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The hazards of the holidays aren't always so obvious as putting yourself at risk by using a tall ladder to hang exterior lights. Something as seemingly innocent as a four-legged friend playing with fragile ornaments could result in injuries to you and/or your pet and spoil the joy of the season.

'Tis the season to be careful!

Story by Kevin George



If you're looking for a good checklist to keep you and your family safe for the holidays, there are a few more things to keep in mind than remembering the tumbles Clark Griswold suffered in "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation."

... But it's a good start.

One thing's for sure: Noth-



ing can zap the joy of the season as much as regret. Regret comes in reminders of many packages: A cast to protect a newly broken leg, charred drywall around an electrical outlet — even that bottle of Pepto-Bismol that you dare to keep no further than an arm’s-length away.

It is estimated that each year, about 8,700 people make visits to emergency rooms for holiday-related injuries related to lights, decorations and Christmas trees. Besides that, Christmas trees are involved in about 400 fires annually, resulting in 20 deaths, 70 injuries and an average of more than \$15 million in property loss and damage.

When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.

If you are a pet owner, tinsel should be avoided because Fido or Fluffy may think that it is a toy to play with and they may accidentally swallow and choke on it. In addition, do not decorate your tree with popcorn or other food items, and remove all edible gifts from under the tree.

You should also try to hang small and breakable ornaments out of small children’s and pets’ reach.

After your gifts are opened, quickly dispose of all plastic wrappings, ribbons and bows that can be easily swallowed by curious pets.

When setting up a tree at home, remember to place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Be-



When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break.

cause heated rooms dry live trees out quickly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water.

Cut a few inches off the trunk of your tree to expose the fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help to keep

your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.

Do not place chemicals in your tree’s water. It may keep your tree fresh longer, but it can prove very harmful to your pets. Do not allow your pet to (PAGE 34)

'Tis the season

The holiday season is in full swing, and with Christmas just around the corner, there is plenty to do here on the Shore. So grab your family and friends and get in the holiday spirit.

CAROLINE COUNTY

Denton Holiday Parade and Lighting of the Green

Date: Dec. 3, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Location: Market Street, Denton

Get into the holiday spirit at Denton's Annual Holiday Parade, which features marching bands, Santa, and the best of the season. Following the parade, watch the illumination of the Courthouse Green and enjoy a holiday musical performance. For more information call 410-479-2050.

Denton Holiday Windows: Songs and Stories of the Season

Date: Dec. 3-31

Location: Downtown Denton Business Windows

Come see downtown Denton's windows get decked out as artists, businesses and civic groups transform shop windows for the holiday season. For more information call 410-479-0655.

Miracle on Market Street — First Night

Date: Dec. 4 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Location: Downtown Denton

Get in the holiday spirit by visiting Santa, taking a horse and carriage ride, viewing gingerbread houses at The Foundry and shopping for gifts.

Dove Chocolate Tasting

Date: Dec. 5 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Location: Greensborough Trading Co., Greensboro

The tasting will feature chocolate mousse, martinis, chocolate-covered strawberries and more. For more information call 410-482-2200.

Holiday Greens Sale at Adkins Arboretum

Date: Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Adkins Arboretum, Ridgely

Fresh local greens, decorated wreaths, swags, topiaries, roping, Boxwood and other natural materials will be for sale to deck the halls for an Eastern Shore holiday. Open to the public. For more information call 410-634-2847.



Christmas in St. Michaels

The holiday spirit arrives Dec. 11-13 in Talbot County for Christmas in St. Michaels. The famous Talbot Street Christmas Parade begins at 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 12.

Granite Lodge at St. Mary's Square will be transformed into Marketplace. For the first time ever, an array of gift items produced in collaboration with artists and artisans from town will be offered.

Other weekend activities include Breakfast with Santa, a display of gingerbread houses, Santa's Wonderland, choir con-

certs, and a traditional Eastern Shore Christmas dinner from the kitchen at Union United Methodist Church.

Times and locations for specific events can be found at local shops and merchants or by visiting www.christmas-instmichaels.org or by calling 410-745-0745.

Beneficiaries for 2009 include: St. Michaels Food Pantry, St. Michaels Community Center, Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, and the Town of St. Michaels.

