

Shore First



Festive Dogwood Branch

From left, Lynne Calvert, Louise Firtell, Maryann Resky, and Linda Dunton — among other volunteers — have the Dogwood Branch consignment shop in Onancock ready for the season. See page 14

Shore First

The Eastern Shore of Virginia's
monthly newsmagazine

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of each month
since May 2017

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P.O. Box 47
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TELEPHONE: 757-789-7678
FAX: 757-787-7681

JIM RITCH
Publisher

publisher@easternshorepost.com

WILLIAM E. SHOCKLEY III
Editor, General Manager
editor@easternshorepost.com

TROY C. JUSTIS
Manager,
Advertising and Circulation
ads@easternshorepost.com

CONTRIBUTORS

CURTIS BADGER
LAURA DAVIS
NANCY DRURY DUNCAN
JONI HAMILTON
STEFANIE JACKSON
CAROL VAUGHN
CLARA VAUGHN
RYAN WEBB
KIRK MARINER (1943-2017)
CANDY FARLOW (1953-2017)

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www.EasternShorePost.com

Shore First | Entertainment calendar

Saturday, December 2

■ **EVENT:** 10 a.m. to noon., children can visit Santa and receive a free book at the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library & Heritage Center, 24313 Bennett St., Parksley.

■ **FARMERS MARKET:** 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Parksley Farmers and Artisans Market, 18444 Dunne Ave., Parksley.

■ **EVENT:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Christmas Tree Village at the Museum of Chincoteague Island, 7125 Maddox Blvd., Chincoteague. Enjoy a collection of Christmas trees decorated by area businesses and individuals in the legacy pavilion. The event is free to the public but visitors can purchase holiday tokens that can be used to vote for their favorite tree.

■ **TOUR:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Homes for The Holidays Tour and Sale, Chincoteague Island. Tickets are \$20 per person and are available at Hollyhocks on Main, Sundial Books, or online at www.hollyhocks.shopsettings.com. All proceeds benefit Manna Cafe. Tour books will not be available until the day of the event at The Annex.

■ **PERFORMANCE:** 11:30 a.m., All ages performance of The Nutcracker by All About Dance at the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Library & Heritage Center, 24313 Bennett St., Parksley.

■ **GRAND ILLUMINATION:** 5:30 p.m., the town of Cape Charles will hold its Grand Illumination as Central Park's lights come alive for the holiday season. Festivities also will include a lighted golf cart parade, music, cookies and cocoa, and kids' crafts.

■ **PARADE:** 6 to 8 p.m., 43rd annual Chincoteague Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade, Main Street, Chincoteague. This year's theme is "A Gingerbread Christmas." The Chincoteague Police Department will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for its annual Toy Run during the parade. Attendees are asked to consider making a donation of a toy. For more information, call 757-336-6161. The event is sponsored by the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 7 p.m., The Eastern Shore Madrigal Singers, under the direction of Patricia Davis and accompanied by Michelle Marsh, will present "Christmas: On Stage Again!" at the North Street Playhouse in Onancock. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students 12 years of age and younger. Visit northstreetplayhouse.org/tickets, or call North Street Playhouse at 757-787-2050.

■ **TOY SWAP:** 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the Boys & Girls Club along with the Center for Community Development will be hosting a Buy, Sell, or Swap fundraising event at the Boys & Girls Club housed at the Mary N. Smith Center in Accomac. Organizers are looking for families who would like to set up to sell their books, games, and toys during the event. The cost to be a vendor is \$15, which will include one or two tables and chair. To reserve a place or to receive more information, call Kathy Custis at 757-709-9665 or email easternshore@bgcseva.org, or call Brenda Holden at 757-710-8835 or email centercfd@gmail.com.

■ **THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE:** 3 p.m., "The Best Christmas Ever: A Musical," at Historic Palace Theatre,

305 Mason Ave., Cape Charles. \$20 for adults; \$10 for students. Visit artsentercapecarles.org

Sunday, December 3

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 1 to 4 p.m., open mic and jam session open to local musicians each Sunday at Cape Charles Brewing Company, 2198 Stone Road, Cape Charles. Free admission.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 2:30 p.m., The Eastern Shore Madrigal Singers, under the direction of Patricia Davis and accompanied by Michelle Marsh, will present "Christmas: On Stage Again!" at the North Street Playhouse in Onancock. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students 12 years of age and younger. Visit northstreetplayhouse.org/tickets, or call North Street Playhouse at 757-787-2050.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 4 p.m., Advent and Christmas concert at Hungars Church, 10107 Bayside Road, Bridgetown. The event features Eric and Mary Dolch (organists) on the church's 2013 Holtkamp pipe organ, the Rev. Janet Wheelock on recorder, and an assembled choir of members and friends of Hungars Cure Parish. There will be a reception to follow in the Parish House.

■ **TREE LIGHTING:** 5 p.m., the town of Onley will have its inaugural Tree Lighting at George McMath Park, 21062 Colonial Ave., Onley. There will be cookies, cocoa, candy canes, holiday music, and community fellowship.

Tuesday, December 5

■ **FARMERS MARKET:** 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Parksley Farmers and Artisans Market, 18444 Dunne Ave., Parksley.

■ **BINGO:** Doors open 5:30 p.m., first game 7:30 p.m., Cheriton Volunteer Fire Co., 21334 S. Bayside Road, Cheriton.

Wednesday, December 6

■ **FARMERS MARKET:** 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Parksley Farmers and Artisans Market, 18444 Dunne Ave., Parksley.

■ **BENEFIT DINNER:** 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., the Kiwanis Club of Chincoteague will hold its annual pancake supper at Bill's Prime Restaurant on Chincoteague Island. The cost is a \$10 donation. Tickets are available from any Kiwanis member or at H&H Pharmacy.

■ **HOLIDAY WINE WEDNESDAY:** 5 to 7 p.m., Historic Onancock School, 6 College Ave., Onancock. Enjoy the Eastern Shore Art League's Winter Show, tour open studios for holiday shopping, and enjoy fellowship

Thursday, December 7

■ **FARMERS MARKET:** 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Parksley Farmers and Artisans Market, 18444 Dunne Ave., Parksley.

■ **EXMORE EVENT:** 5 to 8 p.m., "An Old-Fashioned Christmas in Exmore," hosted by the town of Exmore. Relaxed, after-hours holiday shopping and art stroll with festive illumination along Main Street and throughout the downtown area. There will be refreshments in shops and

(Continued on page 20)



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Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to All!!



You are invited To Blue Heron's Festive Friday Art Show. Join us at our Cape Charles Office at 113 Mason Avenue



John Harlow



Jamie Kirkpatrick



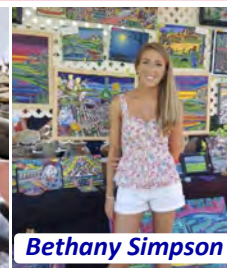
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Cape Charles

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Waterfront

\$120,000 to \$210,000



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Beachfront Home

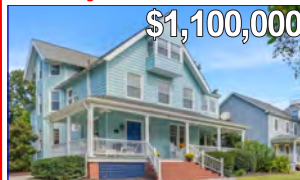
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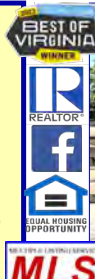
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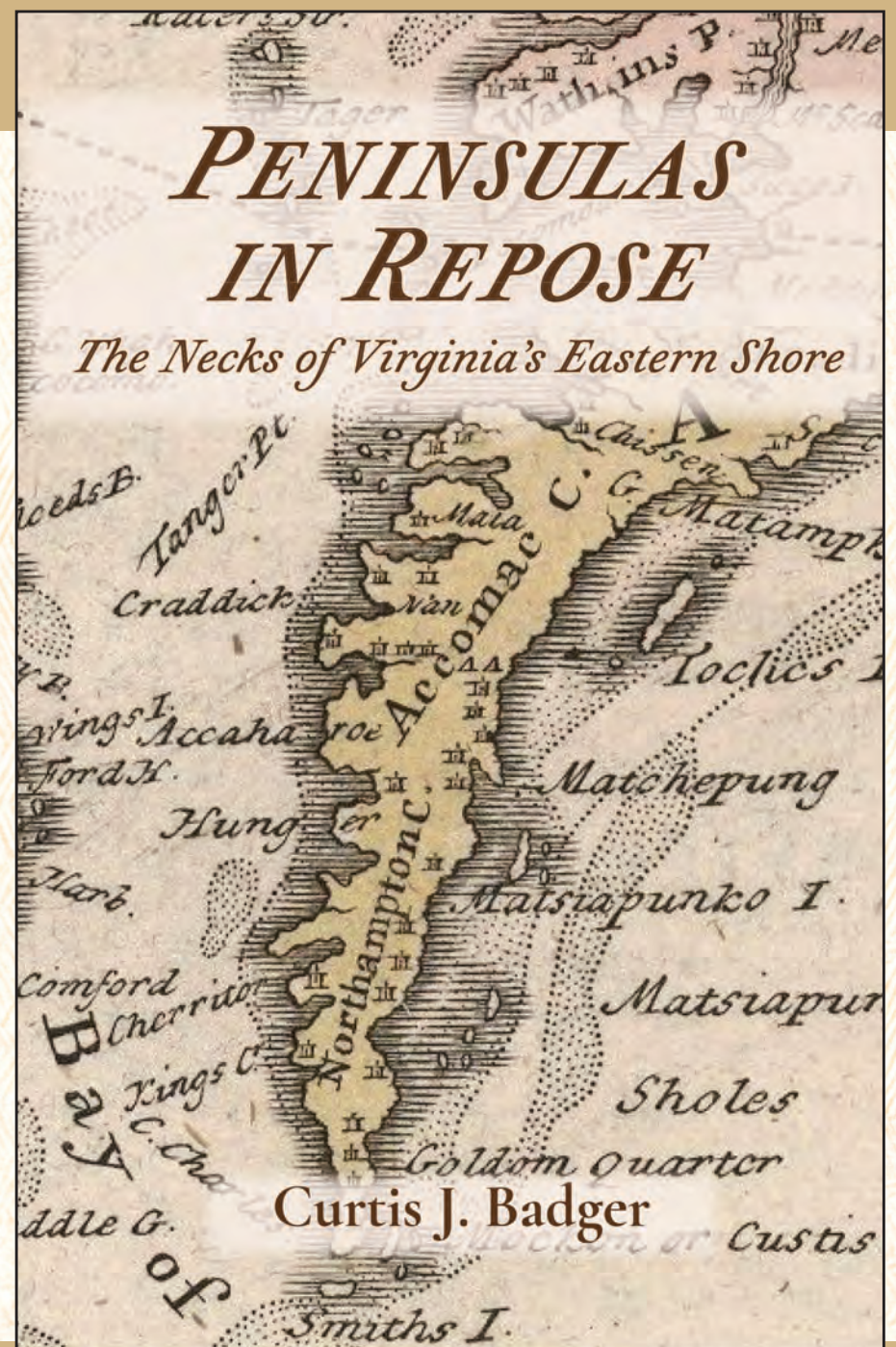
A New Book on the Necks of the Eastern Shore

From Eastern Shore Author
Curtis J. Badger

Prolific Eastern Shore writer Curtis J. Badger has a knack for finding compelling stories in places you might never expect. In his new book, *Peninsulas in Repose*, he takes a fascinating look at the necks of the Eastern Shore, those wooded peninsulas on seaside and bayside waterways where the English first settled.

