponies. July 24: 1:30-3:30 pm



## ~ Pony Penning 2019 ~

(Continued From Page 2)

cess the beach via Swan Cove Trail.

- The carnival will be open from 7 to 11 p.m.
- Trolley service last call at 11 p.m. in front of carnival grounds (25 cents a ride).

#### Tuesday, July 23 - Vet Check and Selection of Buyback Ponies – South Corral (approximately 9 a.m.)

- Veterinary checks will take place to be sure the ponies are healthy for the big swim. The public may view the ponies in the Southern Corral during the vet checks. Parking is available in the lot at Woodland Trail.
- The carnival will be open from 7 to 11 p.m.
- Trolley service last call at 11 p.m. in front of carnival grounds (25 cents a ride).

### Wednesday, July 24 - Pony Swim (8:30 - 10:30 a.m. window)

- The Chincoteague Ponies will swim across the Assateague Channel on the east side of the island down Pony Swim Lane at slack tide, led by the Saltwater Cowboys, just south of Veterans Memorial Park. People who plan to view the swim from Pony Swim Lane are advised to wear appropriate attire—old clothing and closed-toe shoes or muck boots—as this area is very muddy.
- The first foal to come ashore will be named King or Queen Neptune and will be given away in a raffle drawing at the carnival grounds bandstand at 7 p.m. Tickets are sold each night at the carnival and during the wait time for the swim. You must have a ticket and you must be present to win.
- After swimming the short distance across the channel, the ponies will rest for approximately an hour before parading to the carnival grounds on Main Street.
- There is no charge for parking or seeing the pony swim. The Town of Chincoteague provides a large Jumbotron to enhance the pony swim experience at Veterans Memorial Park. The only parking at this location is designated for tour buses. All those seeking handicap parking and all day-trippers are encouraged to go to the municipal center and catch the free shuttle.
- There will be a handicap accessible bus for your convenience. Those staying on the island may catch a shuttle bus near their lodging. Shuttles be-

gin at 5 a.m. and end one hour after the ponies arrive at the carnival grounds.

• Charter boats are also available for watching the Pony Swim. Call the chamber office at 757-336-6161 for assistance in finding available seats. Spaces fill up quickly so don't wait until the last minute.

\*Note: The Coast Guard is on alert for illegal charter boats during the swim and is also cautioning tourists to avoid boats that do not have licensed captains, and in some cases, have not been inspected by the Coast Guard. Also, pets are not permitted in Memorial Park or the carnival grounds.

- The carnival will be open from 7 to 11 p.m.
- Trolley service will begin at 10 a.m. with last call at 11 p.m. in front of carnival grounds (25 cents a ride).

### Thursday, July 25 - Pony Auction - Carnival grounds (8 a.m.)

• The annual pony auction raises funds for the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company and for the veterinary care of the ponies. The auction also serves to help control the pony population on Chincoteague Island. Foals will be auctioned at 8 a.m. on the carnival grounds, and winners will receive certificates of purchase from the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company.

• Select ponies, designated as buybacks, will also be auctioned, but returned to the herd to help maintain the population. Each winner of a buyback pony gets to name their adopted pony, and proceeds from the auction are donated to regional charity. The buyback auctions are typically the most popular at this event, so if you're interested in naming a Chincoteague pony be ready to bid!

#### A few tips:

- 1. Be there early if you wish to bid on a pony. The crowds are huge and you will want a space as close to the front as possible.
- 2. Wear a sun hat and sunscreen. Bring plenty to drink. A pencil and paper are always useful. A camera is nice. A folding chair is a good idea since the bleachers fill up quickly.
- 3. You do not have to register for the auction. If you raise your hand during the auctioneer's chant, you are making a bid.
  - 4. Transportation home for your

new foal must be approved by the pony committee. (A horse trailer.) Ponies must be picked up by 5 p.m. Friday.

- 5. The only acceptable forms of payment are Visa, Mastercard, and cash. The fire company will not accept checks.
- Trolley service will run 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., and regular evening schedule with last call at 11 p.m. in front of carnival grounds (25 cents a ride)
- The carnival will be open from 7 to 11 p.m.

### Friday, July 26 - Pony Swim Back - (9:30 a.m.)

- On Friday morning, the adult ponies make their swim back to Assateague Island
- Trolley Service 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (25 cents a ride)
- Carnival 7 to 11 p.m. Rides, games, food, and raffles.
- Trolley Service Regular evening schedule with last call at 11 p.m. in front of carnival grounds (25 cents a ride).