Greensborough's "Lighting of the City"

Date: Dec. 5, from 7 to 9 p.m.
Location: Carnival Grounds, Greensboro
Greensboro lights up the town along the Choptank River in this festive evening, featuring caroling, hot chocolate and photos with Santa. This event is free.

For more information call 410-482-6222.

Ridgely Old Fashioned Christmas

Date: Dec. 5, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Location: Ridgely
Ridgely's Old Fashioned Christmas features a parade, refreshments, Santa, the lighting

of the town's Christmas tree and more. For more information call 410-482-8026 or visit www.ridgelymd.org.

Christmas in Caroline

Date: Dec. 5-6, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: Caroline County 4-H Park, Denton

Get a head start on your holiday shopping at Christmas in Caroline, featuring artisan crafts, collectables, gifts, fresh arrangements and wreaths, a silent auction, food, costumed characters, children's activities, Santa and more. For more information call 410-479-0565.

Festival of Wreaths Holiday Gala

Start your holiday season in a festive mood with the 10th annual Festival of Wreaths Holiday Gala at Pleasant Day on Dec. 3. Enjoy more than 16 large themed Christmas trees, live magnolia, and holly and pine displays, as you wander from room to room, looking at more than 100 hand-crafted wreaths.

Be entertained by local musicians, greet old friends and meet new ones, as you experience wine sampling and a Taste of the Eastern Shore featuring specialties from local restaurateurs and caterers.

The Holiday Gala, also the host to the Dorchester Chamber After Hours, opens at 5:30 p.m. to bid on wreaths, vote for the People's Choice, enjoy music on the harp with Betty Boda, the classical music of Baroque Jams, carols by the Grace Church Carolers Quartet, Gordon Bugby on the keyboard, and Christmas music by the Zion Church Bell Choir.

There is no cost to attend, but donations are appreciated. Gala night is the last opportunity to bid and win your favorite wreath or wreaths; bidding ends at 7 p.m. and the winning bidders can take their wreaths home with them. You do not have to be present to win.

Auctioneer Buddy Foxwell will begin the live auction promptly at 7 p.m., with the auction of one-of-a-kind items that will make a great Christmas gift.

Pleasant Day Medical Adult Day Care is a non-profit and all donations are tax deductible. All funds raised will support trips, special meals and other activities for those attending Pleasant Day.



Second Saturdays at the Foundry: Wreath Making with Fresh Greenery

Date: Dec. 12, from 2 to 4 p.m.
Location: The Foundry, Denton
Watch a wreath making demonstration and then create your own wreath. For more information call 410-479-1009.

Santa's Magic Workshop

Date: Dec. 12, from 4 to 7 p.m.;
Dec. 13, from 4 to 7 p.m.
Location: Martinak State Park, Denton
Have a great time making decorations and crafts, see the train garden, or enjoy a hayride through the park's Enchanted

Campground. For more information call 410-820-2967.

Federalsburg Christmas Parade

Date: Dec. 14, from 7 to 8 p.m.
Location: University Avenue ending at Railroad Avenue, Federalsburg
Bring the whole family for a traditional, small-town Christmas parade. For more information call 410-754-8157.

Old Fashioned Christmas in the Federalsburg Museum

Date: Dec. 14, from 7 to 8 p.m.
Location: Federalsburg Museum, Federalsburg

Celebrate the season at the Federalsburg Historical Society's old-fashioned "Christmas in the Museum!" Santa will even be there. For more information call 410-754-8964.

Enchanted Campground Driving Tour

Date: Dec. 15-31, from 6 to 9 p.m.
Location: Martinak State Park, Denton
Take a relaxing ride through the festive, twinkling lights around Martinak State Park. For more information call 410-820-1668.

Hillsboro's Luminary Tour

Date: Dec. 19, from 5 to 8 p.m.
Location: Main Street to Church Street and over the bridge, Hillsboro
The entire town of Hillsboro is lined with 1,500 luminaries during Hillsboro's Luminary Tour. Light refreshments will be served at the town hall with Santa. For more information call 410-820-2967.