Badger finds a treasure trove of stories in our necks of the woods: high drama in Gargathy Neck, night time raids in Joynes Neck, the mysterious creature of Craddock Neck, and the blockade runners of Hacks Neck. And he explores the contributions that families such as the Upshurs, Parramores, and Wises have made to the Eastern Shore and the nation. These are the families that populated our necks of the woods generations ago, and whose descendants are still among us.

In *Peninsulas in Repose*, Badger captures life on the Eastern Shore as it was prior to the coming of the railroad in 1884 and U.S. Route 13 in the 1920s. Badger takes the reader back to a time when people lived on narrow peninsulas on bayside and seaside creeks. These were America's first residential communities, areas of fertile land adjacent to deep water, making travel and commerce easy.

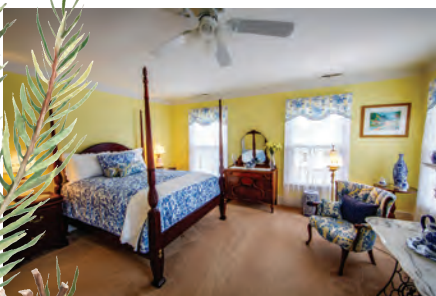


Peninsulas in Repose can be purchased direct from the publisher, Salt Water Media of Berlin, Maryland. For online purchases visit www.saltwatermedia.com or phone 443-513-4422. Price is \$24.99 plus shipping and tax, if applicable.



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Cookie baking is in full swing for the holidays

The holidays are in full swing here on the Eastern Shore!

With Christmas parades lining our downtown streets, festive lights all about, church services, and school performances, we are so fortunate to live in a place that shines so brightly this time of year, aren't we?



Laura Davis

Cookie baking is in full swing in my kitchen. I love to share treats with friends and neighbors, usually in tins from the dollar store lined with wax paper.

Gifting homemade goodies is kind of something that has fallen by the wayside, I feel like.

But it's a tradition I'm trying to

keep going strong.

It's always nice to have a "little something" on hand for making merry.

Here are a few of my old stand-bys to start getting those lists compiled, if you haven't already.

Everyone has their own family favorites that you'll want to add to your cookie cornucopia.

It's always a wonderful time to reflect on holiday memories of the past and to honor those who aren't with us in the kitchen anymore.

From my home to yours, I send the warmest wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year in 2024!



PHOTO COURTESY LAURA DAVIS

Giving Christmas cookies as a gift is a time-honored tradition.

Laura Davis, of Chincoteague Island, is a food writer and blogger at www.tideandthyme.com. Her recipes have been featured on Huffington Post and www.craftbeer.com, among other publications.

She is a frequent guest on WBOC-TV's DelmarvaLife show, where she showcases her culinary talents for viewers. Her work appears monthly in Shore First.

Peanut butter blossoms

- 48 Hershey's Kisses chocolates (mini Reese's also great)
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 tbsp. milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- granulated or sprinkling sugar, for rolling

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Remove wrappers from chocolate kisses.

In a medium bowl combine the flour, baking soda, and salt. Whisk to combine, and set aside.

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, cream the butter, peanut butter, and sugars until fluffy.

With mixer running on low, add the egg, milk, and vanilla. Mix to combine. Slowly add in the flour, and mix until combined.

Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll in sugar and place on an un-greased cookie sheet.

Bake 8-10 minutes, until lightly browned. Remove from oven and immediately press a chocolate kiss into the center of each cookie. Remove to a cooling rack to cool completely.

Store in an airtight container for up to 3 days.

Chocolate chip cookies

- 1 cup butter, room temperature
- 2 eggs, room temperature
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 12 oz semi-sweet chocolate chips (2 cups)
- 1 cup walnuts, chopped

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease or spray two cookie sheets and set aside.

Sift flour, salt, and baking powder into a medium bowl. Set aside.

In the bowl of an electric mixer, cream the butter and sugars together until creamy.

Reduce speed to low, and add the eggs (one at a time), and the vanilla. Mix to combine.

Slowly add in the sifted flour and mix until just incorporated.

Add the chocolate and the walnuts to the bowl and mix until they are distributed evenly.

Using a small cookie scoop or a spoon, drop 1-inch balls onto greased cookie sheet, about 2 inches apart.

Bake at 375 for 12-15 minutes. Cook on cookie sheet for a couple of minutes before transferring to cooling rack as cookies will be very soft.

Store in an airtight container for up to 3 days.

Rum balls

- 1 box vanilla wafers, crushed in a food processor
- 6 oz. semi-sweet chocolate
- 1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1/4 light corn syrup
- 2/3 cup rum
- pinch of salt
- 2 cups pecans lightly toasted
- 1/2 cup confectioner sugar (for rolling)

Melt the chocolate in a double boiler over barely simmering water.

In a large bowl combine brown sugar, corn syrup, rum, and salt.

Add melted chocolate, crushed vanilla wafers and half the pecans. Mix to combine.

Spread the remaining pecans in a shallow container or plate for rolling.

Do the same for the confectioner sugar.

Shape dough into 1-inch balls and roll into nuts or sugar.

Refrigerate for 24 hours before serving to blend flavors.

Will keep in the refrigerator for 2 weeks, or they can be frozen.



Rum balls, left, and chocolate chip cookies are a seasonal favorite.



PHOTO COURTESY LAURA DAVIS

Try your hand at tough Eastern Shore trivia

The questions

1. What Eastern Shore town is located, in part, on an Indian reservation?

2. What Eastern Shore town bears the name of...



Kirk
Mariner

(a)...someone who was decapitated?

(b)...an Accomack sheriff who bequeathed lands for the education of the poor?

(c)...a German physician?

(d)...a house which is not even located in that town?

3. Where would you have been if...

(a)...you went to worship at the Nasawadox Meeting House (Quaker) in the 1660s?

(b)...you stepped ashore from the steamboat at "Pungoteague" in the 1840s?

(c)...you mailed a letter from Wehoga, Va., in 1880?

(d)...you stepped from the train at Oak Hall Station in 1900?

4. In 1608, Capt. John Smith, approaching from the south, began his exploration of the Eastern Shore at Smith Island, not at Fisherman Island, which is the southernmost point of the Shore. Why did he go the extra distance

to Smith Island, skipping Fisherman Island?

5. The news of the treaty that ended the War of 1812 (the Treaty of Ghent) took weeks to cross the Atlantic from Europe, and reached one Eastern Shore community before it reached New York City because that community was then under British occupation. Which community was that?

6. What was the only Eastern Shore town specifically singled out for invasion by Union forces in 1861? (Clue: It was invaded by the Union Navy.)

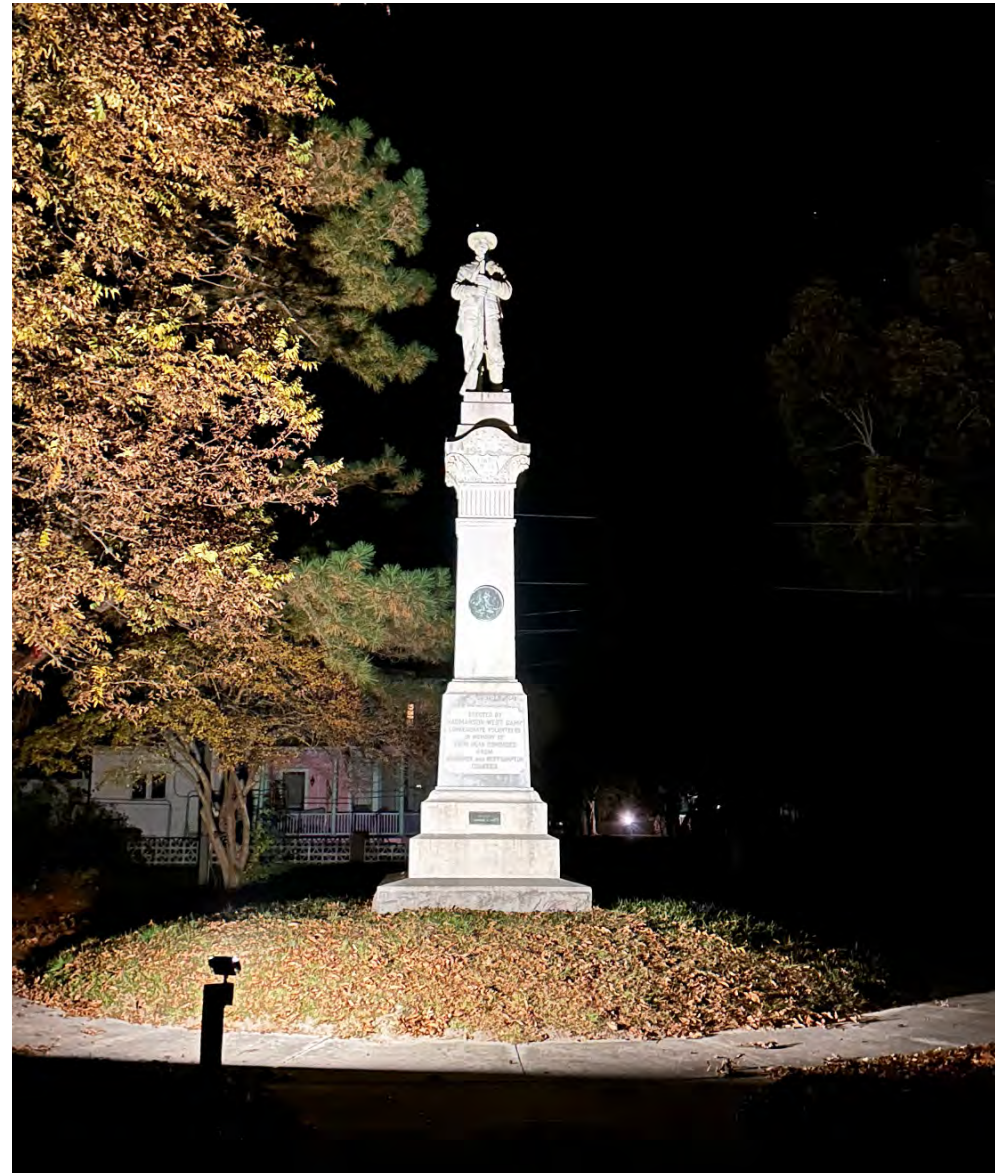
7. While the Eastern Shore was under Union occupation during the Civil War, the state capital to which it sent its elected representatives was not Richmond, which was then in the Confederacy. Name the two cities that served as the state capital for the Shore during that time.

8. The Confederate Monument in Parksley was made in _____ (place) from materials quarried in _____.

9. What book about the Eastern Shore of Virginia has been translated into more than 20 languages, including Finnish and Arabic?

10. A well-known "medicine" for dogs is named for a prominent (though not native) Eastern Shoreman. Who was he?

(Continued on page 9)



EASTERN SHORE POST/CLARA VAUGHN

Where was the Confederate Monument in Parksley made?

The Rev. Kirk Mariner was an Eastern Shore author, historian, and United Methodist minister whose book, "Off 13: The Eastern Shore of Virginia Guidebook," is an indispensable volume for natives and visitors alike.

Mariner died in 2017. His work appears in Eastern Shore First courtesy of Miona Publications.

Trivia

(Continued from page 8)

11. Though not a native of the Shore, this 10-year resident of Northampton County published a book about the Eastern Shore. Her daughter was a more famous writer, and used her mother (this resident) as the central character in a novel that became a TV mini-series. Who was she?

The answers

1. Eastville. Its town limits include part of the Ginkaskin Indian Reservation, most of which was located in nearby "Indiantown Neck."

2. (a) Cape Charles. Strictly speaking Cape Charles (the town) was named for Cape Charles (the cape), which was named for the English prince who later became King Charles I, who was deposed and beheaded in the 1640s.