### Saturday, July 27 - Pony Penning Week Concludes for 2019

- The carnival will be open from 7 to 11 p.m.
- Trolley Service last call at 11 p.m. in front of carnival grounds (25 cents a ride).

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## orral With Isabella Bono-Evans, Documented by Krystle Bono

The Pony Express—Don't let the name fool you, as the Chincoteague seasonal trolley service is a perfect way to slow down, sit back, and enjoy being on "island time," as was quoted on one of our evening rides around the island. For 25 cents a seat, you can opt out of having to deal with maneuvering from one place to the other and find parking, and instead, enjoy a little air-conditioned tour of the island.

Isabella's favorite spot, the Veteran's Memorial Park on Eastside, is our preferred stop, and we took the green route (there is also a red route). Exact change is preferred—Bella was in charge of the quarters, and once she saw the red and green coming her way, she was ready to hop aboard and drop our quarters in the payment collection box.

We were greeted by our driver for the evening, and because there were a few others on board that were not familiar with the area, we were able to get a little bit of history and an impromptu tour. There used to be tours offered in years past, we learned, but not this season, as the town did not offer that amenity. Nevertheless, we sat back and listened to the many questions from those not local to the area who were riding with us, which consisted of anything from the average winter weather on the island to all the hype behind pony penning. (During pony penning, the red route will run until midnight on the night of the pony swim, slated for Wednesday, July 24, and until 11 p.m. on carnival nights.)

"Ballads, Humor and Pony Tales" by Owen Hooks and Thom Nolan Monday, July 22 7 p.m. - \$5/ticket at the Chincoteague Island Theatre Annex, 4076 Main St. Sponsored by The **Eastern Shore Post** 

Some people use the trolley service for transportation, while others take the opportunity to ride around town and sightsee. The green route stops running at 10:25 p.m., but as long as you pay the toll and have time to kill, you can ride for as long as your heart desires. There was a local man that had been riding on the green route for an hour and a half when we got on.

During our route, there was a healthy mix of families and couples, but still a couple of empty seats, so it was not overly crowded. We think that is because everyone was at the Island Creamery, because when we rode by-good grief! The line for ice cream wound all the way out to the road. As you can imagine, we did not stop as was planned and I had a slightly disappointed kid. But she did get to stop and see her sweet pony friends at the Refuge Inn. and check-in with Martha's new foal. Honeymoon, born June 2, and is just the sweetest little pink-nosed, blue-eyed filly. Bella enjoyed telling some of the people that were there about her, and of course, I had to practically drag her away. The Chincoteague Museum Trolley stop is right across the street, so make sure to visit the ponies on your way around.

The Pony Express has stops in various locations scattered and conveniently located around Chincoteague. Other stops include the Pony Centre, Don's Seafood, the Island Creamery, Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce, Chincoteague Museum, the Municipal and Community Centers, the carnival grounds, and the Curtis Merritt Harbor Refuge. The map and schedule is on Page 13.

Trolley service is provided by the Town of Chincoteague, and is also offered as public transportation under the Americans With Disabilities Act. More information can be obtained from the town office. The trolley is also wheelchair accessible, and is equipped with a lift.



Photo by Krystle Bono

Isabella Bono-Evans, of Cape Charles, prepares to board the Pony Express at one of the many trolley stops on the island.

## KERKAKEN ACRES & CHINCOTEAGUE PONY DRILL TEAM PONY PENNING WEEK

Chincoteague Pony Drill Team Open House at Kerkaken Acres · Monday, July 22, 4 to 7 p.m. 14086 Winterville Rd., Bloxom, VA 23308 · (about 1/2 hour south of Chincoteague)

Come and see the Chincoteague Pony Drill Team and the Allen Family Misty Ponies. Enjoy pony Rides, face painting, stable tours, Pony Show and Demonstrations put on by the Drill Team Food stand--come hungry!!! Sign up for riding lessons for that week. Meet vendors, meet the ponies, meet the members of the drill team. Ask about foal training and boarding.



## Schedule of Appearances:

Tuesday, July 23, 5:30-7pm - Pony Appearance @ Comfort Inn Wednesday, July 24, 1-3pm - Osprey Nest, Main St., Meet the Pony! Thursday, July 25, 1-3pm - Osprey Nest, Main St., Meet the Pony! 1-3pm - Chincoteague Public Library, Meet the Pony!

