

LIVE WIRE

Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. Vol. 10, NO. 9

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SEPTEMBER 2005

Live Wire is a monthly newsletter published for members of Choptank Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629

Toll Free:

1-877-892-0001

Outage Reporting:

1-800-410-4790,

toll free,

24 hours/ day,

7 days/week.

Automated Customer

Service Line:

1-800-311-8556, toll free

410-479-4206

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Internet site:

www.choptankelectric.coop

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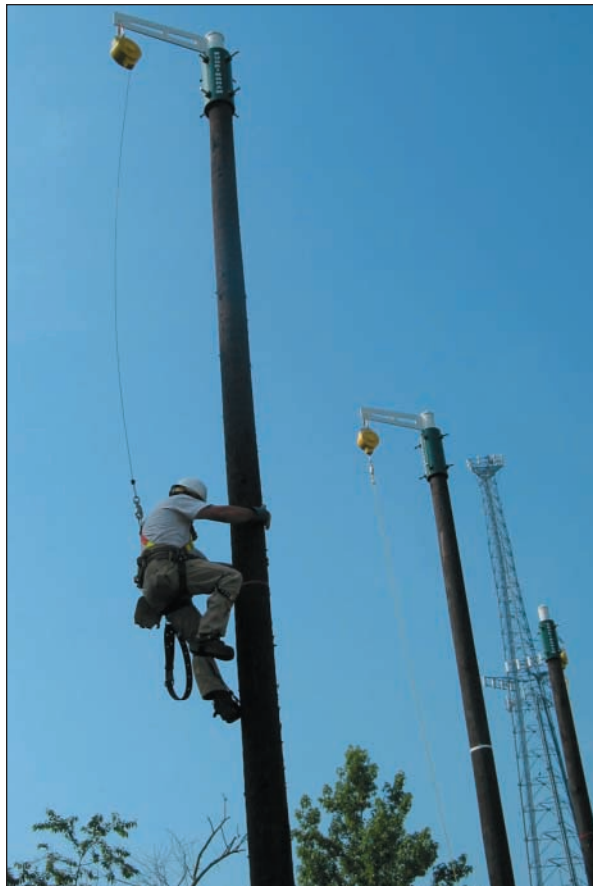
Francis A. Ruffo Sr.

At-Large

Employee team develops training program for linemen

Choptank Electric Cooperative has incorporated a new lineman orientation program in its training to develop safety awareness and knowledge of the duties and performance requirements of its linemen.

The program was developed over a six-month period by a team of employees experienced in line work and a member of the engineering department.



A newly hired co-op lineman practices climbing with fall protection in the Denton training yard.

"We recognized a need for additional comprehensive training, with an emphasis on safety," said Mike Woodward, manager of regional operations for Choptank's Denton district. "We want to make sure new linemen are comfortable with their job."

Choptank's lineman apprentice program is presently a four-year process, however the team saw a need for more intense training with an emphasis on safety awareness. Drawing from their personal experiences, the program was designed to communicate to the prospective line worker just what "a lineman's life" is all about. Mr. Woodward said the co-op is also

working to incorporate into the training program information regarding a course for state-certified flagging, the CDL class license and fork lift training for all linemen.

Part of the orientation takes place in the classroom using a book designed by the co-op team which gives the apprentice a thorough overview including tool identification, fall protection, climbing techniques, construction equipment, materials and underground cable construction. Safety awareness is reviewed daily. As the course is not limited to the classroom, a training yard has been designed for hands-on learning.

Utilizing a large dedicated area behind Choptank's Denton headquarters, the training area features round-robin poles for honing dexterity, a series of poles with fall protection, and a pole for ladder evolutions that allows the lineman to get acquainted with heights without climbing tools while using fall protection. Plans for that area include the installation of a three-phase overhead circuit, with a line through woods where a tree limb falling on the line will be staged.

Other plans call for a three-phase underground line to run through a series of electrical "smart" cabinets, to gain experience with advanced technology locating underground cable faults and setting transformers. The finishing touch to the training grounds will be building a small substation from an old substation that will be dismantled and moved to the area.

"We're also considering simulating rainy conditions and night training," Mr. Woodward said.