Greensboro Holiday House Tour

Date: Dec. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m.
Location: Greensboro
Come tour the homes of Greensboro decked out in their holiday best. For more information call Marge Jarvis at 410-726-3552.

Ridgely Live Nativity Pageant

Date: Dec. 19, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Location: Lot beside town office, Ridgely
Costumed actors, animals and live music depict the Christmas story at this annual pageant. For more information call 410-634-1067.

DORCHESTER COUNTY

Christmas Garden of Trains

Date: Dec. 1-31
Location: Cambridge Rescue Fire Company, Cambridge
Gaze in wonder at this holiday-themed display and share in the spirit of the holiday season. Free admission. Refreshments will be sold, and donations are accepted. For more information, or to make reservations for large groups, call 410-228-1670.

Dorchester County Historical Society Holiday Open House and Cocktail Party

Date: Dec. 4, Open House is 1 to 4 p.m., Cocktail party is 5 to 7 p.m.
Location: Cambridge
Bring a snack to share. For more information call 410-228-7953 or visit www.historicdorchester.org.

13th Annual Eagle's Nest Christmas Open House

Date: Dec. 5, from 9:30 a.m. to

3:30 p.m.
Location: Cambridge
The day begins with a Bird Walk, leaving from the Visitor Center. Everyone will receive a 10 percent discount on all regularly priced store items and free gift wrapping for items more than \$5. Eagle prowls are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; three \$50 cash drawings will be held at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. for children 16 and younger. Eagle Claus is available for free picture taking at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Storytelling in the library is at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Children's crafts and activities will be held 10:30 a.m. through 2:30 p.m.

Blackwater Refuge Christmas Open House

Date: Dec. 5 at 10 a.m.
Location: Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge
There will be a Bird Walk, Eagle Prowl and ranger-led tours. Crafts and activities will be on hand for kids, and free refreshments will be available. Several local artists and artisans will be on hand to display and sell their creations. For more information call 410-228-2677 or visit www.friendsofblackwater.org.

Holiday Cookie Demonstration at Bistro Poplar

Date: Dec. 6 at 1 p.m.
Location: Cambridge
Pastry Chef Emily Salisbury will help you impress family and friends with special cookies made for the season. Tastings will be served with warm holiday punch, coffee or tea. The cost is \$25. For more information call 410-228-4884.

Coping with the Holidays Workshop and Dinner Social

Date: Dec. 7 at 6 p.m.
Location: Kay's Restaurant, Cambridge
Sponsored by Coastal Hospice. RSVP to 410-742-6405.

Hurlock Christmas Parade

Date: Dec. 12 at noon
Location: Hurlock
Enjoy marching bands, floats and other attractions. A Christmas bazaar will be held at the Hurlock Legion. For more information call 410-507-8799 or visit www.hurlockchristmasparade.org.

Old Fashioned Christmas

Date: Dec. 12
Location: Cambridge Main Street
Celebrate the season on Second Saturday. Shops will be open late, and galleries will open new shows and hold receptions. Look for Santa's Workshop, carriage rides and caroling. For more information visit www.cambridgeainstreet.com.



Tree of Lights Ceremony

The Chester River Health Foundation will sponsor the 22nd annual Tree of Lights Ceremony on Dec. 3 at 5:30 p.m.

All proceeds from this event will support local hospice services offered through Chester River Home Care & Hospice.

Lights can be purchased for \$10 each in memory of someone special.

The Tree of Lights Ceremony will be held in the courtyard in front of the Chester River Hospital Center, and refreshments will be served inside the lobby afterward.

For more information contact Kenda Leager at 410-778-7668, ext. 4013 or kleager@chesterriverhealth.org.

Santa Swim 2009

Date: Dec. 12 at 10 a.m.
Location: Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Resort, Cambridge
The Santa Swim supports the Care and Share Fund of Dorchester County. Spectators are encouraged to bring a new toy for a child in need; the Salvation Army will collect the toys and distribute them during the holiday season. For more information visit www.careandsharefund.org.