Chincoteague Ponies of all ages for sale For more information, please call Kerra Allen Johnson at (757) 709-3744 or Kendy Allen at (757) 894-5168

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• Irish Mist

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• Misty III

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- Boarding
- Training
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★9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. - 32nd Annual Blueberry Festival (July 19-21) Chincoteague Center, 6155 Community Dr.

★1-3 p.m. - Captain Timothy Hill House Tours - 5122 Main St. -

914-589-7733 - free admission - www.captaintimothyhillhouse.com

**★1**, 4, 7, and 9:50 p.m. - **Movie: "The Lion King"** - The Island Theatre, 4074 Main St. - Call 757-336-6109 for other show times.

★2 p.m. - **History Tours of the Island** - Museum of Chincoteague Island, 7125 Maddox Blvd. - \$5/adults, \$3/children 2-12 - 757-336-6117

★2 p.m. - Rocketry: Water Bottle Rockets - NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitors Center - free admission - 757-824-2298 - www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/visitorcenter

★2-4 p.m. - Misty's 73rd Birthday Party - Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce, 6733 Maddox Blvd.

★7-8:30p.m. - Chincoteague Pony Centre Talk - 6417 Carriage Dr. -757-336-2776 - \$10/person

★7-11 p.m. - 94th Annual Chincoteague Vol. Fireman's Carnival - 3648 Main St. - 757-336-6161

## **14LY 20**

\*9 a.m.-1 p.m. - Farmers and Artisans Market - Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St. - free admission and parking www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org

★12-3 p.m. - Carving Demonstrations with Rich Smoker - Museum of Chincoteague Island, 7125 Maddox Blvd. - 757-336-6117

★2 p.m. - Tour of the Solar System - NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitors

Center - free admission - 757-824-2298 - www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/visitorcenter

★2 p.m. - History Tours of the Island - Museum of Chincoteague Island, 7125 Maddox Blvd. - \$5/adults, \$3/children 2-12 - 757-336-6117

★7 p.m. - Musical Performance: Ensemble Pro Tem - Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St. - \$8/adults, \$5/students (18 and under) - doors open at 6:30 p.m.

★7-11 p.m. - 94th Annual Chincoteague Vol. Fireman's Carnival - 3648 Main St. - 757-336-6161

#### SUNDAY **10LY 21**

★8 a.m. - **Episcopal Church Service** - Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chapel of Fox Holston Funeral Home, 5049 Chicken City Rd. - 757-894-7078 - www.emmanuelchurchib.com

#### MONDAY **10LY 22**

★11 a.m.-1 p.m. - Manna Cafe - Christ United Methodist Church Social Hall, 6253 Church St. - free hot lunch every Monday -

@MannaCafeCI on Facebook

★1-4 p.m. - Board Games - Island Theatre Annex, 4076 Main St., Chincoteague - free admission - www.ciarts.org

★7 p.m. - Monday Nights at Main and Mumford:

Ballads, Humor, and Pony Tales - Island Theatre Annex, 4076 Main St.

**★**7-9 p.m. - **Country Line Dancing** - Island Community House, 6246 Mumford St. - \$7/class

★7-11 p.m. - 94th Annual Chincoteague Vol. Fireman's Carnival - 3648 Main St. - 757-336-6161



TUESDAY ★9 a.m.-2 p.m. - U.S. Coast Guard Chincoteague Island Open House - 3823 Main St. - 757-336-2836

★2-4:30 p.m. - Buckaroo Bingo - Chincoteague Center,

6155 Community Dr. - 757-336-0614

★7-8 p.m. - Tuesday Nights at the Museum - Museum of Chincoteague, 7125 Maddox Blvd. - \$4 adults, free/12 years old and under

★7-8:30p.m. - Chincoteague Pony Centre Talk with Michael Alway -6417 Carriage Dr. - 757-336-2776 - \$10/person

★7-11 p.m. - 94th Annual Chincoteague Vol. Fireman's Carnival -3648 Main St. - 757-336-6161

## **10LY 24**

WEDNESDAY \*9 a.m.-1 p.m. - Farmers and Artisans Market

- Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St. free admission and parking -

www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org

★2 p.m. - Exploration Station - NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitors Center - free admission - 757-824-2298 -

www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/visitorcenter

★7-11 p.m. - 94th Annual Chincoteague Vol. Fireman's Carnival -3648 Main St. - 757-336-6161

## **10LY 25**

THURSDAY \*10-11 a.m. - Young Explorers Prgm. and Tales for **Tots** - Chincoteague Island Library, 4076 Main St.

