



MORNING STAR • APRIL 29 - MAY 5, 2021



Members of the Morning Star Publications Inc. staff from left are: (top row) Karen Cherrix, Brittany Passon, Casey Johnson and Chris Redman Elliott (front row) Bryant Richardson, Carol Richardson, Tede Griffith, Greg English and Mike McClure. Photo by Susan Michel

To Our Friends

*Thank you to our subscribers and
advertisers for allowing us to serve the
communities of western Sussex County
for the past quarter of a century.*

The Morning Star Staff

History of newspapers 1984-2021 Western Sussex County publishing business goes through changes

By Bryant L. Richardson

Much has been written about the history of newspapers in western Sussex County. W. Wright Robinson was the face of local journalism for decades and his influence will forever be recognized for its positive role in encouraging progress.

In this 25th anniversary edition of Morning Star Publications I hope to fill in some details about the newspaper publishing business with which only a few are familiar.

Of special note is that W. Wright Robinson's daughter, Sue Bramhall, writes a weekly column in the Seaford and Laurel Star newspapers. As did her father for years, Mrs. Bramhall writes about the "earlier days" of life in western Sussex County.

You will notice I am starting to fill in details about the history of the newspaper business in western Sussex County in the year 1984. In April of 1984 Banner Publications, Inc., published the first edition of the Seaford Banner.

I am sharing an account of my personal experience that led to the debut of the Seaford Banner for one special reason and that is how my faith in God and in His Word led me through a time of testing in my life.

I hope my story will encourage believers who are facing difficulties to trust in God's Word. And I hope that

others will be open to learning more about the importance of a relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In late December 1983, I woke at 3 a.m. with three words going through my mind: "Jesus Will Prevail."

I thought, that's true and went back to sleep. At 6 a.m. I woke up again with the same three words going through my mind.

I got up and wrote down those words and the date.

At the time I was general manager at The Leader & State Register. In the three years I served as general manager, the profitability of the newspapers grew from 8.5 to 13.5 to 18.5 percent.

Even with this record of success, I felt uneasy about my position and that something was about to change. I was drawn into reading intensely from the Word of God.

On January 2, 1984, I was informed that the Seaford division was being reorganized and I no longer fit into the new picture. I was let go.

I had given 12 years of sacrificial service to the company, starting as a reporter in 1972 and working my way up to editor and then general manager. I called my wife, Carol, to tell her the news. At the time we had a daughter, Leanne, 13, and two sons, Paul, 8, and Daniel, just a baby.

Continued to page 15

The men and women behind the headlines

By Bryant L. Richardson

The following are personal profiles from those who are actively involved in Morning Star’s operations. The profiles offer insight into the many personalities of those whose talents contribute to the success of our publishing company.

Publisher/Editor Mike McClure

Publisher/Editor Mike McClure graduated from Ephrata High School and Salisbury University (Communications) and has lived on Delmarva for the past 23 years. McClure started working for the Star as Managing Editor/Sports Editor in 2002. He lives in Delmar, Del. with his dogs, Maui and Chiqui.

He and the staff of the Stars have won multiple Maryland-Delaware-DC (MDDC) Press Association and Delaware Press Association awards over the past five years. McClure also serves on the Board of the Western Sussex Chamber of Commerce and is a past president of the organization.

Chris Redman Elliott

I guess newspaper ink is in my veins! Before I graduated from high school, I got a part time job at The Leader, Seaford’s only newspaper at that time. After a few years and lots of changes, I returned to The Leader for a full time position. Motherhood and more life changes brought me to the Star and this year marks my 10th year with Morning Star Publications.

My job as an advertising representative led me to meeting my husband, Dickie Elliott at the Laurel American Legion. The biggest change I see in the newspaper business is the use of the internet. Sometimes I have email exchanges with customers that I never meet.

When I am not working, I enjoy family time, working out, the beach and traveling. My daughter, Bethany Redman lives in Chestertown and teaches Spanish. Claire is a paralegal and lives in Minnesota.

Last year I lost both parents and as I clean and sort their household, I have found numerous newspaper clippings.