(b) Sanford, named for Samuel Sandford (1640?-1711).

(c) Hacks Neck.
(d) Onley.

3. (a) Franktown. For centuries "Nassawadox" referred not to the town of today but to the general region on either side of Nassawadox Creek; the meeting house stood at the site of today's Franktown United Methodist Church.

(b) Harborton. The early steamboat wharf on Pungoteague Creek was located at the end of today's Martin Road.

(c) Seaview. The on-again off-again post office at this place was briefly known (for reasons unknown) as Wehoga in 1880-1881.

(d) Horsey. The original station here (1886) was known as Oak Hall Station; when the village of Oak Hall got its own station in 1907 it was named LeCato.

4. Fisherman Island did not exist in 1608. Like "the Hook" at the southern end of Assateague, it has arisen from the sea over the past 400 years, thanks to the constant shifting of the coastline.

5. Tangier Island.

6. Saxis. Forces of the Union Navy invaded Saxis on Nov. 16, 1861, to protect the flank of the Union army which was then marching down the center of the Shore from Maryland.

7. Wheeling, Va., until it became Wheeling, W. Va. in 1863, then Alexandria, through the end of the war.

8. Accomack County's monument to Confederate soldiers was made in Maryland from materials quarried in Vermont.

9. "Misty of Chincoteague" by Marguerite Henry.

10. John Sergeant Wise (1846-1913), son of Gov. Henry A. Wise and resident of Wise Point, allowed his middle name to be used for Sergeant's Flea Powder.

11. Leonora W. Wood (1892-1989), wife of the Rev. John A. Wood of Holmes Presbyterian Church in Cheriton, author of "Guide to Virginia's Eastern Shore" (1952), was the inspiration for the novel Christy (1967) by her daughter, Catherine Marshall, a well-known religious writer. Mrs. Wood is still remembered by a number of people from the Lower Shore.



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The sensory gifts of the Christmas season

When I was a child, Christmas was always about things, lists of things.

From the time the Sears Christmas catalog arrived in October, until just a few days before the holiday, I was making lists, and checking them twice.



Curtis
Badger

The toy section in the Sears catalog sparked unmitigated greed in the mind of a 10-year-old.

Now that I am older, I associate Christmas with the senses, not things. Christmas is about flavors and sights.

It is the aroma of cedar, the sounds of heaven and nature singing in unison.

We usually spent Christmas at my grandmother's house, and the voices and laughter of grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles are the sounds of Christmas that I consider a precious gift.

All of them are gone now. But I can still see their faces. And I can hear their voices.

My grandmother had a modern kitchen with all the conveniences, but she kept a wood-burning cookstove in the basement, which she called the cellar.

Whenever a special meal was

planned, it would mean multiple trips to the cellar. The turkey, ham, and yeast rolls were all the products of the wood stove.

The warm aroma of oak wood and ham would rise and press against the low ceiling of Grandma's cellar like a fragrant cloud.

And then someone would open the cellar door and it would rush down the hallway to the dining room, announcing its great promise.

I can remember only two gifts I received at Christmas. The 26-inch Western Flyer was my first new bicycle.

It came from the Western Auto store in Onancock and had a battery-powered headlight.

I got a pair of L.L. Bean Maine Hunting Shoes when I was 14. It was a gift marked with symbolism, noting that my parents believed my feet had stopped growing and it was now safe to buy me grown-up footwear.

They were right. Those size 10 boots with the rubber snow-tread bottoms got me through a decade of quail hunts.

What I remember about Christmas are the things I could see, smell, and feel. We always got a cedar Christmas tree from the marsh on my grandfather's farm.

I would crawl under the tree with the hand saw, the aroma of cedar pungent on a winter day, and as I sawed the trunk at ground level, little spurs of cedar fell and collected under the

collar of my jacket.

My neck would itch for the rest of the day. The aroma of cedar is Christmas. It is the sensory gift that the season brings.

We would drag the tree out of the marsh and drive it home in the back of the truck, and then put it up in the living room, where it would lend its fragrance to the entire house, mixing now and then with the breakfast aroma of frying bacon and salted fish slow-cooking in a cast-iron skillet.

Some years the tree would have a cocoon hidden within its branches, and after a few days of warmth, we would find our gift of miniature praying mantises among the presents beneath the tree.

The tree was like a member of the family for a fortnight or so, until the sweetness of Christmas played out and we returned to schools and jobs, and the Christmas toys went into the box in the closet with last year's toys.

Then the lights and decorations would be gathered and stored, and the old tree, dry and crisp, would be dragged across the room, leaving a trail of cedar spurs, and it would go out into the yard and under the bird feeder.

There it would stay until the grass needed mowing in late March or early April, and all this time it would support a family of white-throated sparrows that would hunt for spilled sunflower seeds and sing their plaintive song.

Curtis J. Badger is a Delmarva native who majored in English at Salisbury University and, with the exception of four years traveling as a U.S. Air Force photojournalist, has enjoyed a career photographing and writing about his native coast. His books include "Salt Tide: Cycles and Currents of Life Along the Coast," "Bellevue Farm: Exploring Virginia's Coastal Countryside," and many others. He lives in Accomack County.

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Jenean Hall * Jake Jacobs

Nancy Raven Smith * Bradford Smith * Betsy Wallace

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Saturday Dec. 9: 2pm-4pm

Kids' Ornament Painting

Sunday, Dec. 10, 1pm-3pm

Pre-registration required

Holiday Hours

Sunday afternoons Nov. 25-Dec. 31

Coffee shop and bookstore open 1pm-4pm

Christmas Eve open 1pm-4pm

Christmas Day and Dec 26th: Closed



Four Corner Plaza, Onley

757.787.7866

A Christmas to remember

It all started with a magic marker and a Sears Roebuck catalog.

The Christmas edition was called the “Wish Book,” and many hours were spent turning the pages and making wishes.

We were well aware that Santa Claus had a lot on his plate. Mother instructed us to circle a few of our favorite toys, and these suggestions would be passed on to the North Pole for consideration.

I’m not sure if it was excitement or greed that got the bet-

ter of us while we were marking the pages.

Mine looked more like a Vince Lombardi playbook with the Packers trailing by 10 points in the fourth quarter.

My mother was rather baffled by the cross-outs, revisions, footnotes, and check marks.

Christmas is usually a time of great excitement and the Eastern Shore is a wonderful place for celebrating the birth of Christ.

In the old days, each town and business put up the nicest decorations.

Shortly after Thanksgiving, every town would begin the process of stringing lights on the poles.

Candy canes, bells, and Christmas trees were illuminated, much to the delight of young and old alike.



“Living Shoreborn,”
by Barry Mears

Those storefronts were meticulously adorned with items that would catch the attention of a young boy or girl.

Many a parent nearly lost an arm to an eager youngster pointing out a new train set.

Perhaps it was the beautiful bride doll that caught the eye; there wasn’t a kid who hadn’t worked their parents over for a bright red Radio Flyer wagon.

“After all, Mom, this isn’t a toy; it’s more of a tool, and I can help you around the house.”

Walking into Western Auto in Exmore, I remember seeing a toy display like no other: doll houses, dresses, and Easy Bake Ovens.

There were bows and arrows and plastic survival knives with compasses in the handle; if you were looking for a toy paradise, this came close.

My grandmother loved to shop at Glick’s in Onancock; it wasn’t my favorite store at the time because I was afraid of being double-crossed with some new socks and underwear as a gift.

A family ride in the evening from Cape Charles to Salisbury would get everyone in the holiday spirit.

In the business district of most towns, stores lined the main road.

We would travel to Salisbury and visit what is now known as the old mall. As a child, this was considered a big adventure because there were dozens of stores lined with shining glass, and the fountains were loud as the crystal clear water fell back into the pool.

Many people have thrown some of their fortunes into the water in exchange for a wish.

This was the first place I encountered Kris Kringle, although he wasn’t the real Santa Claus.

Every youngster knew he was busy at the North Pole and his helpers were scattered about, scaring the daylights out of small children.

The mall was alive with Christmas music and lights, and the Salvation Army bells rang in unison, reminding us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

I still recall the thrill of having my first Orange Julius, a mouthwatering beverage that I most definitely couldn’t find at Truman Lewis’ store.

A trip to Salisbury took all day, and my sister and I slept much of the way home.

The weeks leading up to Dec. 25 were filled with excitement and anticipation. I noticed a lot of whispering among the adults; I’m sure that the thought of receiving a bunch of new toys was what was most important to most children back then.

It is through much older eyes we learn what was really special about Christmas — how as a family we celebrated the birth of Jesus.

Every gathering was filled with laughter, fellowship, and delicious food.

Most Christmas songs allude to the

fact that people are returning home to see their loved ones. Even now, I still have “I’ll Be Home for Christmas,” on my playlist. We love to play them while decorating the tree.

Every family has unique traditions about the Christmas tree. Some families put up their trees the day after Thanksgiving, while others wait until around mid-December.

When I was a boy, I remember cruising through the woods with my Pop in search of the perfect size and shape.

The trees looked considerably smaller in their natural environment than they did pulled into the living room.

He cut cedar, and even now the scent of it brings back memories of this activity.

We used to get a few second glances coming through Lee Mont with a giant cedar tree tied to the top of Pop’s Volkswagen Beetle. We would stop by Nate Willet’s store for a Yoo-hoo drink and a honey bun.

Once the beast had been trimmed and was standing, it was time to decorate. Christmas decorations have evolved quite nicely over the years; I grew up in an era of a cat’s best friend, yarn-covered ornaments, and silver tinsel. Anyone who is familiar with them may remember one or two messes that were credited to them.

One of my jobs was to unravel the previous year’s string lights. Theoretically they were always neatly rolled and stored for simple unwinding.

Once the lights were in a straight line, there was only one thing left to do. Each cord was plugged into the

(Continued on page 13)

Barry Mears is the author of “Living Shoreborn,” which was edited by his daughter, Kamryn Mears, and published in 2023. He is also the founder of the popular Shoreborn Facebook page, which delves daily into the history and culture of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Passages from his popular book, which is sold all over the Eastern Shore, will be printed monthly in Shore First. Mears said the name “Shoreborn” actually came from a family member who during conversations quipped as an affirmation, “as sure as you’re born.”

Shoreborn

(Continued from page 12)

other in a ritual that would make Clark Griswold proud.

It never failed that one or two strings would not light. My job was to replace each bulb; decorating a Christmas tree is probably a child's first experience with self-expression. Items made at school found a special spot to hang.

We made paper chains and threaded popcorn on long strings, which added a personal touch and a sense of accomplishment for a junior decorator.

Wrapping presents is either a blessing or a curse; a true test of a marriage is for a husband and wife to spend an afternoon wrapping Christmas presents.

It is usually fairly simple to identify the person who wrapped each gift, from her delicate Origami lesson to his dirty hands-duct tape method.

Once wrapped, the gifts found their way under the tree. Of course, these were big family gifts; the cornucopia would not arrive until the big guy came on Christmas morning.

The long season of anticipation was soon coming to its climax. The Eastern Shore churches were out in force, singing Christmas carols.

The joy of the season is not limited to the very young; everyone, regardless of age, has memories that they hold dear.

When I was a child, the morning of Christmas Eve was usually hectic since my mother was in the kitchen most of the day preparing food.

My pals and I would call each other to check what was going on at their house, and it was then that I began to second-guess some of my choices on the list to Santa.

Wayne Gwaltney had his hopes up, thinking a Zebco 202 was in his future; Carl Ayers had asked for a new erector set — why hadn't I thought of that?

It really didn't matter because the wheels of fate were already in motion.