"Everything we do in a work day we want the apprentice linemen to experience in the training yard first under controlled conditions," he added. "We want them to know why things happen, not just how to fix them. If employees learn how to operate new equipment in training first, we can avoid accidents and property damage."

The ultimate goal for Choptank's new training program is to produce "an extremely qualified lineman who is very safety-conscious, who is in better shape and uses new equipment to reduce injuries," Woodward said. "Choptank Electric is growing. We're building lines bigger because of the increased load on our system, so we must prepare technically. In order to meet the needs of our members now and in the future, we must have highly qualified people on the job."

The employees who developed the training program are: Mike Woodward, Tom Aydelotte, Tom Filewicz, Bobby Franklin, Jim Harvey and David Lewis, Managers of Regional Operations, Allen Slaughter, lineman, John Shermer, serviceman, and Dave Robinson, technical and communications engineer. Assisting with the training is lineman Andy Breeding.



EYE-CATCHING DELIVERY — Choptank Storeroom Attendant Gary Geisel unloads materials brought to the co-op in a tractor-trailer from United Utility Supply Cooperative Corporation, headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky. The attention-getting trailer promotes the company's affiliation with Touchstone Energy which is a national alliance of over 600 local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives in 44 states delivering energy and energy solutions to more than 22 million customers every day. Choptank, Delaware and A & N electric on the Delmarva Peninsula are all Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

United Utility is a material supply organization owned by over 230 electric cooperatives in 17 states. Formed originally to repair distribution transformers, it is one of the leading materials supply cooperatives serving the rural electric market. United maintains its own truck fleet and has warehouses in Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Alabama and Tennessee. Choptank has purchased materials from United for over 20 years.

NRECA Youth Tour is tradition for Caroline County brothers

You could say the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour is a family affair for the Teffeaus of Preston.

Matthew P. "Matt" Teffeau, 17, and his brothers Tim and Andrew are all Youth Tour veterans.

But Matt, the youngest, added an extra feather to his cap when he was selected to represent Maryland's electric cooperatives at the NRECA's Youth Leadership Council (YLC) held in July.

Choptank sponsored five students to the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington in June where Matt was selected to represent Maryland.

The purpose of the YLC is to build leadership skills, public speaking skills and enhance the delegates' knowledge of the energy industry and the cooperative form of business. It is also held in Washington.

A benefit to serving on the YLC is that the representatives are given the opportunity to attend NRECA's annual meeting. Matt will be traveling to Orlando, Florida, to participate in the 2006 session.

Of his desire to be part of the NRECA Youth Tour, Matt said, "Participation in the Rural Electric Youth Tour is a tradition in my family. My brothers (Tim in 1996 and Andrew in 2000) participated when they were juniors and told me of the fun they had and knowledge they gained. I wanted to follow my brothers' footsteps and continue



TEFFEAU

the tradition while having fun and learning new ways to better my school and community."

Now a senior at Colonel Richardson High School, Matt served as vice president of the Junior Class and the Student Council. Active in sports, he is the varsity soccer goalkeeper and was named MVP his junior year. He also participates in varsity tennis at Colonel Richardson.

He had also been active in the Future Business Leaders of America and 4-H programs, and is a lifeguard during summer vacations.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Teffeau, who are members of Choptank Electric, Matt plans on college after graduation and hopes to become an attorney.

Each year, Choptank Electric Cooperative sponsors students to the Youth Tour, which is held in mid-June. Over 1,400 students from 44 states attended the 2005 event which included tours of Washington, D.C. landmarks and meetings with elected representatives on Capitol Hill.

To be eligible, students must be rising sophomores or juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Choptank.

"We are very pleased to have Matt represent Maryland's electric co-ops at the YLC level," said Anne Whaples, manager of cooperative communications and a Youth Tour chaperon for a number of years. "He is a terrific example of today's rural youth. We are looking forward to hearing about his experiences during Choptank's annual meeting in March 2006."

For information on Youth Tour, call the cooperative at 877-892-0001, ext. 3074.

Two join Corp. Services

Two employees have joined the Division of Corporate Services at the Denton headquarters.