25th Annual Holiday Candlelight Tour

Date: Dec. 13 at 4 p.m.
Location: Throughout Dorchester County
The Cambridge Women's Club hosts its annual tour, featuring six decorated homes and stops at the Dorchester Historical Society, the Dorchester Center for the Arts and Sycamore Cottage where live music and refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling Barbara Wilson at 410-228-2324 or the Dorchester Center for the Arts at 410-228-7782. Call 410-221-7868 for details.

Tidewater Chamber Singers Choral Christmas Concert

Date: Dec. 20 at 4 p.m.
Location: Christ Episcopal Church, Cambridge
Admission is \$10, students get in free. There will be a reception after the concert. For more information call 410-228-3161.

Bonnie Brook Luminary Display

Date: Dec. 23-24
Location: Throughout Dorchester County
View more than 100 homes illuminated in the Christmas spirit throughout the Bonnie Brook Community, located near Cambridge. Call 443-225-5545 for details.

KENT COUNTY

Artworks Holiday Sale and Show

Date: Dec. 1
Location: Chestertown
One-of-a-kind gifts made by local artists. For more information call 410-778-6300; e-mail artworkschestertown@gmail.com; or visit www.artworkschestertown.org.

Tree of Lights Ceremony

Date: Dec. 3 at 5:30 p.m.
Location: Chester River Hospital Center
All proceeds support local hospice services offered through Chester River Home Care & Hospice. Refreshments will be served. You may purchase a \$10 light for the tree in memory of someone special. For more information call Kenda Leager at 410-778-7668, ext. 4013.



Luminaria Night Celebration in Vienna

More than 1,500 glowing luminaries will line the streets of Vienna this Christmas as the Vienna Heritage Foundation, with the assistance of the Chicone Ruritan Club, sponsor this annual event.

Private homes decorated for the season, historic buildings including the old Customs House and Ferry Toll Collector's House, and community churches will open their doors for tours, Christmas music, refreshments and old-fashioned hospitality from 5 to 8 p.m.

The Vienna trams will ferry passengers between points of interest, and maps will be provided for those who prefer to walk the candlelit streets. Those interested in taking the tram should park at the Vienna Town Hall/ball field.

Parking also is available at the Edwin A. Murphy Community Center.

The Vienna Heritage Museum will serve as the official Luminaria Night headquarters, where information, maps and tickets for the private home tours may be purchased. Tickets for the house tour are \$5 per person or \$8 for a family and their children under 13.

The museum also will have displays, demonstrations, refreshments and be the main stop for the tram rides. Santa and some of his helpers will be in town for the evening at the Ferry Toll Collector's House where he will greet children.

For more information visit www.viennamd.org/towntalk.html or call 410-946-1212.

Santa's Workshop

Date: Dec. 5, from 1 to 4 p.m.
 Location: Worton Arena, Worton
 For ages 4-12. The cost is \$9. All
 crafts, refreshments and photos
 with Santa are included in the
 cost. Sponsored by Kent County
 Parks & Recreation. For more
 information call 410-778-2083.

Boat Parade and Santa's Arrival

Date: Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.
 Location: Rock Hall Harbor
 Join Santa as he arrives at the
 bulkhead in the company of
 bands and lighted boats.

Cookie Walk

Date: Dec. 5 at 9 a.m.
 Location: Christ United Methodist
 Church, Chestertown
 The walk will continue until all
 cookies have been claimed. Par-
 ticipants will walk along tables
 filled with cookie trays, selecting
 cookies and placing them in a
 box provided at entry. For more
 information contact Herb Wilkin-
 son at 410-778-0764.

Galena's Christmas Tree Lighting

Date: Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.
 Location: Galena's Town Hall
 The Kent County Marching Band

will play Christmas Carols and
 Santa will arrive by Fire Truck to
 visit with children. Refreshments
 will be served.

Eastern Shore Wind Ensemble

Date: Dec. 6 at 4 p.m.
 Location: Emmanuel Episcopal
 Church, Chestertown
 This event will feature holiday
 seasonal music. Admission is
 free, but donations are appre-
 ciated. For more information
 call 410-778-2829 or e-mail
 cliokent@yahoo.com.

