

Chowan CALENDAR

What's happening this week . . .

Wednesday - 12/29

AUDUBON BIRD COUNT

Bird lovers! Choose to hike the trail or drive the roads in the count area around Lake Phelps searching for regional birds. Take this opportunity to improve your birding skills through independent observation and compilation for the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. There will be a \$5 registration fee. This daylong event will start by meeting at the park office at 6:30 a.m. For directions or other info, call the Pettigrew State Park office in Creswell at (252) 797-4475.

KWANZAA CELEBRATION

The Edenton-Chowan Civic League will host its annual Kwanzaa Celebration tonight at 7 p.m. at the Fannie A. Parker Woman's Club building, 207 E. Albemarle St., Edenton. The program is open to the public and welcomes your participation. Bring your favorite non-pork dish for a potluck supper after the program. For further information, call 482-7386 after 8 p.m.

Upcoming Events

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Please join us at Unanimity Lodge #7 for Installation of Officers Jan. 2 at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the ceremony. Questions? Call Bryan Bass at 482-7451.

MUSTANG CLUB MEETS

The Chrome Pony Mustang Club of Elizabeth City will meet Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Marina Restaurant, Camden Causeway, Elizabeth City. Anyone interested in Mustangs is welcome to attend. Come join us to make plans for 1999 to celebrate the 35th birthday of the Mustang. For details, call Mark Cooper at (252) 331-1022 or Virgil Griffith at (252) 335-9618.

PAPERMAKING WORKSHOP

Delight your family and friends by sending or giving them notecards made of handmade paper. Learn the papermaking and finishing process from papermaking expert Wendy Ford. The workshop will consist of two sessions, Jan. 13-14, at 11:30 a.m. at Swain Auditorium Building classroom. Small tuition fee charged. For more

info and materials list, call the Chowan Arts Council at 482-8005. The CAC requests that registration be completed two weeks prior to the class start date.

JUGGLER TO PERFORM

Juggler Tim Nolan, an Elizabeth City native, will perform at the COA Community Center Auditorium in Elizabeth City Jan. 22 beginning at 8 p.m. For ticket info, call 335-9050 Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

BLUEGRASS BAND TO APPEAR

The Shady Grove Bluegrass Band will perform Jan. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the COA Community Center Auditorium in Elizabeth City. For ticket info, call Joy Perry at 335-9050, Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

FATIGUE SUPPORT GROUP

The Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue Support Group of Western Albemarle will not hold a meeting in January 1999. The next meeting will be Feb. 2 at Chowan Hospital, Classroom B, at 7 p.m. For more info, call Scott at 482-6242.

Ongoing Programs

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Problem with alcohol? AA meets at the Edenton United Methodist Church Mon. 8 p.m. (Open); Wed. at 8 p.m. (Closed, Big Book); and Fri. at 12:30 (Closed Discussion). For more info, call 482-3603.

DRUG PROBLEMS

If you think you might have a drug problem, call Narcotics Anonymous at 1-800-813-8191 anytime. Enter pin # 100-0022.

TOPS MEETING

TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) meets Tuesday nights at 6 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Edenton. Questions? Call 482-3157.

O'Connor

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recent years, he's been courting the Christian Right, even though he has never had a reputation as a hard-right pal. He's best known, in that regard, as chief champion of expanded charter schools.

The majority leader is also in a good position to raise campaign money. He could have collected enough chits from

lobbyists in the upcoming 1999 session to raise a sizable war chest next summer.

In the job, he will have some visibility - about as much as little-known Jim Black got as he led House Democrats for the last four years. He can run the bills that his primary constituents want, he just won't be able to get them passed. At least he'll appear to be working for them.

And he won't have to work as much. Minority leaders can skip out of Raleigh and campaign a bit. So, that's an advan-

tage over being majority leader. But Daughtry will also face what is certain to be a contentious caucus.

Almost all Republicans are conservative, but they have different definitions of that philosophy, and there is a huge fight going on right now to establish one definition over another. Daughtry will be in the middle of this.

He will also be in the middle of a party heading off in different directions in its definition of "Loyal Opposition." Some will want to work with Demo-

crats to influence bills, others will want to wage holy partisan war. They'll be ineffective in both without solid leadership and unity.

So Daughtry will be running for governor while he tries to keep the peace at home. He'll be in the news, which is good. But that news might also be damaging and embarrassing if it is all about Republican disarray - and that appears to be where the party is right now.

Coffey

Continued From Page 4-A

way, any days such as Christmas." Violators could be fined, imprisoned or whipped. No church was allowed to hold services on a day other than the Sabbath; pork and roast beef were outlawed as "superstitious meats." Preparing a mincepie was "high Parliamentary treason," for the elaborate dish was both pagan and papist. Filled with diced meat and poultry, eggs and butter, the minced pie was served at ancient Celtic celebrations of the harvest. After serving in the Near East during the Crusades, British soldiers returned with exotic spices and stories of the birth of Christ. These spices were added to the minced pie, and the stories to Catholic doctrine. The dish became associated with Catholicism, wrote James A. Cox in Colonial Williamsburg Magazine, Winter 1990-1991.

The Puritans were not the only people to oppose Christmas; the Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists, Mennonites, Amish and Quakers also disapproved of the celebrations which had become associated with Christmas. But outside the direct influence of the Puritans, Christmas became a holiday very early in the history of coloniza-

tion of our nation.

Christmas in the 18th century was a holiday for adults, not children, "a convenient season for the gathering of family and friends," Cox wrote. "There was more emphasis on partying than on gift-giving, although children might receive such small luxuries as confections, gloves, and coins."

The generous host would provide turkey, venison, a whole pig, ducks, chickens, and "all the fruits of the land and the sea, especially oysters in bounteous quantities, prepared in numerous ways." The old "was-sail" custom was continued, but, in addition to warm ale, there was good wine, punch and eggnog.

Christmas has always been associated with bells ringing, but this, too, was a combination of religious and pagan traditions: the bells, chimes, guns, and fireworks on Christmas Day were to scare off evil spirits.

Santa Claus arrived in New Amsterdam with the first Dutch settlers in 1624. The Puritans sent Saint Nicholas or Sinter Claes, into obscurity, but he emerged after the American Revolution, when British traditions were out of fashion and New Yorkers revived their Dutch heritage. In the early 1800s, Clement Moore's poem, "A Visit From Saint Nicholas,"

and Thomas Nast's drawings of a jolly old man gave rise to the familiar image of Santa Claus.

The Germans, too, made a substantial contribution to the American Christmas: they brought the "Christmas pyramid," featuring evergreens decorated with candles, the forerunner of the Christmas tree.

By the end of the 19th century, Christmas in America had become "a festival sacred to domestic enjoyments," wrote

Stephen Nissenbaum in *The Battle for Christmas*. Drinking and merrymaking gave way to rituals centered on children. The highlight, of course, was Santa Claus bringing gifts for all the little ones. Newspaper editorials encouraged gift giving, and retailers promoted their wares by advertising in those newspapers. Santa Claus became a familiar figure, not only through poems and stories, but in ads. And the American public responded just as merchants and retailers hoped.

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