Annemarie H. Chouinard was promoted to the position of Plant and Load Data Accountant. She has been a co-op employee for 14 years, starting as a general clerk in the Consumer Accounts Department. She moved to the position of switchboard operator-receptionist in 1992 and became a Regional Customer Service Representative in 1999.

She holds an Associate of Arts degree from Suffolk County Community College, Long Island, NY.

She accounts for all materials, labor and overhead, as well as generating and analyzing load profile information.

Mrs. Chouinard and her husband, Kenneth, reside near Greensboro with their daughters, Kristen and Kassandra.

Lisa H. Wothers joined the co-op as Manager of Finance and Regulatory Affairs. She will handle matters related to insurances and finances, and will be the main liaison between Choptank and the Maryland Public Service Commission.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Wesley College, Dover, DE and was Accounts Receivable and Western Division Deduction Manager for Playtex Products prior to coming to Choptank.

She resides in Henderson and has a daughter, Kristen, and son, Jared.



CHOUINARD



WOTHERS

Outages on co-op system

July 17:
 Costen, 36 members, 1 hr. 15 min., unknown
 Earleville, 1427 members, 3 hr. 30 min.,
 equipment
 East New Market, 41 members, 3 hr. 35 min.,
 equipment
 Golden Hill, 24 members, 4 hr. 50 min.,
 equipment
 Millington, 248 members, 20 min., unknown
 July 18:
 Golden Hill, 232 members, 30 min., unknown
 Kennedyville, 57 members, 30 min.,
 unknown
 Millington, 214 members, 35 min., unknown
 Millington, 526 members, 1 hr., equipment
 Tanyard, 20 members, 45 min., overload
 July 19:
 Millington, 313 members, 30 min., unknown
 New Hope, 31 members, 45 min., unknown
 Tanyard, 20 members, 2 hr. 55 min., overload
 Walston Switch, 50 members, 35 min.,
 unknown
 Earleville, 86 members, 50 min., unknown
 July 25:
 Multiple throughout system, lightning
 Hobbs, 34 members, 6 hr., 20 min., accident
 July 26:
 Mardela Springs, 1374 members, 15 min.,
 unknown
 Mount Olive, 43 members, 1 hr., lightning
 East New Market, 23 members, 30 min.,
 lightning
 Royal Oak, 33 members, 16 hr., transformer
 Royal Oak, 477 members, 1 hr. 15 min.,
 power supplier
 Royal Oak, 59 members, 7 hr. 45 min., equip-
 ment
 Tanyard, 37 members, 6 hr. 15 min., equip-
 ment
 July 27:
 Barclay, 263 members, 1-2 hr., lightning
 Barclay, 26 members, 6 hr. 50 min., equip-
 ment
 Earleville, 86 members, 50 min., overload
 Golden Hill, 318 members, 3 hr. 30 min.,
 small animals/birds
 Hillsboro, 59 members, 10 hr. 45 min., equip-
 ment

Kennedyville, 32 members, 2 hr. 30 min.,
 right of way
 Longwoods, 32 members, 2 hr., unknown
 Ocean Pines, 22 members, 4 hr., overload
 West Denton, 20 members, 1 hr., lightning
 West Denton, 38 members, 20 min., lightning
 West Denton, 38 members, 9 hr., 45 min.,
 transformer
 July 28:
 Golden Hill, 174 members, 2 hrs., right of
 way
 West Denton, 38 members, 30 min., equip-
 ment
 July 30:
 Williston, 43 members, 1 hr., right of way;
 43 members, 1 hr., 35 min., right of way
 July 31:
 Barclay, 707 members, 35 min., overload
 Mardela Springs, 27 members, 1 hr. 50 min.,
 unknown
 Hobbs, 817 members, 1 hr., animals/birds
 August 2:
 Mount Olive, 21 members, 1 hr. 10 min.,
 equipment
 Mount Olive, 55 members, 1 hr. 10 min.,
 equipment
 Ocean Pines, 22 members, 2 hr. 10 min.,
 equipment
 August 5:
 Barclay, 148 members, 50 min., unknown
 New Hope, 77 members, 1 hr. 35 min., right
 of way
 Earleville, 83 members, 1 hr. 15 min., light-
 ning; 86 members, 1 hr. 55 min., overload
 Golden Hill, 43 members, 1 hr. 15 min., light-
 ning
 August 5-7:
 Multiple throughout system, lightning, trees
 August 10:
 Costen, 1517 members, 35 min.,
 animals/birds
 Longwoods, 67 members, 3 hr. 50 min.,
 equipment
 Millington, 23 members, 1 hr. 35 min., equip-
 ment
 August 11:
 Ocean Pines, 41 members, 2 hr. 55 min.,
 unknown