Christmas Eve was a big deal at our house because it was when the extended family exchanged gifts and

ate an old country breakfast prepared by Mother.

As it got close to bedtime, my sister and I were allowed to open one gift, a teaser of what was to come.

I was never particularly skilled in selecting fun gifts to unwrap, but I suppose it didn't really matter because we all need items like t-shirts and underwear.

The last order of business was to leave a snack for the man of the hour, which in our house was the traditional milk and cookies.

Bedtime was a theory at best; who ever got a good night's sleep on Christmas Eve?

I tossed and turned all night, and my sister and I would sneak into each other's rooms to see if the other had fallen asleep.

By 3 a.m., we were so worn out that we started calling for mom at her bedroom door.

When she answered, she would tell us to go back to bed. The admonishment did little to deter us from pleading our case every 30 minutes or so; the technique usually paid off around 5 o'clock.

Mother would climb out of bed with her long chestnut hair all over the place. I don't know about your mother, but mine was not to be messed with until that first cup of coffee was past her lips.

We were on the verge of entering the living room when I heard the words that were a dagger to my heart. My sister and I had to wait for our neighbors to arrive before we could examine the haul.

These neighbors happened to be our grandparents, and despite moving slower than molasses on Christmas morning, I loved them dearly.

Once the sleepy family arrived, it was a time of magic. We were always given the greatest presents, but it wasn't until many years later that I learned about the sacrifices our family made for us.

My childhood memories of Santa Claus are ones I cherish to this day. Blessed with children and grandchildren, I am proud to say that I am still a believer.

Peace, love, and joy are always in season.



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Upscale consignment shop is ready for the holidays

BY CAROL VAUGHN

Shore First

The Dogwood Branch, an upscale consignment shop at 4 North St. in Onancock, provides an enjoyable shopping experience for customers and also helps fund the many activities of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Historical Society, which has operated the shop for the past six years.

Now decorated for the holiday season and filled with unusual items perfect for gift giving (especially for that hard-to-buy-for person), the Dogwood Branch's offerings include mainly home decor, furniture, artwork, jewelry, and the like — but no clothing.

Among the current offerings are creches, decoys, a large Victorian birdcage, and a fish carved of petrified wood.

Additionally, gift certificates are available.

"We've had everything from Mama Girls (artworks by a renowned local folk artist) to other local artists," said historical society executive director Hilary Hartnett-Wilson.

According to Hartnett-Wilson, the shop's name was derived from the "huge affinity" for dogwood trees of Agnes Ker, wife of John Ker, the owner of Ker Place, a stately home on Market Street that is now the historical society's headquarters.

The dogwood motif is repeated throughout Ker Place, Hartnett-Wilson said.

The Dogwood Branch is run entirely by a small group of dedicated volunteers, including among others longtimers Cheryl Gresham (who does research and pricing), Terry Ewell, Maryann

(Continued on page 15)



SHORE FIRST/CAROL VAUGHN

Dogwood Branch's offerings include mainly home decor, furniture, artwork, jewelry, and more.

Shop

(Continued from page 14)

Resky, Lynne Calvert, Linda Dunton, Claudia Underwood, and Louise Firtell, a nonagenarian and former antiques dealer.

"It's exciting. It's different every day," said Firtell.

"I've been volunteering for many, many, many years. I recommend it highly. It keeps you young; it keeps you busy," she said, adding, "You're working with women of all ages. The customers are from all walks of life, from all over the world. ... It's a real joy."

"The good part about being a volunteer is that you get first dibs on what comes in," said Hartnett-Wilson, adding, "You get to see so many interesting people. ... There's a camaraderie there."

Meeting the people who wander into the store is a great benefit of volunteering.

"When people walk through the door, we generally ask them where they are from — and very often they are from other parts of the world. We had a family here from Wales," Firtell said.

Hartnett-Wilson said additional volunteers are welcomed and could enable the shop to be open for more extended hours.

The hours at present are Monday, Thursday, and Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Volunteer docents at Ker Place also are needed.

If interested in volunteering (days and times are flexible), call the historical society at 757-787-8012.

The funds raised through sales at the Dogwood Branch go to pay for such worthy causes as historical society programs and speakers, exhibits, summer youth camps, and preservation of the society's historic properties, which in addition to Ker Place include Hopkins & Bros. Store and Wise cemetery.

In addition to the opportunity to shop for unique items and the opportunity to volunteer for a worthwhile cause, the Dogwood Branch provides an outlet for people to sell on consignment their lovely but no-longer-needed items.

Monday is the best day to contact the shop about consigning items.

For information about consigning, email a list of items with photos to consignment@shorehistory.org or call 757-789-5368 (during shop hours) or 757-787-8012 to make an appointment for drop-off.

Calvert noted that, in addition to individual consignors, some local organizations have consignment accounts with the shop — providing a win-win whereby the organization as well as the historical society can raise funds.

"Any organization can start one (a consignment account)," Calvert said.



SHORE FIRST/CAROL VAUGHN

The Dogwood Branch is an upscale consignment shop at 4 North St. in Onancock.

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Pane E Vino wine bar brings new tastes to Cape Charles

BY JIM RITCH
Shore First

Imagine for a moment the many activities that could follow a successful 42-year career in medicine, a career that started in New York and wound up serving the U.S. embassy staff in Rome, Italy.

Was your first thought to open a 24-seat wine and coffee bar in Cape Charles?

That's exactly what retired gynecologist Paul Caciula, and his wife, Josephine Santoro, also a retired gynecologist, opened in November.

Their unlikely path to owning Pane E Vino included an earthquake, a leading Italian cooking school, ownership of a hotel and 80-seat restaurant, and a black-and-white, cocker spaniel named, Birillo, which translates as "Bowling Pin."

For Caciula, the path began at Flushing Medical School in New York, where he graduated in 1985.

He worked in the city for 14 years before returning to Italy, where he served in a Rome hospital and met Santoro.

As his career wound on, his love of food grew.

He enrolled in the Gambero Rosso cooking school, performing hospital rounds by day and attending cooking classes at night.

In 1996, Caciula and Santoro purchased a 40-acre farm in the Umbria region, near Tuscany, that included over 300 olive trees.

However, the farm "was too big to have fun," said Caciula.

So, the hard-working couple re-

(Continued on page 19)



Paul Caciula, left, and Josephine Santoro, both retired gynecologists, stand near the bar at Pane E Vino, a wine bar they just opened in Cape Charles. "We can't make our own wine, but we make our own food and bread," said Santoro. The couple also serve their own olive oil, harvested and produced from 300 trees they own in Italy.

SHORE FIRST/JIM RITCH

Wine bar

(Continued from page 18)

tooled it, converting a basement storage area for hay into a restaurant where most of the seating and a remote cooking area were outdoors.

"During the summer, we were cooking outdoors constantly," said Santoro.

They harvested eggs from their own chickens, vegetables from their garden and bottled their own olive oil.

They turned entire animals on a spit and entertained bus tours of foodies.

Then, in 2016, the first of many earthquakes shook Umbria, eventually cracking the building.

The couple chose to sell and create a smaller restaurant focused on wine and tapas-style cicchetti, small plates of tasty food that customers could share.

They picked Virginia as a mid-

When you go

WHAT: Pane E Vino wine bar

WHERE: 300 Mason Ave, Unit B, Cape Charles

HOURS: 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Tuesday-Saturday; noon

to 2 p.m. Sunday

dle ground on America's east coast where this style of cooking was still new.

About six months ago, they wandered into Cape Charles and found a nice beach on which to walk Birillo.

They liked the marina and town, and immediately bid on a condo.

Once again, they live above the restaurant they operate.

And because they still own their farm's olive trees, they still serve their own olive oil with their own freshly baked bread when customers first sit down.



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Calendar

(Continued from page 2)

boutiques.

■ **CRAFT EVENT:** 5 to 7:30 p.m., New Ravenna's annual Holiday Craft Faire, 3268 Broad St., Exmore. Vendors will sell candles, art, embroidery, jewelry, treats, food, and more.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** Peter Mayer's Stars and Promises Christmas tour will be performing at the Exmore Moose Lodge, 15315 Merry Cat Lane, Belle Haven. Tickets are \$35 and are available at www.petermayer.com. Doors open at 4 p.m. From 4 to 6 p.m., the Moose Lodge's dining room and bar will be open for dinner and drinks. Call 757-919-0337 or 757-709-4333 for more information.

■ **FREE MOVIE:** 7 p.m., "A Christmas Carol" at the Roseland Theatre, Onancock. Free showing including a drink and popcorn. Presented by the Roseland Cinema and Entertainment Center.

Friday, December 8

■ **FARMERS MARKET:** 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Parksley Farmers and Artisans Market, 18444 Dunne Ave., Parksley.

■ **BENEFIT DINNER:** 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Melfa Volunteer Fire and Rescue will hold a lunch and dinner fundraiser at the fire hall, 28328 Hatton St., Melfa. The menu is meat loaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, a roll, and a drink for \$12, eat in or takeout. Desserts will be available.

■ **FRIDAY NIGHTS AT THE MUSEUM:** 5 to 7 p.m., the Cape Charles Museum will be open during Festival Fridays. Capt. Andy Dunton will read "Eastern Shore Night Before Christmas" and there will be light refreshments. Kids can write and mail letters to Santa, and receive Kindness Certificates and Spirit of Christmas Medals. Children's Crafts will be held by volunteer and author Nan Carlton. There will be visits by Santa and Elves and gift shopping in Museum Shop.

■ **EVENT:** 5 to 8 p.m., Christmas Tree Village at the Museum of Chincoteague Island, 7125 Maddox Blvd., Chincoteague. Enjoy a collection of Christmas trees decorated by area businesses and individuals in the legacy pavilion. The event is free to the public but visitors can purchase holiday tokens that can be used to vote for their favorite tree.

■ **FESTIVE FRIDAYS:** 5 to 8 p.m., Festive Fridays Winter Wonderland in the Cape Charles shopping district. Enjoy Santa and Mrs. Claus, a petting zoo, horse-drawn carriage rides, and more. Shops and restaurants will be open late.

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 5 to 8 p.m., Tidewater Bluegrass Revival at the Lemon Tree Gallery, 301 Mason Ave., Cape Charles.

■ **ART STROLL:** 5 to 8 p.m., Second Friday Art Stroll in downtown Onancock.

■ **DINNER AND SHOW:** 7 p.m., "Blue Dog Christmas" at the Mar-Va Theater, Pocomoke City, Md. \$65 for dinner and the show; \$25 for the show. Purchase tickets at www.marvatheater.com

■ **THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE:** 7:30 p.m., "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jr." at the North Street Playhouse, 34 Market St., Onancock. \$15 tickets are available at www.northstreetplayhouse.org

Saturday, December 9

■ **ARTISAN MARKET:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Holiday Artisan Market at Historic Onancock School, 6 College Ave., Onancock. Artists, vendors, authors, and entrepreneurs.

■ **SANTA:** 11 a.m., Santa arrives by boat at the Onancock Wharf.

■ **SANTA:** 1 to 5 p.m., Belle Haven United Methodist Church, 35446 Belle Haven Road, Belle Haven, will have a bake sale and photos with Santa.

■ **HOMES TOUR:** 1 to 5 p.m., Christmas Homes Tour. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased the day of the event, which will be held rain or shine, at the Historic Onancock School and each of the homes on the tour. The tour includes homes at 2 South St., 5 North St., 4 Crockett Ave., and 5 Kerr St. Sponsored by the Onancock Business and Civic Association.