★2 p.m. - **History Tours of the Island** - Museum of

Chincoteague Island, 7125 Maddox Blvd. - \$5/adults, \$3/children 2-12 -757-336-6117

★2 p.m. - What's Up At Wallops: Antares - NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitors Center - free admission - 757-824-2298 -

www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/visitorcenter

★7 p.m. - Summer Cinema: "Whale Rider" - Robert Reed Downtown Waterfront Park - bring a chair or blanket

★7-11 p.m. - 94th Annual Chincoteague Vol. Fireman's Carnival -3648 Main St. - 757-336-6161



#### Trips Around the Eastern Day Trips and Side

★8:30-11:30 a.m. - Sandy Island Shores Excursion - Chesapeake Bay Field Station, 34001 Mill Dam Rd., Wallops Island

**★**11 a.m.-3 p.m. - **Accomac Summer Jam** - Mary N. Smith Cultural Enrichment Center, 24577 Mary N. Smith Rd.

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

THE HITCHING POST IS A PUBLICATION OF THE THE EASTERN SHORE POST, ONLEY, VA. CONTACT US AT 757-789-7678. EDITOR, ANGIE H. CRUTCHLEY; COPY EDITOR, DAVID MARTIN; REPORTER, KRYSTLE BONO; AD MANAGER, TROY JUSTIS; ADVERTISING ASSOCIATE, SAM SELLARD; AD DESIGNER, KIMBERLY PERRY.

Chincoteague

**Pony Tales** 

Volume Two

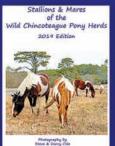
Lois Szymanski

Identifying

Chincoteague



4065 Main Street Chincoteague Island VA 23336 757-336-5825 www.sundialbooks.net facebook@sundialbooks



#### **MONDAY - July 22**

Darcy Cole - 11am - 1pm: 2019 Foals of the Wild Chincoteague Pony Herd, 2019 Stallions & Mares of the Chincoteague Wild Pony Herd, 2020 Calendars

Lois Szymanski - 3pm - 5pm: Chincoteague Pony Tales, Chincoteague Pony Tales Volume 2, Caring for Your First Chincoteague Pony and MORE ...



#### TUESDAY, July 23

Mark Hendricks - 11am - 1pm: Natural Wonders of Assateague Island. Great images of Assateague Island with a focus on its biodiversity.

Lilly Cherrix, 2pm - 4pm: Saltwater Pony Girl: On a Tiny Island called Chincoteague, Big Dreams are about to come true...For a girl named Minnow, and her pony Marshy



LINDA J. WHITE

All That

I Dread

#### **THURSDAY**, July 25

Linda J. White - 2pm - 4pm: All That I Dread. A new mystery by the author of the popular Chincoteague mystery - Seeds of Evidence



Gina Aguilera - 11am-1pm: Identifying Chincoteague Ponies 2019







with **Greg Shupe & Friends** A Pony week Tradition



Locally owned independent bookstore with new, used, collectible books. Music CD's/Vinyl, gifts, local art. All Major Credit Cards and Apple Pay Accepted

Peace. Love. Sundial.



Fishing from the Shore By Bill Hall



Fishing action has been almost as hot as the recent temperatures. Offshore, dolphin (mahi) and both blue and white marlin have been frequent catches in the Washington and Norfolk Canyons. A lot of anglers are forgoing the good marlin bite in the Norfolk Canyon and concentrating on the outstanding bigeye tuna bite while it lasts. Cobia and red drum numbers remain high in the lower Chesapeake Bay, where flounder numbers have also been reported to be on the increase. Spanish mackerel are still being caught on both sides of the peninsula by anglers who have mastered high-speed trolling. On the seaside, large sharks are prowling the inlets and sloughs just off the beach.

**Lower Shore** — Chris Snook, of Chris' Bait and Tackle, reports that cobia fishing has been "great." When the seas are flat, cobia can be seen "everywhere including lots of little ones," she said. The spadefish bite around the third and fourth islands of the bridgetunnel has been productive. "Some days the area has so many boats that the water around the islands looks like a parking lot," added Snook. Marker 262, out of Oyster, has produced the only notable croaker bite. Snook commented that flounder numbers have really improved, with lots of smaller fish in the mix, both out of Oyster and at the high-rise section of the bridge-tunnel. The waters south of Kiptopeke still hold outstanding sea mullet (whiting) action.