Shore Good to Know

Continued from page 4

Halloween Haunted Hayride, Adkins Arboretum, near Ridgely, **Oct. 21**, 8-10, **Oct. 22**, 7-10. \$5, rain or shine. 410-634-2847.

Quota Christmas Craft Fair, Wicomico Civic Ctr., Salisbury, **Oct. 29**, 10-5, **Oct. 30**, 10-4. \$3. 410-742-6238 or 410-901-1189.

Community Club of Preston, Craft & Antique/Collectible Show, Nov. 5, 9-2, Preston Firehouse Hall. 410-673-7193 or 673-7088.

Christmas Craft Expo, Fallfest of Fine Arts, **Nov. 5**, 10-5, **Nov. 6**, 10-4, Convention Ctr., Ocean City. 410-524-9177.

Fall Family Festival, Adkins Arboretum, **Nov. 12**, 10-3, hayride, crafts, food. \$10/family. 410-634-2847.

Antiques Show & Sale, Kent Ass. of Riding Therapy, **Nov. 25**, 4-7, **Nov. 26**, 10-5, **Nov. 27**, 10-3, Chestertown Middle School. \$5. 410-778-1857 or 778-0397.

Friday Nites at the Caroline Public Library: **Oct. 14**, Edgar Allan Poe Speaks Again, Greensboro; **Oct. 21**, Old Time Radio Live, Denton; **Oct. 28**, William Feasley, classical guitarist, Denton; **Nov. 4**, America's Patriotic Music, Federalsburg; **Nov. 18**, Bay Country Chorus Barbershop Harmony, Denton. All programs at 7 p.m. 410-479-1343.

Books Plus, Caroline Public Library, discussions: **Sept. 19**, **Oct. 17**, **Nov. 14**, **Dec. 14**. 7 p.m. 410-479-1343.

Watt's the Answer?

Win a \$10 credit on your bill in our monthly trivia contest. Readers who send in the correct answer are entered in a drawing. Entries must be postmarked/dated by Oct. 5.

Watt's the Answer for September: Maryland has an official "State Cat" (we're not kidding)! What type of cat is it? Hint: It was chosen because its colors resemble those in the state flag.

Send to: Watt's the Answer? Choptank Electric, P.O. Box 430, Denton MD 21629 or email: anew@choptankelectric.coop. Please provide account or phone number.

The July winners were Charles & Thelma Phillips of Berlin who knew the height of the eastbound span of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge is 186 ft.

July Trust Awards

The following awards were given in June by the Choptank Electric Trust Inc., funded by Operation Round-Up. CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) of Caroline, \$1,950, training materials for volunteers Chesapeake Center, Easton, \$799, assistive devices for program participants Home repairs for disabled individuals, Caroline Co., \$4547

CHOPTANK SECURITY

Choptank Security offers the very best in wireless, supervised security technology, plus LifeGard, the personal home emergency system.

Yes, I am interested in a no cost home security/life safety analysis at my home. Please call me to set up an appointment:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Best time to call _____

Send me information about Choptank Security's maintenance program.

Send to: Choptank Security Systems, Attn: June Lederer
 P.O. Box 310, Denton MD 21629



Pine Steppers Square Dance Club workshop every Wed., 7 p.m., Ocean Pines Community Hall. 410-835-3534 or 208-6777.

All-You-Can-Eat Country Breakfast Buffet, Crumpton Firehouse, sponsored by Ladies Auxiliary, 2nd Sun., 8-11 a.m.

Vietnam Vets of America, 1st Thurs., 7 p.m., Easton VFW. 410-943-1374. Lower Shore, 3rd Thurs., VFW 194, Salisbury. 410-651-0904.