■ **COOKIE TRAIL:** 2 to 5 p.m., The Historic Cape Charles Cookie Trail will have homes and participating bed-and-breakfast inns in the Cape Charles Historic District inviting visitors to tour their homes to enjoy the architecture and festive decorations and share a seasonal snack. Participants should register at the Almeta Café in the Hotel Cape Charles, 235 Mason Ave., pick up a map, and visit as many homes as they would like along the trail. The Northampton Hotel is a stop on the tour and will sell a specialty cocktail for the event. The entry fee for this event is the contribution of a nonperishable food item that will be donated to the Eastern Shore Food Pantry and Food Bank. Ornaments, produced by Sunday Table Company in Richmond, will be on sale with proceeds benefiting the Cape Charles Volunteer Fire Department. Cash donations are also welcome.

■ **THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE:** 2:30 p.m., "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jr." at the North Street Playhouse, 34 Market St., Onancock. \$15 tickets are available at www.northstreetplayhouse.org

■ **TOOL MANIA:** The Cape Charles Volunteer Fire Co. will hold its 17th annual Tool Mania on Dec. 9 from 3 to 9 p.m. at the fire hall in Cape Charles. Tickets are \$25 each for adults, \$10 for children aged 4 to 12, and \$3 for children 3 and under. Children's tickets are not included in the raffle. Drawings will be held every 10 minutes. There will be additional raffles, silent auctions, and door prizes. Beer will be sold and there will be free refreshments and food. The grand prize package is a Stihl battery-operated push mower and a Stihl battery-operated string trimmer. Winners do not have to be present to win but the ticket stub will be needed to claim prizes.

■ **EVENT:** 5 to 8 p.m., Christmas Tree Village at the Museum of Chincoteague Island, 7125 Maddox Blvd., Chincoteague. Enjoy a collection of Christmas trees decorated by area businesses and individuals in the legacy pavilion. The event is free to the public but visitors can purchase holiday tokens that can be used to vote for their favorite tree.

■ **PARADE:** 6 p.m., the annual Exmore Christmas Parade sponsored by the Community Volunteer Fire and Rescue Co., Exmore. Rain date is Saturday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m.

■ **HOLIDAY DINNER:** 6 to 8 p.m., Ker Place in Onancock, catered by Mallards at the Wharf. Historic home and museum will be decorated. Drinks are included in the cost

of the \$125 ticket. Please call 757-787-8012 or email marketing@shorehistory.org for more information.

■ **DINNER AND SHOW:** 7 p.m., "Blue Dog Christmas" at the Mar-Va Theater, Pocomoke City, Md. \$65 for dinner and the show; \$25 for the show. Purchase tickets at www.marvatheater.com

■ **THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE:** 7:30 p.m., "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jr." at the North Street Playhouse, 34 Market St., Onancock. \$15 tickets are available at www.northstreetplayhouse.org

Sunday, December 10

■ **LIVE MUSIC:** 1 to 4 p.m., open mic and jam session open to local musicians each Sunday at Cape Charles Brewing Company, 2198 Stone Road, Cape Charles. Free admission.

■ **HOLIDAY EVENT:** 1 to 4 p.m., American Legion Post 56 in Cheriton will hold its third annual Holiday Sip and Shop. There will be a variety of local artists and vendors. The event is open to the public. Food and beverages will be available for purchase and there will also be a raffle held during the event.

■ **FREE MOVIE:** 2:30 p.m., "Polar Express" at the Roseland Theatre, Onancock. Free showing including a drink and popcorn. Presented by the Roseland Cinema and Entertainment Center.

■ **PARADE:** 5 p.m., Onancock Christmas Parade, Market Street. Lineup is on College Avenue.

Thursday, December 14

■ **OPEN HOUSE:** 3 to 7 p.m., The Nature Conservancy's Holiday Open House at Brownsville will be held at 11369 Brownsville Road, Nassawadox. Tour historic Brownsville House, visit with Nature Conservancy staff and volunteers, and warm up with apple cider and holiday treats. The event is free and open to the public. For questions, please call 442-3049 or email mvancielief@tnc.org.

■ **FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS:** 5:30 p.m., The Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital's 40th annual Festival of Lights will celebrate the holidays with a traditional in-person gathering under the canopy in front of Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital. Names of loved ones being honored or memorialized by light purchasers will be presented digitally both in person and on Facebook on December 14th. The recognition may be shared digitally with loved ones near and far and may be accessed for months to come. Lights can be purchased in any quantity for \$10 each, and there are opportunities to purchase larger ads as well. To participate, look for a post on Riverside Shore Memorial's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/riversideshorememorial, or call 757-302-2140. Credit card purchases are available for a light, ad, or ornament online at <https://donatenow.ne.twork-forgood.org/festivaloflights>

■ **INTERNATIONAL FILM:** 7 p.m., Onancock International Films presents "Roise and Frank," at the Roseland Theatre in Onancock. Sponsored by the Roseland Cinema and Entertainment Center.

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Adults \$30 & Students \$15



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DECEMBER 2 | 3:00PM



Historic Palace Theatre | Adults \$20 & Students \$10

DECEMBER 3 | 4:00PM



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ESCC Foundation Oyster Roast is Jan. 26

Eastern Shore Community College Foundation has announced its fifth annual Oyster Roast fundraiser on Friday, Jan. 26 from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

All proceeds support scholarships and services for students. The event is held on campus, both outdoors under a tent with heaters, and inside the Workforce Development Building and Great Hall.

ESCC Foundation's Oyster Roast has become a fast favorite in the early part of each calendar year, tapping into the rich Eastern Shore oyster roast tradition with a cause that has lasting impact on local students.

This is ESCC's top fundraiser for scholarships and services to help local students enroll and complete credits at ESCC.

Attendees enjoy locally-sourced oysters and clams roasted and steamed on site along with homemade clam chowder, local craft beer, plus wine and sodas.

To round out the menu, barbecue and side dishes are also available, served by ESCC's own student ambassadors.

A silent auction will return this year with items donated by local and regional businesses.

This year's featured entertainment will be the Brandon Bower Trio from Virginia Beach.

Originally hailing from Augusta, Ga., Bower entertains audiences with a high-energy delivery and has perfected his craft with years of gigging and touring.

He has shared the stage with James Brown and the Soul Generals, Jennifer Nettles (of Sugarland), Colonel Bruce Hampton and The Code Talkers, Tim Reynolds, Chris Barron of the Spin Doctors, Monte Montgomery, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, John Michael Montgomery, Twila Paris, and many others.

In conjunction with performing, Bower is a distinguished songwriter of over 50 originals and has co-written with Charles Kelley, frontman of the chart-topping trio, Lady A.

The ESCC Foundation is excited to see Bower bring his talents to the 2024 event.

Ticket sales begin Dec. 1 through es.vccs.edu and sponsorship opportunities are also available.

For details on sponsorships, please contact Patty Kellam at 757-789-1749 or email pkellam@es.vccs.edu.



Eastern Shore Community College Foundation has announced its fifth annual Oyster Roast fundraiser on Friday, Jan. 26 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. This year's featured entertainment will be the Brandon Bower Trio from Virginia Beach.

Bank of Cheer drive accepting donations

For the past 64 years the Bank of Cheer has helped to make Christmas a little brighter for those less fortunate with the delivery of food and other necessities for about 200 local needy families.

With donations from the community, organizers of Bank of Cheer purchase food that will be packed and delivered by volunteers, many of whom have helped for a decade or more.

Laura Trala has directed Bank of Cheer for more than 20 years and organizes the purchase and packing of the food and the delivery, which takes place about a week before Christmas. Volunteers with the help of the Accomack County Parks and Recreation Department pack the food prior to the delivery day.

Traditionally, the Christmas boxes include a turkey or ham, canned meats, fruit, vegetables,

flour, and other staples.

It has become a Christmas tradition for local residents, community organizations, churches and other groups to make a donation to the Bank of Cheer. Donors know that 100% of their donations go to help the Bank of Cheer recipients. All labor and transportation expenses are donated. Dublin Farms has provided the boxes used for packing the food for many years now. The Foodbank of the Eastern Shore provides a base for packing the food and delivery.

Recipients are selected by community leaders, who confer with ministers, organizations, and employees of Social Services departments to determine the families who most need help.

Monetary donations can be mailed to: Bank of Cheer, c/o Laura Trala, P.O. Box 646, Onley, VA 23418



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Volunteers pack boxes for the Bank of Cheer delivery. The initiative is raising money to distribute 200 boxes of food to Eastern Shore families by Christmas.



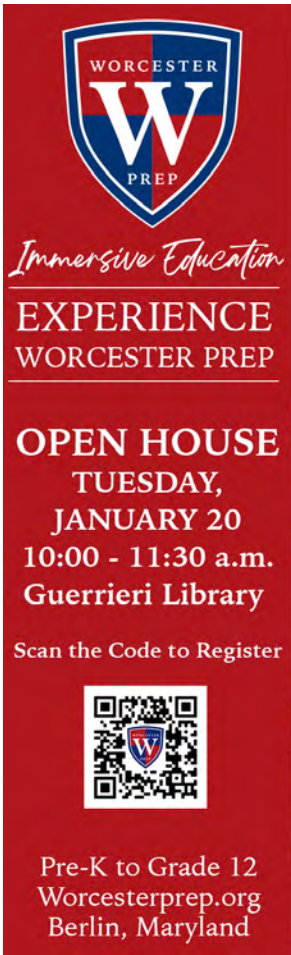
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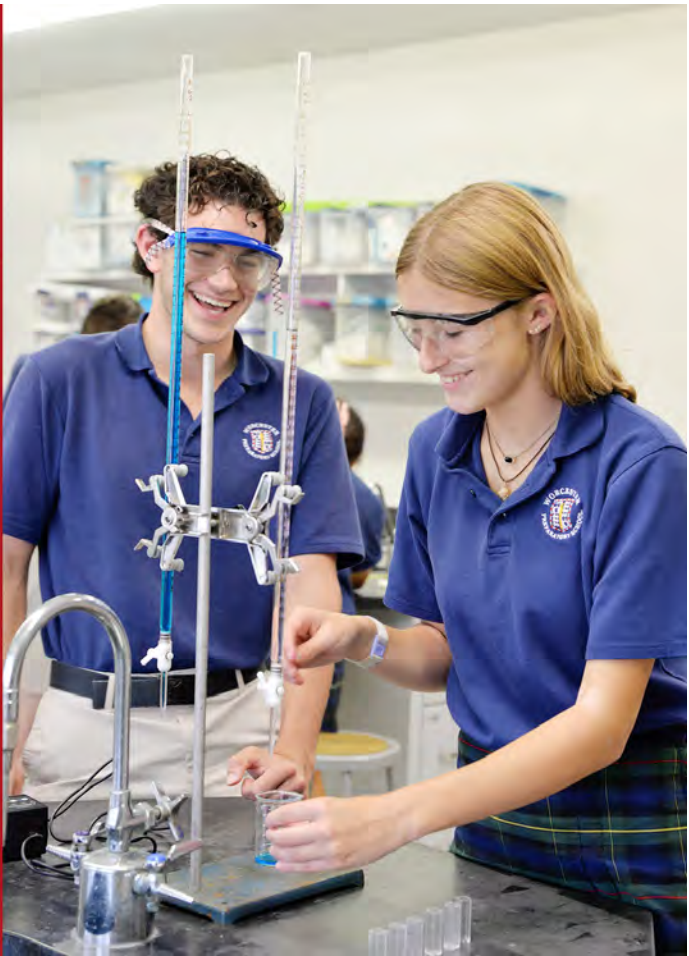
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A festive December at the theatre

The Christmas Season is full at the Historic Palace Theatre. Arts Enter, the 501(c)(3) not for profit fine and performing art center in Cape Charles, is producing several programs to celebrate the sights and sounds of the season.