Holiday House Tour

Date: Dec. 12, from 1 to 5 p.m.
 Location: Emmanuel Episcopal
 Church is the start of the tour
 Proceeds are used to help
 students of H.H. Garnett
 Elementary School. The tour
 is self-guided and most of the
 homes and buildings are within
 walking distance of Chester-
 town's historic and shopping
 district. Restroom facilities and
 light refreshments are available
 to all ticket holders.

Christmas in the Grand Tradition

Date: Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m.
 (Sing-a-Long), 7 p.m. (Lessons
 and Carols)
 Location: Christ United Metho-
 dist Church, Chestertown
 The event will include a display
 of manger scenes from around
 the world for the benefit of Pro-
 ject Outreach. For more informa-
 tion contact Nancy Montague at
 410-778-5227.

Candlelight Service

Date: Dec. 24 at 11 p.m.
 Location: Christ United Metho-
 dist Church, Chestertown
 The service will feature sharing,
 caroling and celebration.

**Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Com-
pany New Year's Eve Dance**

Date: Dec. 31 at 9 p.m.
 Location: Rock Hall Volunteer
 Fire Company
 There will be great music for
 dancing, and special hors
 d'oeuvres will be served from 10
 p.m. to midnight. There will be
 transportation available from the
 Fire House to go to Rock Hall
 Harbor to see the Rockfish drop
 at midnight.

**Rock Hall Crawl, Chasin' the
Blues to 2010**

Date: Dec. 31 at 6:30 p.m.
 Location: Rock Hall
 Bring in the New Year Eastern
 Shore style. Parade of crazy
 hats begins at 6:30 p.m. Music
 is available throughout the
 night at several venues and
 countdown the New Year with
 the famous Rockfish Drop and
 fireworks at midnight, at the
 Rock Hall Harbor Bulkhead from
 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Breakfast will
 be served at 1 a.m. For more
 information call 410-639-7611.

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY**Centreville Christmas Parade**

Date: Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m.
 Location: Centreville
 A Christmas night-time parade
 featuring antique cars, bands,
 floats, fire engines and more.

Heck with the Malls

Date: Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 2
 p.m.
 Location: Centre for the Arts and
 St. Paul's Church



Oxford Holiday House Tour

The Oxford Holiday House
 Tour, a benefit for the Oxford
 Community Center, will be held
 Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This year's tour offers a differ-
 ent point of view — seven homes
 outside the historic district, in
 Bachelors Point, Jacks Point and
 Morgans Point.

Tour-goers will be treated to
 a variety of unique interior and
 exterior elements.

The self-guided tour begins
 with check-in at the Oxford Com-
 munity Center, just past the fire-

house as you enter the town of
 Oxford. Participants will receive a
 detailed map, which will served as
 their entrance ticket to homes.

A gingerbread house display,
 as well as a train garden exhibit
 courtesy of the Oxford Museum,
 will be open for viewing.

Tickets for the tour are \$30 in
 advance and \$35 at the door. For an
 additional \$15 fee, box lunches, re-
 served in advance, will be available.

Payment should be sent to the
 Oxford Community Center, P.O.
 Box 308, Oxford, MD 21654.

Hand-crafted soaps and lotions, jewelry, mosaics, photography, fashion and home accessories, one-of-a-kind purses, ceramics, wood and metal sculpture, holiday ornaments, watercolors, wildlife carvings, Native American clothing and book signings will be available.

Old Fashioned Christmas — Model Train

Date: Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Sudlersville Train Station Museum, Sudlersville
The museum will be open and model trains will be running. Refreshments will be available. For more information call Mary Godfrey at 410-438-3501.

Holiday Pops Concert by the Queen Anne's Chorale

Date: Dec. 6

Location: Todd Performing Arts Center at Chesapeake College, Wye Mills

This concert will feature holiday classics as well as a special presentation of "Twas the Night Before Christmas." The audience will have the opportunity to sing along.

Christmas Concert by the Chesapeake Youth Chorale

Date: Dec. 6 at 4 p.m.

Location: Easton Church of the Brethren

Holiday Weekend Open House

Date: Dec. 11

Location: downtown Stevensville
Visit www.discoverqueenannes.com for more information.

