

SKIPJACK COMMUNITY NEWS

PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE COMMUNITIES OF WENONA, DEAL ISLAND, CHANCE,
AND DAMES QUARTER

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CULTURE CORNER

Memories of Steamboats, Campmeetings, Skipjacks and Islands of the Chesapeake was written by Ben Evans, First Edition 1977. The following story excerpted here is for your reading pleasure.

I REMEMBER...BASEBALL WHEN THE PITCHER ARRIVED BY BOAT

BY BEN EVANS

Can you picture Reggie Jackson batting with a discarded oar handle? Johnny Bench catching without pads or mask, using a glove fashioned from scraps of leftover canvas from an old sail? Jim Palmer throwing a homemade, string-wound ball wrapped with tar tape? This was the type of equipment we used when I was a boy in the Deal Island town of Wenona on the Eastern Shore.

When there was a big Saturday game, the few bats and balls we used then were bought by mail order from Sears Roebuck or sometimes from nearby Princess Anne. Should those be broken or the balls lost, the homemade equipment was put into play.

Captain Clifton Webster said he pitched with a number of teams on the islands of the Chesapeake- Deal, Smith, Tangier and Holland. On the Western Shore, too, when they needed a picture, they would send a boat for him. He said he was treated like a celebrity. He recalls his father would catch "off the bat" barehanded. In fact, a number of the players would play without the benefit of a glove. Some thought they could do better without one – then again, there weren't too many around.

Preparations for the game meant a lot of work. All the players and we youngsters would help. The toughest part was cutting the "sage" grass in the outfield which left a hard stubble that could be felt through your shoes. Despite this, some of the men preferred to play barefoot. The bases often were just blocks of wood. Once, I recall, they used a dredge chain at second base.

The first baseball diamond I recall was on the "pint." It faced the Tangier sound, having a short left field. If a ball was hit down the line, or in foul territory, it went into the Sound. If a regular game was in progress, it was held up until someone waded out to retrieve the ball. Seldom did we have more than one good pro ball for a game. The rest were Rockets.

Former Governor Tawes told me of his playing days when in college. A lefty, he favored a good curveball. After college, he pitched for local towns. He recalled one game he pitched for Marion Station, then the strawberry center of the country. He and his battery mate received \$1.50 each. He certainly could've used one of the present-day star pitcher's agents.

One trip to Smith Island I'll never forget – I was 12 or 13. I went over with a group on the skipjack Virginia. Bain Webster was captain and one of our best pitchers. He, like Captain Clifton (his cousin), would pitch for any town that sent for him. He told me he pitched for and in the towns of Crapo, Rockawalkin, Hoopers, etc. He received \$10 and they would send for him by boat.

We left Smith Island after dark – a mistake, for the channel is narrow and twisting from Ewell to the bay and was marked then only by poles. Sure enough, we ran into a mud flat. Bain ordered us overboard to try to push free. It was hot and mosquitoes were on the prowl. We couldn't get her off so we all bedded down until daylight and highwater. The cabin was full; some slept on deck wrapped in the mainsail. Just when we were all were settled, someone threw a bucket of cold water down the cabin. That started it, all in fun of course. When we tied up at Wenona the next morning, we were a wet and sorry-looking group. We also had to face some worried parents, as there wasn't any communication from the Island in those days.

One of my first baseball heroes was John R. Bozman of Dames Quarter. He, like the pitchers mentioned, would play for any teams who sent for him. He was a powerful left-handed home run hitter. Anytime we heard John R. was playing, we were happy

just to watch him flatten the homemade baseballs during batting practice.

Years later, when he was over 60 and then not in too good health, I pitched against him. He came in as a pinch-hitter. Having a big lead, I threw one over the plate to see if he could still hit. Did he cream! Until he died, he would always kid me about that homer. He said the ball was found the next day in a crab float down the point. And down the point is a half mile from the ballfield.

In 1938, along with some of the boys from Wenona, we organized a baseball team. The game had not been played on the island for 8 or 9 years. I was asked to manage the team, probably because I was older than the others. We made a diamond in an area along the main road. Most of the fellows who helped organize that team, such as Art Daniels, Jesse Thomas, John Parkinson, Jimmie Daniels, Elbert Evans and others, are the same fellows who in 1960 help me to organize the skipjack races.