Jeb Brady, of Bailey's Bait and Tackle, confirmed that the cobia bite has been good this week for both sight casters and bait fishermen. The cobia action stretches from the waters off Cape Charles all the way down to the bridge-tunnel. Brady said the both the Plantation Light and the fourth island have been productive for spadefish. Spanish mackerel action is still going strong, especially in the vicinities

of buoys 36-A and 42-A. The piers are producing sand mullet (whiting) and small croaker, with larger croaker being reported out of Oyster.

Wachapreague — Captain Lindsay Paul, of Trident Tackle, reports inshore "flounder fishing is down from what it was." A recent trip produced three keepers out of a catch of 12 fish. Spanish mackerel catches are coming from the waters just beyond the inlet. Flounder are being caught on the wrecks, with spadefish and a few cobia coming from buoy 10. In the blue water, anglers are finding dolphin (mahi), marlin, and a few yellowfin tuna. Paul said an unidentified angler returned to port with a blue marlin that exceeded 500 pounds.

Chincoteague — Donna Rae Roeske, at Captain Bob's Marina, described the flounder fishing inside the Chincoteague Channel as "steady" with Gulp Swimming Mullet in the pink coloration combined with a live minnow being the top producing bait combination, followed by orange-colored Gulp/ minnow combos. The waters between buoy 14 and the inlet are holding a variety of bottom species including flounder, croaker, and kingfish (whiting). From the mouth of the inlet and out, sharks and Spanish mackerel have dominated the action. Anglers fishing the surf were catching a variety of smaller species, such as perch, spot, and kingfish (whiting) and sharks. Roeske said the subway cars on Blackfish Banks have been producing catches of black sea bass, triggerfish, spadefish, and flounder. Further offshore, dolphin (mahi) and yellowfin tuna have been caught by chunking over the Parking Lot. The offshore wrecks are still holding black sea bass.

Jimmy Vasiliou, of Captain Steve's Bait and Tackle, reported the island has seen the best king mackerel fishing in memory, with anglers catching kings, both trolling and jigging. The Lumpy

Bottom and the Parking Lot were noted as productive king mackerel locations. Closer to the beach, Spanish mackerel were the most productive mackerel specie. Vasiliou noted that Captain Tim of Chincoteague Bay Adventures returned to port with a nice catch of Spanish mackerel on a recent trip, while Captain John on the Close Enuff returned with a catch of tilefish and black seas bass to 4.5 pounds. Wayne Miller landed a 4-pound, 8-ounce triggerfish that was part of a catch of flounder, triggerfish, and spadefish aboard the One More Drift. Some large sharks have been recently landed in the surf, including a 6-foot sand tiger.

Upper Shore — Captain Matt Abell, of the Sea Hawk Sports Center, reported that a recent flounder trip recorded 32 flounder in just over an hour and forty-five minutes of fishing. Abell said a "huge school" of red drum popped up at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay on Sunday. One vessel claimed over 20 release citations while casting into the school. Cobia catches were still coming from the same areas where the red drum were caught. Abell said Spanish mackerel are available on the seaside. He described the flounder fishing on the railcars as "off and on," with triggerfish and spadefish also on the inshore wrecks. Further offshore, marlin and mahi have been the primary catches.

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 long-time 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.





From the collection of Dino Johnson and the Museum of Chincoteague Island Saltwater Cowboys herd the ponies during a Pony Penning event in the 1960s.

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

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









## Chincoteague Pony Drill Team To Perform Monday at Kerkaken

#### Submitted Article

The Chincoteague Pony Drill Team will be making a rare local appearance on Monday, July 22, as part of the Open House at Kerkaken Acres, from 4 to 7 p.m. The entire event, which is to benefit the drill team, will feature an afternoon of Chincoteague Ponies.

At Kerkaken Acres, which is located about 30 minutes south of Chincoteague (near Bloxom), the afternoon will feature an old-fashioned good time with the Allen family ponies. There will be pony rides, face painting, stable tours, vendors, a silent auction, a food stand, a pony show and drills by the Chincoteague Pony Drill Team.

Kerra Allen Johnson will be offering riding lessons that week, and interested people can sign up. In addition, the farm is offering foal training and boarding for foals bought at the auction of Pony Penning week.