Members Best Artist's Exhibits

Date: Dec. 11

Location: several locations
A year-round rotating exhibit featuring artwork of Queen Anne's County Arts Council members. Admission is free. Artwork will be available at the Centreville National Bank, PNC Bank, Cottage Cuts, Delmarva Financial Group, An Optical Galleria and Prudential Premier Properties.

An Evening of Celtic Christmas Music

Date: Dec. 12 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Location: Christ Church, Kent Island

The cost is \$15 per person and tickets may be purchased at www.christchurchkentisland.org. For more information call 410-643-5921.

TALBOT COUNTY

Wreath Workshop

Date: Dec. 2

Location: Oxford Community Center, Oxford
Shirley Windsor of Seasonal Flowers returns to instruct this annual favorite. The cost is \$30.

For more information call 410-226-5904.

Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra

Date: Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Easton Church of God, Easton

A holiday concert.

First Friday Gallery Walk

Date: Dec. 4, from 5 to 9 p.m.

Location: Downtown Easton
Stroll the brick-paved walks to browse an abundance of art galleries, antique and specialty shops and award-winning restaurants. For more information call 410-820-8822.

Holiday Tree Lighting

Date: Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Thompson Park, Easton

Entertainment, caroling and a special visit from Santa. There is no cost. For more information call 410-820-8822.

Holiday Carriage Rides

Date: Dec. 4, 11, 18 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Location: Downtown Easton
There is no cost; rides are weather-dependent. For more information call 410-820-8822.

Christmas on the Creek

Date: Dec. 4-6

Location: Oxford

A weekend-long event showcasing the holiday spirit of Oxford and offering many holiday events, such as the Holy Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Breakfast with Santa at the Oxford Firehouse and the Holiday Homes Tour. A full schedule is available at www.oxfordmd.net. For more information call Sandy Hale at 410-714-1216.

Easton Old Tyme Holiday Parade

Date: Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Downtown Easton

View a parade of floats, fire trucks, horses, antique cars, bands and people dressed up in Victorian costume. For more information call 410-820-8822.

Midnight Madness

Date: Dec. 5

Location: St. Michaels

Shops stay open until midnight, and special sales and refreshments are offered. There will be a midnight prize drawing.

Easton Farmers' Market

Date: Dec. 5, 12, 19, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Last farmers' markets of the season. For more information call 410-820-8822.

Elk's 3rd Annual Christmas Shopping Extravaganza

Date: Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Easton Elks Lodge

1622, Easton

Vendors will feature art, jewelry, crafts, carvings, beauty items and clothing, as well as fresh greens, poinsettias and wreaths. Sandwiches, crab soup and homemade desserts will be available. Admission is open to the public with a donation of a non-perishable food item for the Elks Food Donation Box. Vendors are still being accepted. For more information call Connie at 410-479-4877.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Date: Dec. 6 at 5 p.m.

Location: Christ Church — St. Michael's Parish, St. Michaels
Set aside an hour of your busy holiday schedule and join us in reflecting on the meaning of the season. For more information call 410-745-9076.

Breakfast with Santa and Oxford Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Crafts Bazaar

Date: Dec. 6, from 7 to 11 a.m.

Location: Oxford Volunteer Fire Department

Breakfast is served at the fire department, then take a visit to the Ladies Auxiliary crafts tables, filled with baked goods, gifts and hand-made items. Santa will be there for photos. Proceeds benefit Oxford Volunteer Fire Department services.

Oxford Holiday House Tour

Date: Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Oxford
Proceeds will benefit the Oxford Community Center. Seven homes outside the historic district are on the tour. The self-guided tour begins with check-in at the Oxford Community Center; tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the tour. For an additional fee, box lunches will be available.

Talbot County Garden Club Juried Holiday Greens Show

Date: Dec. 8, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Location: James Neall House, Easton

Greens and flowers of all varieties will be on display. There is no cost. For more information call 410-822-0773.

St. Michaels Community Center Presents Ebenezer

Date: Dec. 9-12 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 13 at 2 p.m.

Location: Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels

Tickets are \$10; children under 6 get in free. For more information call 410-745-6073.

The Celtic Tenors

Date: Dec. 10 at 8 p.m.

Location: Avalon Theatre, Easton
The Celtic Tenors will present their holiday show. The cost is \$40. For more information call 410-822-7299.