On Saturday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. the Musical Theatre students under the direction of Broadwater senior Emma Philpot will be performing "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."

It tells the story of six misfit children who volunteer to star in their town's Sunday school Christmas pageant and end up teaching the town the true meaning of Christmas. Laughs abound in this bestselling Christmas classic by Barbara Robinson! "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" follows the outrageous shenanigans of the Herdman siblings, or "the worst kids in the history of the world."

To continue with Christmas festivities on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m., The Shore Singers, an established Community Choir directed by Megan Cartwright, will perform at the Palace Theatre.

Men and women in the chorus have been rehearsing since October and new members have been joining the group regularly.

After the performance there will be a community sing-a-long. Donations are welcome. The choir will continue in 2024.

For what is becoming a traditional Christmas concert, the Virginia Symphony Holiday Brass will fill the stage of the theatre on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Bold sounds of the Virginia Symphony brass section will ring in the holidays with a blast. The audience will experience the festive sounds of the season in a concert filled with wit, virtuosity, and the glorious music of the holidays — featuring the VSO brass and percussion sections in an all-new program.

Patrons will enjoy music from a variety of styles that have made this concert a new holiday tradition.

As the region's most celebrated musical, educational, and entrepreneurial arts organization, the Virginia Symphony Orchestra is the largest performing arts organization in southeastern Virginia. Paul Bhasin will conduct the symphony.

His career began when he won the Yamaha Young Performing Artist Competition in 1998. Bhasin serves as Music Director and Conductor of the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra and Atlanta Chamber Music Festival.

He has also led performances as a guest conductor with members of the Richmond Symphony,



For what is becoming a traditional Christmas concert, the Virginia Symphony Holiday Brass will fill the stage of the theatre on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m.

National Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, and Kennedy Center Opera Orchestra.

Tickets are available at the Lemon Tree Gallery or at www.artsentercapecharles.org. Adult tickets are \$30. Blue Heron Realty, a much-appreciated patron of the arts over many years, is the presenting sponsor for the performance.

Gerry Gennarelli will be traveling from Italy for a special return performance in the theatre on Thursday, Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m. A world-renowned vocalist and pianist Gerry will delight the audience with ballads and classics and a bit of Christmas music as well.

The Lemon Tree Gallery will be alive with activity during Cape Charles' Festive Fridays. On Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22 there will be a featured artist in the Gallery along with live entertainment and a cash bar.

There will be a special Neil Young tribute performer on Friday, Dec. 15. Fridays at Lemon Tree are an ongoing weekly activity promoted for the community. At the conclusion of each Festive Friday evening, a holiday film will be presented in the Historic Palace Theatre.

This first event of the new year is scheduled for

Feb. 10 when the popular band, the Shoal Shakers, will be the featured music for a Valentine Dance party in the theatre.

This will be a precursor to the exciting and high caliber programs that Arts Enter Cape Charles has in store for the coming season.

Among the highlights are The Latin Ballet on March 2. The Latin Ballet of Virginia is a non-profit performing arts organization that enriches and connects communities through Latin cultural dance experiences.

A tribute to ABBA in April and a One Act Play Festival are also being planned. Arts Enter is also preparing to present the world's longest running musical The Fantasticks, a story of two neighboring fathers who trick their children, Luisa and Matt, into falling in love by pretending to feud. The show will run from May 3 to 5.

For more information about any of these events or dance, music and theatre classes for adults and children, please call 757-331-4327. Arts Enter Cape Charles, the Lemon Tree Gallery, the Historic Palace Theatre and Films That Move help to keep the arts alive in Cape Charles.

Thelma Gillespie, Clinton Strand are Onancock parade grand marshals

Onancock town leaders Thelma Gillespie and Clinton Strand have been selected by the town of Onancock and Onancock Business and Civic Association to be grand marshals of the Onancock Christmas Parade.

The parade is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 10, at 5 p.m. Lineup is on College Avenue and the parade will proceed on Market Street toward the wharf.

Parade entries are being accepted for those interested up until Thursday, Dec. 7.

Christmas parade entries can be picked up at the Onancock Town Office or through the OBCA website at www.onancock.org

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100 years ago
December 1923

Holt awards Cape Charles part of claim

Annexation proceedings brought by the town of Cape Charles in an effort to annex 471 acres of land by extending the corporate limits, have resulted in 171 acres being added. Judge H. W. Holt of Staunton, who was designated by Governor Trinkle to try the case, handed down his decision late yesterday in the circuit court of Northampton county. Three days were required for the hearing.

The new territory granted the town includes two city blocks to the north of the corporate limits and six city blocks to the east of the town, which is excellent farm land, belonging to the Scott estate, representing 117 acres. This territory was sought for building lots to take care of the immediate expansion of the town to relieve the housing problem of Cape Charles.

Fifty-four acres of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company's property was also granted the town. This section is to the southwest of the corporate limits which includes the ferry docks, superintendents' office buildings and the passenger and freight transfer depots. The territory annexed will add approximately \$6,000 to the town's revenues each year.

The suit was vigorously fought by Cape Villa district, which previously received tax levies from the territory.

In the town's suit 471 acres were sought to be annexed. Judge Holt granted the town 171 acres, which he pointed out was sufficient to take care for a reasonable length of time of the town's growth.

The town of Cape Charles was represented by Topping and Topping, of Cape Charles, and J. Brooks Mapp of Keller, while the defense was represented by Judge Willcox of Norfolk, Mears and Mears of Eastville, John E. Nottingham of Franktown, and Thos. H. Nottingham of Eastville.

— *Ledger-Star*

Cape Charles will have community Christmas tree

In the interest of civic advancement and to increase the get-together spirit throughout the county, plans have been formulated and the various committees appointed on arrangement work to have a community Christmas tree in Cape Charles, whereby all children under twelve years of age from the

whole county may see Santa Claus, view the largest Christmas tree ever seen on the shore, and receive a gift.

Dr. C. B. Trower has donated a 25-foot cedar tree which is to be permanently planted on a vacant lot facing the business section of the town which will be lighted with 1,000 electric lights of various colors, with the Cape Charles band furnishing music while Santa Claus appears and delivers gifts to the hundreds of children who are expected to be here for the occasion.

— *Ledger-Star*

Boy puts match to gasoline pool, menacing Onancock

What might have resulted in the loss of many lives and the wiping out of the business section of Onancock by a disastrous fire, was prevented by the promptness of a number of citizens when a mischievous boy set fire to a quantity of gasoline in front of the Onancock Hotel.

It was while the Standard Oil tank wagon was filling one of the underground tanks that the boy pulled the hose out of the pipe leading to the ground tank and allowed several gallons of gasoline to flow on the ground. Then, putting the hose back where it belonged, he set fire to the pool of gasoline, which shot up a sheet of flame only a few feet from where the steady stream of gas was flowing from the wagon to the underground tank.

There was a frantic dash made by a number of men and boys standing near-by, who threw sand, ashes and dirt on the blaze, while others cut off the flow from the wagon and screwed on the cap to the pip leading to the underground tank.

— *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

Farm Bureau to hear reports and select officers for the year

The Accomac County Farm Bureau will on Friday, December 28, hold its annual meeting and election of officers for the coming year at Accomac. A full day's program has been arranged, starting at 10:30 o'clock in the morning. B. D. Kellam, the secretary, will read a report of the bureau's activities for the past year after which the election of officers will take place. At the afternoon session several prominent speakers will address the members, among them will be State Secretary Frank Nelson, of Roanoke; C. G. Crockett, of Norge, and County Agent Quisenberry.

The fertilizer contract for the coming year has been let with a Norfolk company. Accomac County and other bureaus in the pool, it is said, will total around 6,000 tons. The value of this fertilizer was proven last summer at the experiment station at Onley, Va., where they showed an average increased production of 17 per cent over seven other brands they used. This was a difference of nine and one-half barrels of potatoes per acre.

The farm bureaus of the two Virginia Eastern Shore counties are proving their worth and through their co-operative marketing plan put in force last year, thousands of dollars in revenue was added to the growers' returns.

— *The Roanoke Times*

Health unit for Northampton County

With an appropriation of \$6,000 by the county, State, school board, nursing association and the town of Cape Charles, Northampton county will, January 1, 1924, have a complete health unit, according to the decision reached last week of the board of supervisors at Eastville.

At the meeting there was a large number of public spirited citizens representing all parts of the county in attendance with Dr. Kane and L. L. Williams, of the State health department, all of whom expressed themselves as favoring the proposition.

— *The Roanoke Times*

Aged Onancock physician dies

After a short illness, Dr. Edgar Waples Robertson, aged 78 years, one of the two oldest practitioners in Accomac County, died at his home here Tuesday, December 11. He had practiced medicine for nearly sixty years.

Dr. Robertson was born at Kingston, Md., in 1845, but was brought to Onancock, which was the home of his mother's people, when he was 18 months old, on the death of his father. He graduated from Margaret Academy, and it is said he never missed a school day, covering the round trip of ten miles to school either on horse back or on foot. He received his degree at the University of Maryland in 1866 and was placed in jail twice by the Federal authorities during the Civil War for refusing to state he would not aid the Confederacy.

His funeral, which was attended by representatives of several generations from all parts of the Shore, was held Thursday at the Onancock Baptist Church, and interment was in Onancock Cemetery.

(Continued on page 27)

Yesteryears

(Continued from page 26)

Services were conducted by Rev. S. A. Campbell, recently pastor of the church, assisted by Rev. Richard Lloyd, of the Exmore Baptist Church; H. W. Dunkley, of Onancock M. E. Church, South; H. N. Laws, of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church; and T. C. Smoot, of Cokesbury M. E. Church.

He is survived by three sons. Messrs. Fred W., Thomas E., and Dr. John W. Robertson. He was ex-president of the Accomac County Medical Society, a member of the Virginia State Medical Board and a fellow of the American Medical Association.

— Worcester Democrat

Wheeler Producing Co. gains much popularity

Chincoteague is to present "Hip, Hip Hooray" and "Petticoat Minstrel Revue," Tuesday and Wednesday, December 18th and 19th. This will be

produced by the Wheeler Producing Company, of Lancaster, Pa., and will have a cast of about 75 of Chincoteague's best talent. Rehearsals start Monday, December 3d. The play will be presented in the new school auditorium and the proceeds are to go towards helping pay for the new seats which are to be installed.

— The Roanoke Times

Better service for telephone patrons

Pocomoke is to have additional telephone toll lines to Temperanceville, Chincoteague and Crisfield, according to an announcement made by H. W. Carty, manager of the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company.

Three lines now connect Pocomoke with Temperanceville, and these circuits handle about 72 calls per day. An additional line is to be built which will provide adequate facilities and make possible the handling of approximately 110 calls per day.

Pocomoke is connected with Chincoteague with

one line at the present time with a capacity of about 14 calls per day. Another line is to be built which will make it possible to handle 41 calls per day. The present line with a capacity of 14 calls now handles about 31 calls per day.

One additional line is to be built to Crisfield which will make a total of three with a capacity of about 107 calls a day.

The lines will be ready for use in time to handle the expected increase in business during the fall of 1924.

— The Roanoke Times

Former Accomac sheriff dies

Mr. John H. Wise, former sheriff of Accomac County died Wednesday morning, December 12, 1923, at the home of his brother, Mr. George D. Wise, near Pastoria. For quite awhile he had been living at the hotel at Parksley, but on Monday morning was taken to the home of his brother, who owns and occupies the old Wise homestead.