Come and see the Chincoteague Pony Drill Team and the Allen Family Misty ponies, formerly of the Chincoteague Pony Centre. This is the Al-

is the best.'

len family home base—the equine training facility where the Chincote-ague Pony Drill team ponies live. It is the home of such famous Misty descendants as Misty's Morning Glory, Irish Mist, Misty's Icicle (the first cremello Misty descendant), Misty's Ember (the miracle pony), Misty's Red Dawn, Thor, Heart of the Storm, and the newest arrival: Misty's Audra Rain (now a yearling). Don't forget the veterans of the swim, Teaguer and Cowboy, both champions in their own way.

Directions to the Farm: Take Route 13 South from Rt. 175. At the Kegotank Elementary School traffic light, turn right on Groton Town Road. Go to the T and turn left on Bethel Church Road. Stay on that road until you hit Turkey Run Road. Turn right on Turkey Run and stay on it until it ends at Gladding Road. Turn right on Gladding Road. Turn left on Winterville Road. Kerkaken Acres is located approximately a mile on the right (go down the lane with the Kerkaken sign). For more information, call 757-894-5168 or 757-709-3744.

in a while, but the

Island Creamery is

always good.'



Photo by Linda Cicoira
Members of the Chincoteague Pony Drill Team ride in the Fourth of
July parade in Accomac earlier this month.

often, we always went

to Steamers."



ague."

beach on Chincote-

### Chincoteague Island Pony Express 2019 Trolley Schedule

GREEN ROUTE	EV	ENIN	IG HO	OURS	ONL	.Y - S	TART	5:00	PM		
Pine Grove	5:02		6:02		7:02		8:02		9:02		10:02
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
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
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
Memorial Park	5:17	5:47	6:17	6:47	7:17	7:47	8:17	8:47	9:17	9:47	10:17
Pony Centre	5:21	5:51	6:21	6:51	7:21	7:51	8:21	8:51	9:21	9:51	10:21
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

RED ROUTE EVENING HOURS ONLY - START 5:15PM									
Pine Grove	5:15		6:15		7:15		8:15		9:15
High School - Call In (757) 854-8570									
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.	5:30		6:30		7:30		8:30		9:30
Memorial Park	5:34		6:34		7:34		8:34		9:34
Museum of Chincoteague Is.	5:38	6:08	6:38	7:08	7:38	8:08	8:38	9:08	9:38

Carnival\*, Pony Swim, Pony Auction, Pony Swim Back Extended Hours
JULY: 24th - Pony Swim - 5am - Midnight

25th - Pony Auction - 7am - 1pm\*\* 26th - Pony Swim Back - 6am - 1pm\*\*

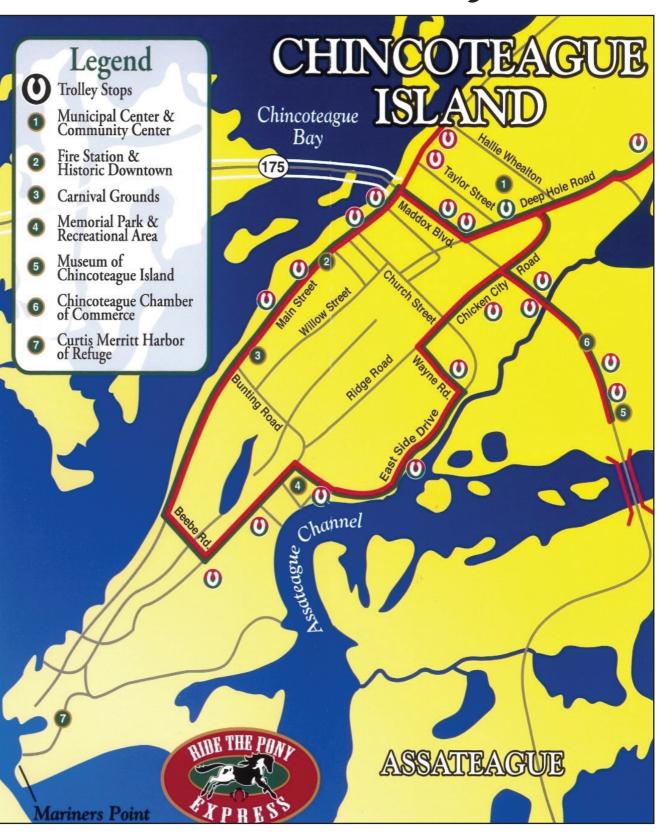
\*Last Call for Trolley during Carnival is 11:00pm

#### Additional Information

Trolley fare is 25 cents per person per ride, or one token. Exact change is appreciated. Free ride tokens are available at local businesses. Drivers do not carry cash. The Pony Express is seasonal transportation service provided by the Town of Chincoteague. This service is open to the public. Many of the motels, restaurants, shops, parks, recreational areas, ice cream parlors, and campgrounds are along our routes. Trolleys are equipped with wheelchair lifts. To inquire about Americans with Disabilities Act public transportation option, please contact the Town of Chincoteague during business hours at 757-336-6519, or The Pony Express at 757-854-8572, after 5 p.m. The operator complies with all ADA rules and regulations. ADA trips will be arranged where logistically possible.