Wenona team in the 40's. Author in center.

Money for bats, balls and uniforms was hard to come by. During the week, I would send several boys through the town with the wheel barrel to collect canned milk, sugar, etc. with which was made homemade ice cream to go along with

hotdogs and rolls which were bought from wholesale trucks. This was sold during the game. With the money we made, I went to Baltimore and bought from an old friend at Triangle Sporting Goods Company as many uniforms as possible, using sweatshirts instead of regulation baseball shirts. We sewed on our own letters.



We started a Somerset County League so we could have a

scheduled game each week. The towns represented were Oriole, Dames Quarter, Deal Island, Smith Island, Mount Vernon and Wenona. My hometown team Wenona proved to be a rather good one, winning over 20 games and losing only 5, defeating teams from such larger towns at Salisbury and Crisfield.

A few years later the league expanded and became known as the Central Shore League. Some good ball players came out of it. Joe Muir, who later pitched for the Pittsburgh Pirates, was one of them.

Mount Vernon had a slender, young infielder who also served as manager. He was what you would call a "holler" guy. His nickname was "hot dog." He later took up the practice of law. Under Governor J. Millard Tawes, he was named Maryland Secretary of State. Judge Lloyd Simpkins remained a red-hot baseball fan.

Thomas Price, owner of the island's school bus, was hired to take the team around. We played in Delaware and with teams on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The most fun was when we boarded boats for sail to Smith Island. We never knew whether a summer storm would leave us stranded, but this added to the excitement.

Captain Art Daniels brought a laugh at one game when he said he believed the center fielder of the Island team had some baseballs hidden at the edge of the woods because every time a ball was hit there, even before the ball went into the woods, the fielder would be throwing one back to the infield. There were times when arguments caused an early end to the game, with the visiting team making its way to the boat and going home, and sometimes it was a long walk to those boats!

Frankly, I believe this is the way Abner Doubleday meant the game to be played and remembered. Most small-town teams had experiences similar to ours, but we had one interesting and enjoyable exception – the sail aboard a skipjack to the island games.

Opening Day for the Baltimore Orioles is March 27th against the Toronto Blue Jays.


COMMUNITY RECIPES

The following recipe was excerpted from "Shore Fare", a book of favorite recipes compiled by the United Methodist Women of St. John's Methodist Church, 1982.

CURRY DIP from Carolyn Hall
 1 c. mayonnaise 3 drops Tabasco
 3 tbsp. grated onion 3 tsp. curry powder
 3 tbsp. catsup 1 ½ tsp. dry mustard
 3 tbsp. honey ½ c. cream cheese
 Beat all together and chill. Will keep for up to 2 weeks. Serve with raw veggies and crackers.



COMMUNITY NEWS




Dream. Believe. Achieve.

VETERANS UPWARD BOUND

Free and personalized education services for eligible Veterans, National Guard members, and Reservists, regardless of when you served.

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SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

Somerset County Library, in Princess Anne, offers a variety of free programs for all ages. Each month there is a story time and music program, Lego Club, Gaming, Teen Hangout, STEAM programs, Crafternoons, adult yoga, bingo, crafts, book discussions, knitting, and senior social and art activities. Programs to Go are available for all ages to check out items needed for activities, crafts and games. The library also offers one-on-one sessions on job skills, pre-employment readiness, resume' resources, and tech help. March activities include Teen Cooking Clubs and Exploring Drones. For more information and to register for programs visit www.somelibrary.org or facebook.com/somelibrary.org



LEGO CLUB

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

2 TO 4PM

Come out and complete our Lego challenges! Your creations will go on display for all to see!

MARCH 1: BUILD A PIG FOR NATIONAL PIG DAY

MARCH 15: BUILD A 3 LEAF CLOVER

APRIL 5: BUILD A RAIN CLOUD

APRIL 26: BUILD YOUR PET

SATURDAYS AT THE CRISFIELD AND PRINCESS ANNE LIBRARIES

Please Join Us For Senior



Bingo Night

Seniors (60+) \$5

No Pre-Sale - Purchase Entry at the Door
Saturday, March 22, 2025

Deal Island-Chance Fire Department
Doors Open at 4:00 p.m. - Games Begin at 5:00 p.m.