Bay Country Chorus (barbershop), every Mon., 7 p.m., Miller Hall, behind Trinity Cathedral, Goldsborough St., Easton. 410-770-8262.

Bingo: Willards Fire Co., Thurs., 7 p.m., Lions Club Bldg., 410-835-8678; Pittsville Fire Co., Fri., 7 p.m. 410-835-2323; Federalsburg VFW 5246, Thurs., open 5:30 p.m., games 7:20 p.m. 410-754-5020. Hurlock Legion, Fri., 7:30 p.m., 410-943-8205; Denton Legion, Tues., 6 p.m., 410-479-2708; Redmen Lodge, Fruitland, Mon., 6:30 p.m. 410-742-6859; Willards Lions Club, Tues., 5 p.m., games 7 p.m. 410-835-2328;

Peninsulaires barbershop chorus, every Tues. 7:30 p.m., Wicomico Civic Ctr., Flanders Rm., Salisbury. 410-641-8927 or 410-543-8628.

Ocean Bay Chorus, Sweet Adelines, every Mon., 7 p.m., Wicomico Civic Center, Flanders Room, Salisbury. 410-749-0991.

Ocean Waves Square Dance Club workshop, every Tues., 7 p.m., Wicomico Civic Ctr., Salisbury. 410-742-2398 or 883-3723.

Delmarva Chorus, Sweet Adelines, every Mon., 7 p.m., Ocean Pines Community Center. 410-641-8088 or 208-9722.

Disabled American Veterans Chap. 34, 4th Thurs., 1 p.m., Meuse VFW Post 194, Salisbury. 410-749-4518.

Chesapeake Christian Riders Chap. of CMA, 4th Sat., Golden Corral, Easton, 9-11. All welcome. 410-943-8325.

Pinochle Group, every Wed., 9:45 a.m., 410-641-8836, Bridge Club, every Wed., 10 a.m., 410-641-7667, Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

Pepper Steppers Square Dance, 2nd Sat., 8 p.m., First UM Church Hall, Chestertown. 410-758-1454 or 778-4578.

Wellness Community-Delmarva, weekly support groups for cancer patients/families, Talbot, Worcester, Wicomico. 888-806-0756.

Heartland Quilt Guild, 1st Thur., 7 p.m., Denton Library, 410-482-8131,

Women Supporting Women (breast cancer group), 3rd Wed., 7 p.m., Atlantic Business Ctr., Ste. 213, Berlin, 410-641-2849.

US Submarine Vets, 3rd Sat., Dover DE. 410-482-6994 or 302-945-2448.

TOPS weight loss: Tues., 6:30 p.m., 1st Baptist Church, Marydel, 410-482-2658; Christ UM Church, Salisbury, Thurs., 7 p.m. 410-749-9335 or 543-9039; Church of God, Washington St., Easton, Thurs., 6 p.m. 410-822-2630 or 673-2248.

Pine'er Craft Shop, Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, open every Sat. & Sun., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Line dance, Eastside Men's Club, Alexander Ave., Salisbury, every Fri. Beginner's lessons at 6 p.m. 410-749-1981.

National Assn. of Retired Federal Employees, 3rd Thurs., English's South, Rt. 13, Salisbury. 410-749-6635 or 742-8073.

Activity Singles Klub, Easton, 2nd Wed., 410-822-7468.

South Dorchester Folk Museum, 1st Wed., 7 p.m., Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Visitors' Center, near Cambridge.

First Saturday Writers Group, Ocean Pines Branch, Worcester Public Library, all welcome. 410-641-5515.

Children's Health Program, for pregnant women & children to age 19. Kent, 410-778-7035, QA, 410-758-0720, Talbot, 410-819-5670.

Eastern Shore Stamp Club, 1st Tues., Wicomico Library, Salisbury, 6:30 p.m. 410-208-2929; Tidewater Stamp Club, 2nd & 4th Tue., 7 p.m., 14 S. Harrison St., 2nd fl., Easton. 410-822-1371.

First Monday, HIV/Aids support group in Salisbury, 1st & 3rd Mon. 5:30 p.m. 410-219-9000 ext. 101, 443-523-1745 or 443-523-1744.