## THE PONY EXPRESS

A Guide to Chincoteague Island's Public Transit Trolley



## The Feather Fund Makes Dreams Come True During Pony Penning

By Krystle Bono

It's the scent that fills your nostrils as you nuzzle into their necks for a hug; a musky perfume exclusive to the species and soaked up by horse lovers. It's the sound of warm, welcoming neighs as they enter the barn for their handfuls of peppermints, and the refreshing riders' view from the back of their trusted companions through an open field. These are just some of the many things that keep kids, and particularly young girls, hooked on everything equine, and what makes them want ponies of their own. This year, that very dream will come to life for three girls at the 94th annual pony penning auction next Thursday through the Feather Fund, a nonprofit group that was put into place for the sole purpose of awarding deserving children the soughtafter Chincoteague pony they have vied for.

The Feather Fund, created in 2004 to honor the memory of Carollynn Suplee, will celebrate its 15th year. To recognize the milestone, they decided to award ponies to three girls, instead of the usual two, with the opportunity of a lifetime to own such a majestic animal.

Suplee came to Chincoteague annually for many years, and she and her husband helped four children obtain ponies from the auction, and purchased two buyback ponies, as a way of giving back for another year of life as a cancer survivor. In the



Submitted Photo

Allie Cooper, who wrote a ten-page award winning essay, poses with Charlie.



Submitted Photo Feather Fund recipient Olivia Wheatley and Toby.

wake of her passing, people came together to form the Feather Fund. This year's recipients Alexandra Cooper, Graysen Milliman, and Olivia Wheatley, will attend the auction with a feather in-hand, ready to bid on their favorite foals.

According to co-founder and board of directors member Lois Szymanski, Cooper, who applied unsuccessfully to last year's fund, was chosen based on a 10-page essay outlining her battle with anorexia.

"Her drive and determination, her hardworking spirit, and the experiences she's had that foster understanding told the board she has what is needed to raise a foal," said Szymanski.

Cooper revealed to the board that her love of horses helped aid in her healing process, and ultimately helped her overcome her disorder. But to be eligible for the Feather Fund, applicants must possess more than just a compelling story and love of the animals, but also experience working with and caring for them. The 16-year-old had just that, having been employed at a six-week summer camp in Florida where she helped care for miniature horses.

Thirteen-year-old Wheatley sold crafts, shoveled stone, and worked at a local carnival in 2018 to save up enough money to bid on a buyback pony at the 93rd annual auction. Unfortunately, her \$1,300 couldn't go as far as she planned, but with the help of other kind bidders, together, they put up a winning bid of \$10,000 on buyback foal Kachina's Shenandoah Raindancer. The yearling, however, did not survive, and when the Feather Fund board learned of her co-ownership and loss, they knew they had to give the determined young lady the opportunity to obtain her own pony. She

noted in her essay that although an avid rider since she was 5 years old, she fell in love with the ponies during a trip to the refuge.

Milliman submitted her essay via video—a first for the Feather Fund—due to her dyslexia, which made it challenging for her to write. The 12-year-old New Yorker showcased herself riding, which she began at the age of 4. Her family owns a newly obtained seven-acre farm, so Milliman had all the ingredients the board needed to prove she was deserving of selection.

"She spoke throughout the video, sharing the story of how she had fallen in love with one of the horses she rode at her barn. She dreamed of owning him one day, but instead, it was sold and moved away, breaking her heart. She told us about the miniature horses she now owns, and a mule named Captain that she raised from a foal," said Szymanski.

