

# Bands, parades, food, drink, history wow fest crowds



As a Taber Park crowd in the hundreds watches and listens in the background, the band Sweet Justice rocks the Festival Village crowd on Friday of the 64th Urbanna Oyster Festival with its versions of "Enter Sandman," "Rock of Ages," favorites by Journey and much more. Lead singer Beth Justice plays to the camera, as bandmates provide that driving beat that had some dancing. They include, from left, Rod McMordie, bass; Sean Mullins, guitar; and Jim Burdette, guitar. Not pictured is drummer Justin "Boz" Boswell. Reggae, soul, Southern rock and Americana bands also performed at multiple festival sites. (Photo by Tom Chillemi)



Shriners show off precision moves as they race their miniature NASCAR-inspired cars in formation on Cross Street during the festival parade Saturday. (Photo by Don Richeson)

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Urbanna Mayor Barbara Hartley appears to be having the time of her life as she rides in a convertible in the festival parade. (Photo by Don Richeson)



Brent and Michelle Wittersheim, visitors from Midlothian, guide Charlie, their huge 4-year-old spotted great dane, as they mingle with thousands of festival-goers on Virginia Street Saturday. (Photo by Don Richeson)



A large contingent of Shrine Club hillbillies, complete with prop possums and moonshine jugs, adds a lighter touch to the parade. (Photo by Don Richeson)



With lights flashing and sirens sounding, an armada of fire trucks from all around Virginia participates in the Fireman's Parade through downtown Friday night. (Photo by Larry Chowning)



Mandy, left, and Bob Blankenship of Chester enjoy oysters at the Middlesex Kiwanis Club tent on Friday at the 64th Urbanna Oyster Festival. Mandy, a dental hygienist, prefers to arrange saltines in a row, then top each with an oyster and hot sauce, before eating them, while Bob takes the traditional down-the-hatch approach. (See story, page A1.) (Photo by Tom Chillemi)



Isabella "Gator" Macbeth of Virginia Beach, the overall winner in the 2021 Oyster Shucking Contest, rides in the festival parade. (Photo by Don Richeson)



Magician and juggler Jonathan Austin again "wows" the Taber Park crowd Friday with his high energy and mesmerizing acts in the children's area of the Urbanna Oyster Festival. (Photo by Tom Chillemi)



Festival Co-chairman Eric Faudree introduces festival mascot "Ms. Oyster" during the shucking contest, which Faudree served as emcee. (Photo by Don Richeson)



Cora Gaskins of Westmoreland County snaps a photo of Hope Barnes of Kinsale, who displays her souvenir Urbanna wine glass. (Photo by Don Richeson)



Showing off their Urbanna pilsner glasses in the craft beer area are festival celebrants, front, from left, Francesca Sperberg of Lancaster, Rose Ribeiro of Richmond; and back, same order, Kirstie Milne of Richmond, Joy Laurence of Richmond, Kassi O'Brien of Richmond and Volunteer Jenny McMurtrie of Hartfield. (Photo by Don Richeson)

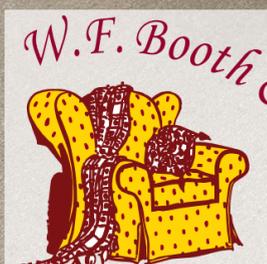


American privateer sailing schooner Lynx drew many festival goers at the Urbanna Town Marina in one of several festival historical-themed exhibits. (Photo by Don Richeson)

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