I grew up with the local newspaper in the house and know the importance of local news. Many lessons can be learned from a newspaper. To reach me email credman@mspublications.com or call 302-629-9788.

Karen Cherrix

I started my career in the newspaper business with Chesapeake Publishing as a graphic design artist at The Leader and State Register office in Seaford. After several years in the composition department I took a position in the sales department as the advertising coordinator.

The Leader and State Register was purchased by Independent News in 1996 and at that time I resigned and went to work for the Richardsons to start the Seaford and Laurel Stars.

I currently manage the Stars circulation, design advertising and compose several monthly magazines. I enjoy working with customers and creating effective advertis-

ing layouts to promote local businesses. I have won numerous advertising design awards from the MDDC Press Association.

In the past 30 years I have experienced many changes and liked the challenges of this industry. I am now working part time at the Star office and enjoying more time with my family and other interests.

Greg English

I started working at Morning Star Publications in 2012 as a sales representative. I have been here for 9 years, and it has gone by fast.

Previously I worked in construction materials sales for 35 years covering the Eastern Shore. I grew up and have lived in Seaford all my life, and attended Seaford Schools, graduating in 1976.

I have always enjoyed working with people and the public. I have had several customers over the years who also became good friends.

My family is very important to me and I like spending time with them as much as possible. I have been married since 1980 and have two adult children, a son and a daughter, and two grandsons that I love spending time with. I am fortunate they all live locally.

I have been very active in my local church, Woodland United Methodist. I like watching most sports especially following the Orioles and Ravens. I like the outdoors, that is why I live in the country.

I have raised all sorts of animals over the years including exhibition poultry. I would like to congratulate Morning Star Publications on its 25th anniversary. I am proud to be part of the history. To reach me, email genglish@mspublications.com or call 302-629-9788.

Tede Griffith

I enjoy helping owners of businesses understand the awareness that advertising creates by designing proposals to include initial investment and cost justification to help grow their business.

My personal gratification is knowing that I helped them understand their customers, sometimes to the point of even helping with a business plan.

One of my best accomplishments was owning my own business. After graduating from college with a B.S. in business my parents helped me financially to purchase a Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio.

Within two years I successfully paid off the note and expanded business to incorporate clothing and gift items. After ten years I needed to expand my career goals and sold the business and was introduced into the world of advertising, which I enjoy.

My experience in owning my business has enabled me to share the dos and don’ts with others.

Some day when I retire I plan on being a foster animal parent to those in need of a loving forever home.

Lastly, I have enjoyed many travel adventures and would like to share this one with you. While vacationing in Hawaii

Thank You for 25 Years of Local News!

Seaford Bought Power Plant For \$200,000 Sat.

Seaford's Purchase Ends Long Struggle of City For Electric Power To Pay for Itself

Candidate For Representative From Broad Creek

FRANK CHARLEY

Hallowe'en Will Draw Big Crowd At Parade Here

Meeting Thursday night at the Fire House, the Hallowe'en committee of the Seaford Fire Department, announced that the Hallowe'en parade will be held on Friday, October 27, at 7 o'clock. The parade will start at the Fire House and go to the Seaford High School. A number of floats from out of town have already declared they will be in the parade. The committee is now accepting suggestions for floats to be in the parade. The parade will be held on Friday, October 27, at 7 o'clock. The parade will start at the Fire House and go to the Seaford High School. A number of floats from out of town have already declared they will be in the parade. The committee is now accepting suggestions for floats to be in the parade. The parade will be held on Friday, October 27, at 7 o'clock. The parade will start at the Fire House and go to the Seaford High School. A number of floats from out of town have already declared they will be in the parade. The committee is now accepting suggestions for floats to be in the parade.

Seaford Selected As Site For Huge \$7,000,000.00 duPont Co. Textile Mill

Plant Will Be Erected on 340-Acre Plot About Mile Southwest of Sussex County Town; To Be On Northern Side of Nantuxet River Adjacent To the Cambridge Branch of Pennsylvania Railroad; Construction Will Give Jobs to Hundreds

SUSSEX COUNTY INDEX.