Christmas in St. Michaels

Date: Dec. 11

Location: St. Michaels

A black tie benefit gala kicks off the weekend festivities, which include a parade, Breakfast with Santa, Santa's Wonderland for children, and tours of local historic homes and buildings. Proceeds from the weekend's special ticketed events go to support local organizations. For more information call 410-745-0745.

Moonlight Madness

Date: Dec. 11

Location: Downtown Easton

Participating downtown businesses will offer special discounts, music and holiday cheer, with stores open until 10 p.m. Drawings will take place at the Avalon Theatre at 10 p.m. Tickets collection and entertainment will begin at 9 p.m.

Arts in Easton Banner Auction

Date: Dec. 12

Location: Waterfowl Festival Building, Easton

Attendees will be able to bid on all banners, which are original artwork produced by local artists. For more information call 410-820-8822.

Photos with Santa

Date: Dec. 12, 19 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Location: Tidewater Inn lobby, Easton

The cost is \$5. For more information call 410-820-8822.

Christmas Caroling in Town Park

Date: Dec. 19 at 5:15 p.m.

Location: Oxford

Refreshments will be served at the Oxford Museum after a rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

"A Christmas Carol"

Date: Dec. 20 at 3 p.m.; Dec. 21-23 at 8 p.m.

Location: Avalon Theatre, Easton
This ensemble, presented by Art-House Live Productions, features a large cast of adults and children singing and dancing. The cost is \$15. For more information call 410-822-7299.

First Night Talbot

Date: Dec. 31, from 6 p.m. to midnight

Location: Downtown Easton

There will be Crap Drops at 9 p.m. and midnight, dance performances and lessons, comedy, puppet theatre, gospel choirs, live theatre competition, community mosaic, films, crafts and moon bounce. Activities will take place at various locations. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children (children under five get in free). For more information call 410-820-8822.

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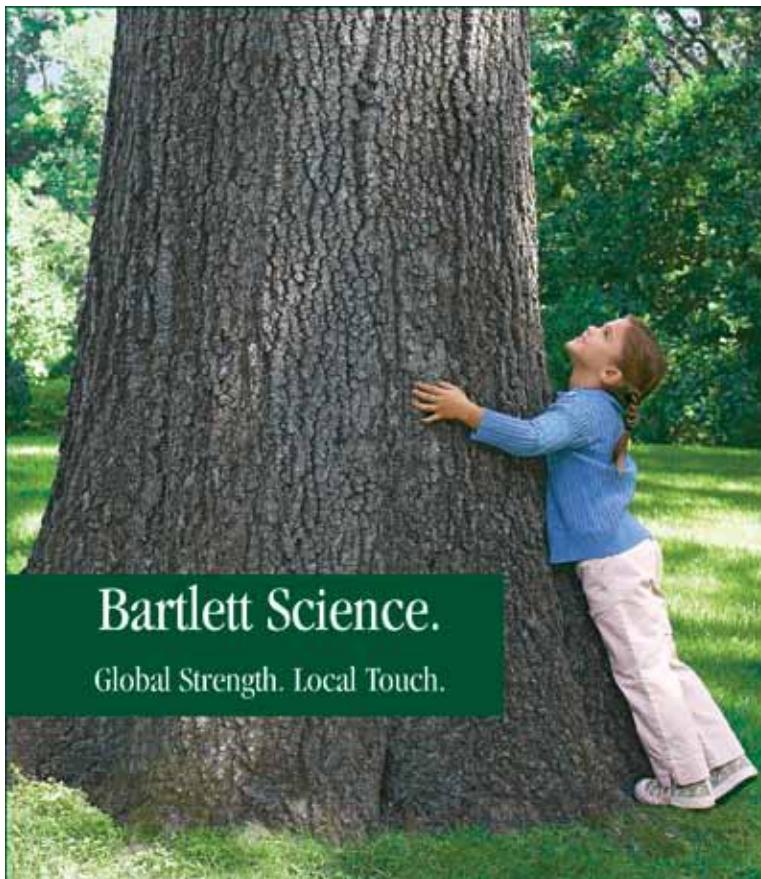
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