B I N G O

20 Regular Games - 2 Special Games - 50/50

***\$5 entry includes: 6 Bingo Cards for each game, 1 Bingo Card for each special game, 1 Dabber and a Chance to win some awesome prizes!**

Concessions Will Be Available

Any questions or to volunteer, please contact Carrie Day at 443-614-9926 or email DICLIONS58@GMAIL.COM

ENERGY BILL ASSISTANCE

Federal and state energy assistance programs are available to eligible Maryland residents who need help paying their bills. Delmarva Power payment options can help you manage your bills including budget billing, payment arrangements, and extended payment date plans. For additional information call 800-375-7117 or visit delmarva.com/EnergyAssistance

UPPER SOMERSET COUNTY AARP TRIP

Newport Rhode Island trip June 16-19, 2025. 10 seats left! Make all checks payable to Upper Somerset AARP. Mail to: Sharon Malone at 13371 Oyster House RD, Princess Anne, MD 21853. Questions? Call Sharon Malone 410-621-0091 H or 410-726-1049 C. swmalone@comcast.net

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Upcoming Schedule: All services start at 10 AM.

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30- Rock Creek Church
April 6, 13, 20, 27- St. John's Church

SKIPJACK HERITAGE MUSEUM

Skipjack Heritage Museum will be open on both weekend days in March. The Mister family reunion is March 8th. Join Bill Mister and Genealogist Aaron Horner at 10 am that morning for a presentation on Pirates of the Chesapeake, followed by a light lunch at Rock Creek Hall. Call 443-783-5180 to register and for private showings. Memory Moments and Liar's Bench will be happening in April.



PIRATES OF THE CHESAPEAKE

OR

PRIVATEERS OF THE BAY

OR

PICAROONS OF THE BAY AND TANGIER SOUND

WHICH IS IT FOR MARMADUKE MISTER?

On March 8th - 10:00 AM at Rock Creek Church Hall

Speaker - Bill Mister

Genealogist - Aaron Horner

At 12:00 PM - We will have a light lunch!

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE ATTENDING!!

LIKE TO HAVE AN IDEA OF HOW MANY TO PREPARE FOR

AFTER LUNCH - MISTER FAMILY REUNION
Come Meet Your Cousins!

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED

Candy, large plastic eggs, and small toy donations are needed for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please contact Shelley Webster, Shirley Massey, or Carrie Day to drop off your items by April 6. Deal Island School is also a drop off location for Easter Egg Hunt donations.





DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM

Returning in 2025, Somerset County Health Department is offering a free program that includes 16 weekly sessions followed by six months of follow up sessions with a health coach. Successful participants can expect to lose at least 5% of their body weight and reduce risk of diabetes and other chronic diseases. Learn how to eat better, plan healthy meals, increased physical activity and manage weight loss. Registration is required. For more information, call 443-523-1700.

HEALTHY HEARTS

Somerset County Health Department is offering a free program that will help you manage high blood pressure, identify and control triggers that raise blood pressure, as well as learn how to eat healthier and find ways to move your body. The program offers 6 one-on-one sessions from a trained coach over a 4-month period (virtual or in person), a free blood pressure monitor, and teaches how to properly take, record and share your blood pressure measurement. Learn how to reduce sodium, shop, prepare and cook food for a healthy heart. Criteria to participate: you must be 18 years



old, diagnosed with high blood pressure, have not experienced a recent cardiac event, do not have atrial fibrillation or other arrhythmias, and are not at risk for lymphedema. For information or to enroll call 443-523-1700.

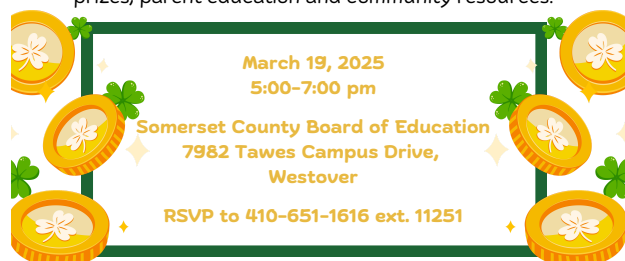


The Somerset County Judy Center invites you to a

Community Baby Shower

honoring expectant Moms & Dads and those with infants up to 6 months old.

Event will include dinner, photography, games, door prizes, parent education and community resources.



CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM

Somerset County Health Department provides cancer screenings for limited income Maryland residents who are uninsured or underinsured. Screenings are available for breast, skin, colorectal, cervical and lung cancers. If you qualify, Somerset County Health Department staff will help guide you through the screening process, explain test results and recommendations, set up doctor visits, find transportation for appointments, and find translators.

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR HEALTH TODAY

Somerset County Cancer Control Program
443-523-1700

Wreath Making with Lilly

**March 29, 2025
10a-1p**

**Rock Creek Church
23580 Deal Island Rd
Chance, Maryland**

\$40 per person

When signing up,
let us know which
letter you need!

**To join us, go to:
socoarts.org**






DEAL ISLAND SCHOOL

We have had several virtual learning days recently. Instead of making up snow days at the end of the school year, devices are sent home so teachers and students can meet virtually. Attendance and participation have been high on these days, but we are still hopeful that spring is right around the corner!

Winter Grams were sold in January and February to raise money for our upcoming STEAM night. Thank you to everyone who participated, especially Deal Island/Chance Lions Club for ensuring every student received one.

In March and April, science, math, and English language arts MCAP state testing will take place. We are excited for this opportunity for our students to shine. MCAP state testing the week of April 14th and wrap up the week of May 8th. DIS is looking for donations of small toys to use as prizes, snacks, mints and hard candy (like Jolly Ranchers).


Congratulations to Danielle Cullen, 4th and 5th grade math and science teacher, for being named Deal Island School's Teacher of the Year!






Know Your Status!

FREE RAPID TESTING

Hepatitis C and HIV

 **Public Health**
Present. Promote. Protect.
Somerset County Health Department

-  Get your confidential results in **20 minutes**
-  **Many patients** go undiagnosed
-  Early diagnosis means **early treatment**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CALL 443-523-1700**

SPANISH INTERPRETER AVAILABLE

 **Ages 12 & Under**

Community Easter Egg Hunt

St. John's Church
9883 Deal Island Rd.

Saturday, April 12
Rain Date: April 19
10:00 a.m.



For more information, please contact Carrie Day at diclions58@gmail.com or 443-614-9926.

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Department of Aging

Larry Hogan Governor **Boyd K. Rutherford** Lt. Governor **Rona E. Kramer** Secretary

Please Join Us for Senior

BINGO!

No Pre-Sale ♦ Purchase Entry at the Door
Seniors (60+) ↔ \$5 To Play*

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Deal Island-Chance Fire Department
Doors Open at 4:00 p.m. - Games Begin at 5:00 p.m.

*\$5 entry includes:
6 Bingo Cards for each game,
1 Bingo Card for each special game,
1 Dabber and a Chance
to win some awesome prizes!



--20 Regular Games
--2 Special Games
--50/50

Concessions Will Be Available

Any questions or to volunteer, please contact Carrie Day at 443-614-9926 or email DICLIONS58@GMAIL.COM

COMMUNITY PHOTOS

DEAL ISLAND SCHOOL VALENTINES DAY



LOVE DINNER



Photos by Carmen Stroud

ISLAND SNOW

Photos by Marcella Mulhollem



Photos by Amy Potler



Photos by Carmen Stroud



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3/1, 7 am-2 pm	Indoor Yard Sale at St. John's Church
3/8, 10 am	Pirates of the Chesapeake at Rock Creek Church
3/19, 5 pm-7 pm	Community Baby Shower at Somerset Board of Ed
3/22, 5 pm, doors open at 4	Senior Bingo at DI-C Fire Co. (rescheduled from 1/18)
3/29, 7 am-10 am	DI-C Fire Dept. Auxiliary Breakfast
3/29, 10 am-1 pm	Wreath Making Workshop at Rock Creek Church
4/5, 7 am-2 pm	Indoor Yard Sale at St. John's Church
4/5, 6 pm	DI-C Fire Co. Designer Purse Bingo at DIS, doors open at 5
4/10, 12 pm- 2 pm	Mobile Food Market, DI-C Fire Dept.
4/12, 10 am	Easter Egg Hunt at St. John's Church, rain date 4/19
4/12, 5 pm, doors open at 4	Senior Bingo at the DI-C Fire Dept.
4/26, 7 am-10 am	DI-C Fire Dept. Auxiliary Breakfast
6/16-6/19	AARP trip to Newport Rhode Island