Duplicate bridge: Riverside Homes, Salisbury, Mon., 7p.m. 410-835-8343; Tred Avon Club, Wed., noon, Chesapeake by Del Webb clubhouse, Dutchman's La., Easton. 410-226-5126.

Living with Cancer, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Thurs., 4-5:30 p.m., Kent & Queen Anne's Hospital, cafeteria meeting room. 410-778-5550.

Eastern Shore Writers' Assn., 2nd Sat., place TBA. 410-482-6736.

Queen Anne's Chapter, Barbershop Harmony Society, Wed., 7:30 p.m., Centreville UM Church, Rt. 213. 410-827-7993.

Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society, 116-1 N. Division St., Salisbury, open Wed., 1-4, help with family research. 410-749-6158.

All you can eat breakfast, Eldorado-Brookview Firehouse, 3rd Sun., 7:30-10:30 a.m. \$6. 410-943-0216.

Salisbury Farmers' Market, Bus. Rts. 13 & 50, every Sat., through Dec. 410-749-6236.

Friends of the Ocean Pines Library, 2nd Mon., 10 a.m., main mtg. room of library. 410-208-2760.

Merry Widows & Widowers Social Club, 3rd Tues., 2:30 p.m., Ocean Pines Community Hall. 410-208-6207.

Beach Singles social club for age 45+, last Tues, 6 p.m. For info./mtg. place, 410-208-3974.

Gospel concerts, Holiday Park, Greensboro, 6 p.m., **Sept. 17, Oct. 8.** Rain or shine. \$5; free under 16 yrs.

Fall Festival, Mt. Olive UMC, Snow Hill, **Sept. 17**, 11 a.m., food, kids' fair. 410-632-1535.

Camp Mardela Benefit Dinner, Denton, **Sept. 17**, 4 p.m. Carryouts. Donations accepted. 410-479-2861.

Chesapeake College Art Show & Sale, **Sept. 22-Oct. 21**, Todd Performing Arts Ctr., weekdays, 8:30-4:30. 410-758-1537 x306.

Rock Hall Fallfest, **Sept. 24**, crafts, food, music, exhibits, contests, more. 410-778-0416.

Fall Fest, Martinak State Park, Denton, **Sept. 24**, 12-4. food, games, make a scarecrow and more. 410-820-1668.

Dorchester Showcase, festival of the arts, Historic High St., Cambridge, **Sept. 25**, 12-5. 410-228-7782

Centreville Rotary Club Artisans' Festival, **Oct. 1**, 10-4:30, **Oct. 2**, 11-4:30, Queen Anne's 4-H Park. 410-758-0131.

Three Centuries of Kent Driving Tour, Oct. 8, Kent Co. Heritage Trust, \$20 pp. 410-810-7618.

Longaberger Basket Bingo, Terry's Angels Relay for Life Team, **Oct. 9**, 1 p.m., Preston Fire Dept. \$20 at door. 410-673-2399.

Worcester Co. Garden Club, small standard flower show, **Oct. 14**, 1-4, Ocean Pines Library, Berlin. 410-641-5366.

Olde Princess Anne Days, **Oct. 15**, 10-5, **Oct. 16**, 12-5, house & garden tour, heritage festival. \$20. Rain or shine. 800-521-9189.

Women Supporting Women Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness, **Oct. 15**, Winter Place Park, Salisbury. 410-548-7880.

Camp Mardela Benefit Auction, Deep Shore Rd., Denton, **Oct. 15**, 9 a.m. 410-479-2861.

Delmarva Coon Hunters Mule Show, **Oct. 16**, 10 a.m., Powellville. Oyster sandwiches. 410-835-8327 or 742-8254.

Basket bingo, St. Joseph Church, Middletown DE, **Oct. 20**. 302-378-0683.

Haunted Forest, Camp ESPA, Rt. 313 (Sharptown Rd.), **Oct. 20-31**, Sun.-Thur., 7-10, Fri., Sat., 7-12. \$8. 410-883-2520.

See more events, page 3...

SEND EVENTS TO:

Shore Good to Know, Choptank Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629; or annew@choptankelectric.coop two months prior to event if possible. Include phone number.