

For Immediate Release
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**CHINCOTEAGUE ISLAND AND THE CHINCOTEAGUE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
CELEBRATE 93 YEARS OF PONY PENNING**

Chincoteague VA—July 9, 2018: Chincoteague Island celebrates Christmas in July with the 93rd Annual Pony Swim on July 25---estimated swim time will be between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. To those born and raised in Chincoteague Island, Pony Penning is a time of homecoming and reuniting with old friends.

Thousands of people will line the shores of Veterans Memorial Park and Pony Swim Lane in just a few days to watch the world-famous Chincoteague Ponies make their annual pilgrimage from Assateague Island, VA to Chincoteague Island. Charter boats line the Assateague Channel creating a pathway for the ponies as they make their yearly swim from shore to shore. A Jumbotron in Memorial Park sponsored by the Town of Chincoteague will make the event much more enjoyable for those early risers. This is truly a magical event unlike any in the world! Made famous by Marguerite Henry's book *Misty of Chincoteague* in 1947 and a Hollywood movie in 1961, Pony Penning has become a "bucket list" dream for many.

The traditional Beach Walk on Assateague Island at 6 a.m. on Monday, July 23 begins the week's festivities. The north herd of wild Chincoteague Ponies will join the south herd to await the "big day". The annual swim on Wednesday, July 25 is at the earliest morning slack tide (8-10 a.m.). Visit www.chincoteaguechamber.com/pony-penning and the chamber Facebook page for shuttle information including where to park if you are coming in for the day, helpful hints and schedule of events. Shuttle buses will start running at 5 a.m. The auction of foals takes place on Thursday morning July 26 at 8 a.m. at the Carnival Grounds on Main Street. The proceeds from one of this year's buy back foals will benefit the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company Building Fund. "The 'donor' will be recognized in the new station with a plaque and photo." states Fire Company Public Relations Officer Denise Bowden. The week's events culminate with the return swim of the adult ponies to Assateague on Friday morning July 27 (time to be announced). The Chincoteague Volunteer Fireman's Carnival will be open July 13-14, 20-21, 23-28 from 7-11 p.m. featuring rides, games, raffles, fabulous Eastern Shore food and local, live entertainment. Ms. Bowden invites "everyone to come out and have some good old-fashioned fun in a family atmosphere to help (CVFC) celebrate our 93rd year!"

Visit www.chincoteaguechamber.com for details on all events and activities to help plan your exciting pony adventure.

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