Mr. Wise was the son of Major John E. and Elizabeth (Continued on page 28)

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Yesteryears

(Continued from page 27)

abeth Wise, and was born November 9, 1842. His father and the late Mr. John J. Blackstone, were for years sheriff and later treasurer of Accomack County. While the last few years of his life were spent in retirement, a very large part of his long life was spent in public service in his county.

— *The Daily Times*

75 years ago
December 1948

Fire destroys home of Exmore family

Fire yesterday added to the distress of an Exmore couple awaiting the arrival of their son's body for reburial.

Mr. and Mrs. Nottingham Smith lost their home, most of their furnishing and Christmas presents when fire burned their two-story Colonial type frame building to the ground.

Richard L. Dix, Exmore fire chief, said when equipment arrived at the Smith farm about 10 miles out in the country the roof was ablaze. He said a spark from the chimney ignited the roof. Mr. Smith discovered the fire about 9:30 a.m.

The Smiths, who are staying with relatives could not be reached by telephone today, but Mr. Dix said the arrival of Albert Nottingham Smith's body is expected momentarily. He was killed during World War II.

— *The Daily Times*

Better service for telephone patrons

Considerable excitement has been aroused by the finding of a new cabin launch adrift in Pocomoke Sound, with her running lights burning, her engine warm, two bottles of whiskey in her cabin, but no sign of crew or passengers. She was found by Captain Dike Taylor, of Onancock last Sunday morning shortly before sunrise, off Popular Island towed into Crisfield to await an owner or claimant. The general theory among the Chesapeake Bay men is that her original occupants fell overboard while the craft was under way. There was no sign of disorder on board. She is thirty-six feet long and six foot beam and cost about \$3,000 to build. The custom authorities have been notified.

— *Worcester Democrat*

Woman dies of crash injuries

An elderly Brooklyn, N. Y., woman, enroute to Hollywood, Calif. with her family, died today of injuries sustained yesterday in an automobile accident just south of Pocomoke.

A Peninsula General Hospital spokesman said Mrs. Antoinette Recevuto, 72, died at 8:45 a.m. of a crushed chest.

Maryland State Police said Mrs. Recevuto was thrown from an automobile driven by Mario Cerrotta, 32, a son-in-law also of Brooklyn, when the Cerrotta car and a panel truck operated by John Mills, 32, Upper Fairmont, collided at the intersection of Route 13 and 113. Mr. Cerrotta was treated for a lacerated finger.

He was accompanied by his wife and three children. The group was planning to move to Hollywood and had spent Wednesday night in Snow Hill.

A charge of failing to yield the right of way was brought against Mr. Cerrotta.

— *The Daily Times*

Pocomoke City fire loss tops \$30,000

A series of fires on Maryland's Eastern Shore over the week-end resulted in temporary unemployment for a group of meat plant workers and damage to a number of homes.

Damage of between \$30,000 and \$40,000 was caused by a blaze which swept the Johnson Meat Products Company plant at Pocomoke City Sunday night.

Firemen from the area battled the blaze from 4:30 p.m. Sunday to 6 a.m. Monday. A large quantity of meat and equipment was destroyed.

George L. Bounds, owner of the two-story plant, said it would be rebuilt.

Salisbury's volunteer firemen were kept busy for more than 30 hours extinguishing nineteen small fires which broke out in homes during the Yuletide celebration.

— *Denton Journal*

State Gideon president speaker at Cape Charles

John N. Toxey, president of the Gideons International of Virginia, will speak on the work of the Gideons at Cape Charles Presbyterian Church Sunday at 11 a.m.

Representatives of the Gideon organization in Norfolk will accompany the State head of the move-

ment to Cape Charles.

It is the second visit of Gideons to the Eastern Shore recently, members having placed Bibles in the Northampton-Accomac Hospital at Nassawadox. The Norfolk Chapter gave Bibles to the hospital and the Auxiliary presented Bibles to the nurses.

— *The Roanoke Times*

Radio-controlled plane vanishes without a trace

The Navy admitted today that it was licked by a baby from this bright, new radio-controlled atomic postwar age.

Search planes went out in a forlorn hunt from the Chincoteague Naval Air Station, but they didn't have much hope of finding Baby in one piece.

Baby was a radio-controlled pilotless fighter "Drone" plane, which whizzed disobediently off toward Maryland yesterday, paying no attention to the frantic radio hoohoos sent out by its mother ship.

One minute the Drone was sitting quietly on the airstrip where it was supposed to be, Capt. W. V. R. Vieweg, commander of the base, reported. Then without any radio command from its startled "mother," it suddenly roared down the strip under full throttle, rocketed up to 22,000 feet and bounced off among the clouds.

The heavy mother ship took off in pursuit, but its radio equipment kept it too far behind to have any effect on Baby. Other radio-controlled planes joined the chase but Baby continued to scoot heedlessly ahead.

Vieweg was sure Baby had come down by now, probably to no good end. The Drone carried enough fuel to last three hours in normal flight, he explained, but with its throttles wide open it would exhaust its tanks in 90 minutes.

The Navy officer said he was sure the base would hear about it when Baby came to earth— probably in the marshes near the coast, or else at sea, if it kept heading in the same direction.

— *The Roanoke Times*

50 years ago
December 1973

Bay towing boat beached

The 75-foot motorboat Hunt Brothers was beached early today in shallow water at the mouth

(Continued on page 29)

Yesteryears

(Continued from page 28)

of the Onancock Creek, on the Virginia Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay.

A tug from Onancock stood by while the Coast Guard cutter Violet continued to proceed to the disabled motorboat.

The Coast Guard identified persons on board the motorboat as Milton Wilson, Hampton, Va.; Guy West, Hampton, and Nelson Reed, Newport News, Va.

The Hunt sent out an SOS when it sprang a leak about three miles south of Tangier Island in the Chesapeake Bay, and two Coast Guard craft answered. One, a 52-foot picket boat, turned back to its base because of weather, the Coast Guard said.

The motorboat is owned by the W. P. Hunt Brothers of Hampton, and is used for towing oil barges in the Chesapeake Bay, a member of the firm said. Wilson was reported to be skipper of the Hunt.

— *The Daily Times*

Policeman hurt in weekend mishap

A Pocomoke City town police officer is in the special care unit at the Peninsula General Hospital in Salisbury in fair condition after being struck and run over Friday by a Pocomoke City town truck.

A spokesman for the City Police said Officer Patrick B. Kelley, 25, of Pocomoke City, was riding his 10-speed bicycle downtown, when he was struck by a municipal truck at the intersection of Second and Walnut Sts. The truck was said to have run over the officer's head, and he was described as suffering from a fractured skull and a fractured shoulder.

The driver of the truck was Chauncey Lee Doughty, 38, of Pocomoke City. No charges have been filed in the accident. Officer Kelley was just recently married.

— *The Daily Times*

Pocomoke to try no parking meters

The parking meters are coming down in Pocomoke City.

At a special meeting of the Pocomoke Mayor and City Council, it agreed that all parking meters be removed from city streets for three months as of Dec. 28.

If the experiment works out for free customer parking during January, February and March, then the parking meters will remain off.

Experimental free parking downtown was tried during the holidays, "and it worked beautifully," Mayor J. Dawson Clarke said. "Business was booming." This prompted the three-month experiment.

"We're taking the meters off the post, but we're not taking the meter posts down," the mayor said. "Should the thing backfire, we can always put the meters back."

The mayor warned that a close watch will be kept on those people and businesses which attempt to take advantage of the free parking situation.

— *The Daily Times*

Clam boat sinks; three crewmen missing

The 125-foot clam boat Mary Jane, returning from 24 hours of dredging clams off the coast, sank in the channel off Cape Charles Tuesday taking with her three of her crew of four.

The single survivor, Capt. Harry Houston, 39, was picked from the framework of Plantation Light by a Coast Guard helicopter suffering from exposure.

Missing, and the object of a massive Coast Guard search are the brothers Richard E. and George E. Oster, whose family lives in Wildwood, N.J., and Frank Alberts of Cape May, N.J. Houston said the last time he had seen them they were holding on to the overturned Mary Jane and "in a safe place."

The Mary Jane, operating out of Cape Charles, had left the pier Sun-

day morning and had been dredging for clams 15 miles off Virginia Beach. She was returning with a full load, Houston said from his bed in a doctor's office.

"I was coming in and it breezed up hard northwest, which wasn't too bad for the vessel. It slowed her down a bit, but as we got to Plantation Light we had to go broadside, so as to play it safe we put the pumps on before that to make sure the tanks on that particular side, which would be the port side, would be empty," Houston said.

— *The Danville Bee*

Delaware escapee nabbed in Virginia

An escapee from the Sussex County Correctional Institute in Georgetown, Del., was picked up by troopers of the Virginia State Police in Accomac at 4:30 a.m. Saturday.

Now being held in Accomack County jail is Jack R. Pfaff, 31, pending the arrival of Delaware authorities. Pfaff waived extradition. He had been serving a one-year term on charges of burglary.

— *The Daily Times*

25 years ago December 1998

Chincoteague: Town or new sitcom?

Dean Schoenewald initially visited Chincoteague last June. Like many tourists who discover the island, Schoenewald returned.

But during his second sojourn earlier this month, Schoenewald did not play the part of the average Chincoteague tourist.

(Continued on page 27)

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Yesteryears

(Continued from page 29)

He spent his time visiting with locals, reading back issues of The Chincoteague Beacon and The Beachcomber, frequenting the local hang-outs and walking the island's streets, long after most had turned in for the night.

Schoenewald said he was trying to become familiar with the town, its history and its people, because he is in the process of writing and creating a sitcom based on the island community.

He said the idea originated during the six days he vacationed on Chincoteague in June, but he's been so busy, only recently could he pursue his concept.

Busy is an understatement.

For the past two decades, Schoenewald has been involved in the mascot business and only recently retired from the scene.

It began in the late 1970s, when Schoenewald used his college money to create the Philadelphia Eagles' mascot.

He impersonated the large bird for a number of years and eventually invented and portrayed other mascots for professional hockey teams, such as the San Jose Sharks and the Ottawa Senators.

He also designed mascots for such professional basketball teams as the New Jersey Devils, the Toronto Raptors, the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Chicago Bulls.

Schoenewald performed at Super Bowl XXX in Tempe, Ariz., and for other professional sports teams such as the Chicago White Sox.

But over the years, Schoenewald was repeatedly injured as he engaged in risky stunts.

He recently sustained serious damage to his right shoulder and decided to focus his energies elsewhere.

"I have a hockey mentality," Schoenewald said. "Unless you're dead, you get up and don't go out on a stretcher."

In 1995, Schoenewald opened a mascot school in Nashville, Tenn. — the first of its kind.

"There was a need for it," he said, noting he had received countless calls from people who were interested in becoming a mascot.

Over the past three years Schoenewald's mascot school has received a great deal of nationwide publicity, including interviews from People magazine and the "Good Morning America" TV show.

This eventually landed Schoenewald in Hollywood as producers expressed an interest in a sitcom about mascots.

So Schoenewald wrote the script for "Mascot Mania," and it was only after completing the

script that friends talked him into vacationing on Chincoteague. Once here, he conceived the idea of creating a sitcom about the town.

"I know that the concept is here, but the question is whether I'm good enough to sell it," he said.

For two weeks, Schoenewald became one of the "locals" and gathered a plethora of information and ideas for his script.

He said he intended to embellish factual stories he had heard about Chincoteague and its people and use them in his script.

"It's going to take an incredible development of the script and the characters," he said.

He said one of the best things that he had encountered was the quality of the stories and the nicknames he heard, noting he would seek releases from individuals before using their nicknames in his script.