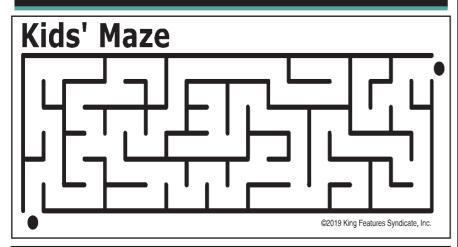
This year's lucky young ladies will have a chance to find their forever ponies, and any money they raised on their own will be passed on to next year's deserving child in a pay-it-forward fashion. For an application for a 2020 foal, to learn more about the fund, or read Suplee's story, visit the Feather Fund website <a href="www.featherfund.org">www.featherfund.org</a> or <a href="www.featherfund.org">www.featherfund.org</a> and visit the Feather Fund Facebook page for updates on past recipients and their beloved ponies.

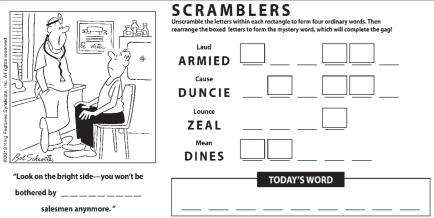


Submitted Photo

Graysen Milliman, who will take a foal home Thursday, poses with Catamaran.

## Kids' Puzzle Page





## Puzzles4Ki

### CODED RIDDLE

Change each letter to the one that comes immediately BEFORE it in the alphabet to find a riddle and its answer.

Here's a copy of the alphabet to guide you:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

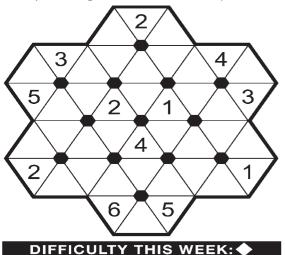
XIBU EP TIFFQ

PO TVOOZ EBZT?

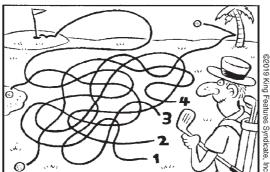
B CBB-CBB-DVF. IBWF

## by Japheth Light

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



◆ ◆ Medium ◆ ◆ ◆ Difficult



CAN YOU GUESS what iron - a 1, 2, 3 or 4 Jock MacDivot should use to get a hole in one?

Answer: His trusty 2-iron will do the trick!

A VACATION PUZZLE! See if you can substitute the digits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 for the letters on the board so you will have a correct addition problem. The same digit is used for the same letter.

Answer: F=2, U=8, N=9, I=4, T=3, H=5, E=1, S=6, (289 + 49 + 351



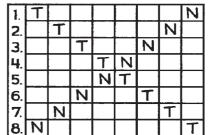
THE "H" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give

you all the H's. Here are some hints from the top down: Symbol for hydrogen. 2. An expression of greeting.

- 4. Tough animal skin.
- 3. Put out of sight.
- 5. To scold mildly.
- 7. A type of lightning
- 6. Moved very slowly.
  - A large Spanish estate.

7. Chained (zig-zag). 8. Hacienda. Answers: 1. H (given), 2. Hit. 3. Hid. 4. Hide. 5. Chide. 6. Inched.





#### FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Using the definitions and anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the answer.

#### **DEFINITION:**

#### ANAGRAM: soon + tape

ants + tang

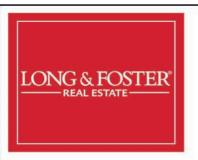
need + twin

spar + tern

aces + hint

hunt + base

- 1. A cooking measurer.
- 2. Foul water. 3. A vine around a post.
- 4. Owners of a business.
- 5. Sailors working songs.
- 6. What you do at the beach.
- 7. How they protect young chickens.
- 8. One who writes.
- nice + tuba
- tins + love
- 6. Sunbathe. 7. Incubate. 8. Novelist. 3. Entwined. 4. Partners. 5. Chantles. Answers: 1. Teaspoon. 2. Stagnant.



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The original integrity of this classic home is in tact and is a fine example of our island's traditional style. Enjoy island time from the front porch, and there's plenty of room for your toys in the detached garage. The darling 2BR/1BA cottage in the back has been updated with a skilled eye and features modern touches. Your perfect home away from home! MLS #48104 Offered at \$360,000

North Main Charming Cottage

> A HOME FOR YOU - We have a great selection of homes & lots for sale! From a fixer upper at \$55,000 to a low-maint. & water view vacation rental home on S. Main St. that generates great rental income and is offered furnished at \$289,900. Stop by our office for a FREE BUYER'S GUIDE!

Enjoy the PONY SWIM & AUCTION this coming week!



Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Clarkson June 22, 2019

40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40

Welcome Chincoteague Resort Guests to the 94th Annual Pony Swim & Auction!

VA-9007-AH

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