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ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY, VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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Chris Christou, Owner/Operator of The Cockeyed Rooster Café, Named 2017 Entrepreneur of the Year

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY, Virginia (May 19, 2017) – Chris Christou, Owner/Operator of The Cockeyed Rooster Cafe, a Smithfield restaurant serving breakfast, brunch and lunch, is the recipient of the **2017 Entrepreneur of the Year Award** given out by the Isle of Wight County Department of Economic Development during Virginia’s Business Appreciation Month.

The Cockeyed Rooster Café opened in July 2015 filling a unique niche in Smithfield with made from scratch menu items and affordable prices in a comfortable, friendly atmosphere. In 2016, the restaurant was awarded the Daily Press Reader’s Choice Award for Best Breakfast/Brunch South of the James.

Christou has been in the restaurant business for nearly 40 years, and The Cockeyed Rooster Café is his 6th successful restaurant. He previously owned the Belgian Waffle and Steakhouse in Newport News for 30 years. The restaurant business is his passion, and he thrives on the daily challenges presented. He is a hands-on owner who often works alongside staff on the cook’s line, bussing tables, washing dishes or delivering meals. “At the Cockeyed Rooster, it’s the customer satisfaction that matters most,” said Roxanne Christou, Chris’ wife.

Christou is active in the community, and supports numerous local events, charitable and civic organizations, churches and schools through sponsorships and fundraising activities at the restaurant.

“I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to Isle of Wight Economic Development for selecting me as the 2017 Entrepreneur of the Year,” said Chris Christou. “This award is a tremendous honor, and I am truly humbled. Today I am more committed than ever to this great community that has brought me so much joy and success.”

Economic Development has been honoring a County business owner as Entrepreneur of the Year since 2005. Previous winners include: Wharf Hill Brewing Co., The Hughes Agency, Travis’s Auto Repair, Bon Vivant Wine & Brew, Ringo’s Donuts, The Oaks Veterinary Clinic, Darden’s Country Store and Sesroh Tack Shoppe.

The Cockeyed Rooster Cafe is located at 1268 Benn’s Church Blvd., Smithfield, VA. Call 757.357.7667, visit them on the web at www.thecockeyedroostercafe.com or find them on [Facebook](#). Hours: Monday – Saturday: 6 a.m. – 3 p.m., Sunday: 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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