"I think that Chincoteague is a wonderful place to live and I will take the precaution not to disturb the town with the show ... I will put Chincoteague in a good light ... I look for the silver lining in everything," he said.

Schoenewald said in the history of TV, never has there been a real town around which a show has been built.

His preliminary ideas about characters in the sitcom (which he intends to call "Chincoteague") will include five families that run the town, a sheriff and deputies, a town drunk and several town "gossipers."

Schoenewald also plans to include episodes about the infamous bridge controversy, the duck crossing on Main Street and Maddox Boulevard and shopping at Meatland.

Schoenewald said once he completed the script, he will submit it to different West Coast-based talent agencies.

He said if they liked the idea, they would present the script to producers and directors for input.

If successful there, the script would eventually be submitted to the major networks for approval.

Until then, Schoenewald continues to bounce around from Tennessee to California to his rented townhouse on Willow St. in Chincoteague.

"I'll give it my best shot ... but there are no guarantees," he said.

— *The Daily Times*

Fla. man convicted in robbery

Jurors recommended a life-plus-69-year sentence for the Florida man found guilty last week in a bank robbery trial, despite testimony from another man who testified he committed the robbery. Willie Junior Dollison was found guilty on

three counts of robbery and three counts of using a firearm while committing a robbery after he stole \$12,000 in the April 17 robbery of Cheriton Crestar Bank. Dollison is the second man found guilty of the robbery. His accomplice, Hiram Green, 20, of Lake Wales, also was found guilty Nov. 2 of robbery and use of a firearm to commit a robbery.

— *The Daily Times*

Celeb tilemaker opens in Exmore

Actor Tom Hanks walks barefoot on her designs. Director Martin Scorsese can soak in his tub while he enjoys her mosaics. And with her garden fountain, actress/singer Vanessa Williams can view her work alfresco.

The Shore-born art of Sara McCaleb Baldwin sure gets around. And now her mosaic tile designs and her 8-year-old business, New Ravenna, are getting around to downtown Exmore, in the process giving the comeback town a much-needed lift.

Next month Eastern Shore native Baldwin is taking her flourishing business and 50 some employees to the small town's main street, and the old Cameo Theater. Constructed in 1938, the building has spent decades buried under fake facades and neglect.

"Sara could have built some metal building in the middle of an industrial park, but here there is a sense of community," said husband Eyre Baldwin who is renovating the building.

Why go elsewhere when there is a perfectly good building in Exmore that needs renovation, Sara said. "It's a really cool building and I thought it had really good potential. And I wanted to do something in downtown Exmore that maybe would give it a kick in the pants. It wasn't fair that all the business was moving out to the highway and there is this perfectly good little town ... (but) I don't know what I'm doing is going to make a huge different."

Still, for anyone cruising Exmore's main drag, the visual impact is huge. Many people never knew the building's art deco style architecture was hidden for so long.

Ebony tile gleams in the mid-morning sun, as it must have done when the Cameo was a siren of a silver screen. The towering vertical sign will again house a jazzy neon beacon, this time with New Ravenna's name in lights.

Visiting one recent morning, Grayson Duer was clearly tickled by the theater's transformation.

Besides being the owner of a nightclub during one of the Cameo's earlier conversion in the '50s, Duer once worked as a 16-year-old soda jerk at a nearby drugstore.

— *The Daily Times*

A Christmas season filled with items for a new home

So, how did Santa treat you?

Very well, I hope. However, I'm certain no other 50-year-old woman got presents like some of mine!

For example, I got a rechargeable drill. I also got a complete set of drill bits (some of which I have no idea what you'd use them for) and a real nifty combination stud finder and level.

Old Ho Ho also brought me a hoe — along with a yard rake, garden rake, shovel, and spade.

Now, while you might think these are strange gifts, I am thrilled.

You see, with any luck, I should be moving into my new home in a couple of months. Thus my kids are making sure I'll have all the things I'll need for the move.

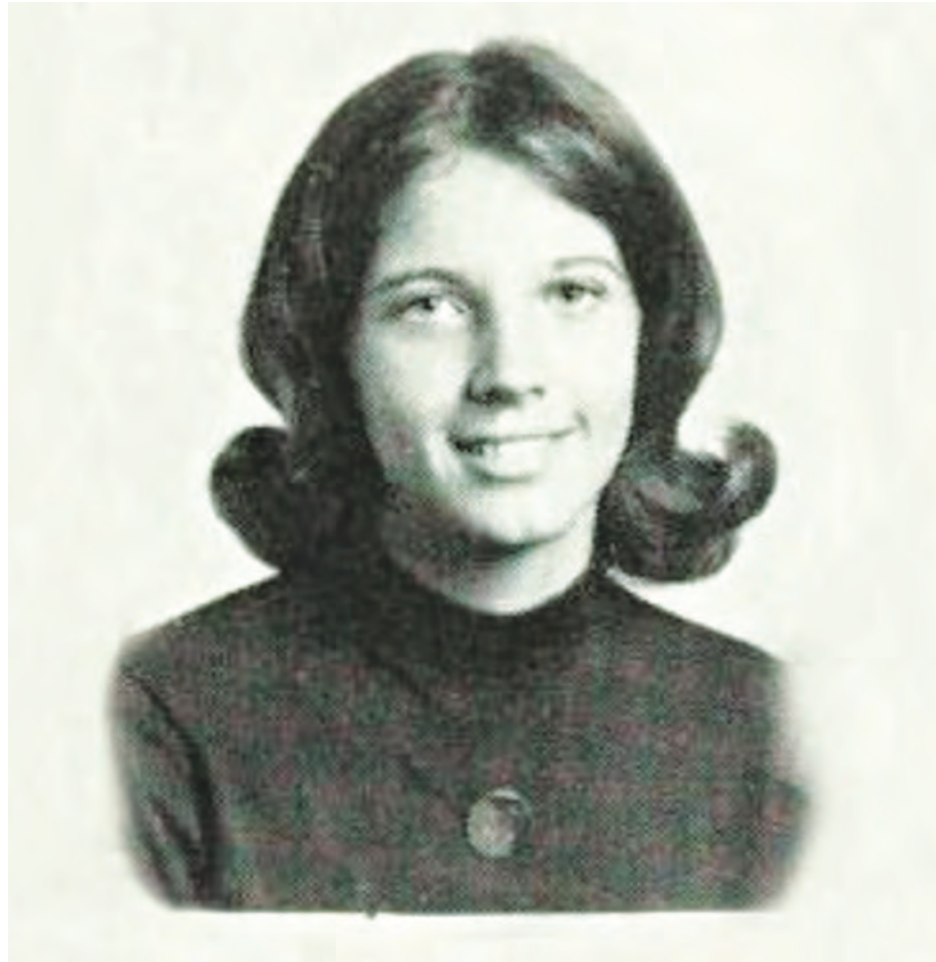
The drill and accessories will help me hang pictures and put together various items, while the yard tools will help me get what is now a quagmire into shape.

(Do you think the stud finder will help me acquire a he-man to do the heavy lifting? Probably not.)

Anyway, things are progressing toward the day I take up my new abode. For some time now — for reasons I won't go into here — I've been living in my daughter's basement. I can't begin to tell you how much I'm looking forward to having a residence with windows.

The most exciting thing, however, will be having space for everyone — including me — when the kids all come to visit.

There will be no more nights like the recent one where I gave up and slept on the floor while a handful of grandkids and my dog, Pepper, took over one bed and three others claimed



Candy Farlow

the second.

In fact, the second-largest room in my new house is a kid's room. Despite my decorating plans for the space, I've got a feeling it's going to end up looking like a dorm with the four beds that will go in there.

Those, added to the other guest rooms, might just let me claim the master bedroom for my very own (al-

though Pepper and I haven't quite worked out that detail).

Another nice thing will be having three bathrooms which, I logically figure, on any given weekend should cut the wait time by one-third.

I can also divvy up the toothbrushes between the baths. Right now, although I theoretically live alone, there are no less than nine tooth-

brushes in my bath. There's a Cinderella brush, a Tweety Bird brush, a "Baby's First" brush, and so on.

Finally there is the pleasure of comfortable dining to which I am looking forward. In an effort to seat at least half of the family at any one time, I've ordered a custom-built table, four feet wide by nine feet long, for the great room.

That room will be a "great room" indeed — the first time we all gather around the table with a platter of fried chicken.

Meanwhile, it's time to work on making the draperies for my long longed-for windows. To that end, Santa also brought me new sewing scissors. I can assure you, this pair will not end up in the kid's room all gooped-up with glue, glitter, and traces of Fruit Roll-Ups that have been cut to shreds.

In fact, all of my new tools are going to be hidden away — off limits to the grandkids.

There is one thing Santa brought, however, that will be proudly displayed for all to admire.

It's a ceramic plaque.

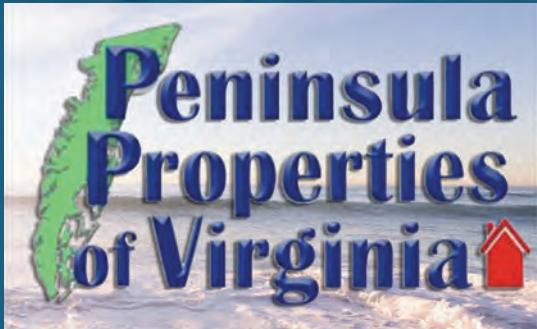
Shaped like a snowman, its hand-painted message proclaims, "Nanny's House, Where Grandchildren are Loved."

I can't wait to hang that in the "dorm."

This piece was originally published Dec. 31, 2002, in the Eastern Shore Post. Candy Farlow, a founder of the Eastern Shore Post weekly newspaper and a longtime journalist on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, died in 2017. Among other endeavors she worked for a time as a telephone lineman, reporter, columnist, radio DJ, and as a community relations director for Shore Memorial Hospital. Her former columns will be printed monthly in Shore First.

WHO SAID SALES WERE SLOW

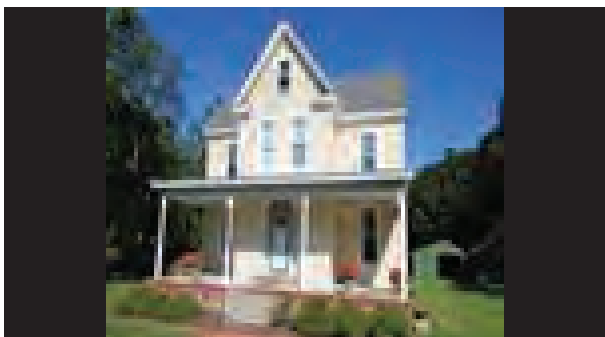
You didn't hear that coming out of Schuyler Hurlbut's mouth, that's for "Shore." Schuy was involved as either the listing agent or selling agent in seven properties, resulting in six sold and one pending, in the months of August and September.



MLS #56951 12135 Bank St, Exmore VA
SOLD 9/1/2023 for \$80,000



MLS #56679 12 Powellton Ave., Wachapraegue, VA
SOLD 8/21/23 for \$275,000



MLS #59210 35416 Belle Haven Rd., Belle Haven, VA
SOLD 8/22/23 for \$325,000



MLS #56878 30344 Bobtown Rd, Pungoteague, VA
SOLD 8/22/23 for \$240,000



MLS #56570 19421 Main St., Melfa, VA
SOLD 8/25/23 for \$285,000



MLS #57834 Blue Crow Antique Mall
SOLD 9/29/2023 for \$1,500,000

CONGRATULATIONS SCHUYLER!

FOR SCHUYLER'S CURRENT LISTINGS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.PPOFVA.COM



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