"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS; NEUTRAL IN NOTHING."

VOL. II. SEAFORD, DEL. SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1879. NO. 51.

WILL CELEBRATE FOURTH OF JULY

Plans Are Being Made to Make Celebration the Biggest and Best Yet

DAY WILL BE FULL OF "DOINGS"

Parade in Morning; Baseball in Afternoon; Fireworks, Minstrel Show and Dance at Night

The Fourth of July celebration in Seaford this year, is to be celebrated by none other on the Peninsula or by any that have been formerly held in Seaford. If the plans of the Seaford Baseball Club are carried through successfully.

We thank the Star for supporting our annual holiday train display.

The Place to Buy WHAT YOU CAN BUY

BUILDERS' AND COACH HARDWARE,

Shedloads! Wagon and Cart, Montgomery Imperial Railway Wheel Pin, Reel and Young Justice Corn and Calf Mills, Auto and Farmery, Ford Plows, Plow and New-ground Plows, Ward Tree-shed Plows, Ford-Cutters, Horse-Rakes, Smoothing Harrow Cultivators, Seed-Drills, Double and Single, Ten Shellers, Grain and Fertilizer Drills, Ropes and More.

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UP TO 25 WORDS 25c

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This website is supported by donations from its users.

Phone: 302-628-9828

my girlfriend and I had a crush on Tom Selleck.

We discovered he was filming on the island and decided to visit him. We found the house and when the guards weren't looking we snuck in only to be escorted right back out.

Needlessly to say we never got to meet Tom but had so much fun trying. That was the best part of our trip.

If you would like me to help you with a business advertising plan you may reach me at tgriffith@mspublications.com or 410-404-1278.

Brittany Passon

Brittany started at the Star in March 2019, where she composes ads and layouts. She also processes photos and is the Star's Classified Rep. She is a 2015 Salisbury University graduate, where she majored in Graphic Design. She is also a 2011 graduate of Mardela High School.

Britany resides in Hebron, MD. She attends Emmanuel Church in Salisbury, MD, where she has served in the graphics department, Trunk or Treat, and National Night Out. In her free time she enjoys drawing, oldies music, spending time with family and friends, and spending time with her loving Persian kitty, Cashmere.

Casey Johnson

Casey has been with the Star since January of 2020 as our Community Outreach Coordinator. She is a graduate of Seaford Senior High School, Delaware Technical Community College (summa cum laude) and University of Delaware.

Casey currently resides in Bridgeville with her husband and cats, and enjoys

yoga, gardening, hiking, and archery.

Tony Windsor

Tony started his career in local journalism in 1984, when he was hired by Bryant Richardson as a writer for Bryant's community newspaper, the Seaford Banner.

When the newspaper was sold in 1988, Tony joined Bryant and they went to work with The Leader and State Register.

In 1985, Tony left The Leader and State Register to go to work with Bryant and his wife Carol, who at the time, were starting what was to become Morning Star Publications, Inc., home of the Seaford Star.

Tony became managing editor of the Seaford Star and Laurel Star newspapers. In 1997, Tony went to work with Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware, as Grants Manager and State Food Program Director. He has, however, remained a part of the Seaford Star and Laurel Star newspapers as a columnist, and writer, contributing features and covering primarily the Laurel community.

Lynn R. Parks

Lynn Parks got her start in journalism at The Leader and State Register, newspapers that served western Sussex County. There, she was a copy editor and wrote a personal column, largely focused on her family.

She has been with the Stars nearly since their beginning, writing news and feature stories and covering the Seaford School Board and the Seaford City Council. Also at the Star, she wrote a personal column until 2015 and then a food column from July 2016 until February 2020.

Lynn's career at the Star ended earlier this month when she retired.

Dr. Anthony M. Policastro

Dr. Anthony M. Policastro arrived in Seaford as the Medical Director at Nanticoke Memorial Hospital in November 1995.

Soon after Bryant Richardson called him about doing a weekly medical article for the new Seaford Star. It seemed like a good opportunity for the local physicians to do articles on their various specialty areas. That worked for a while. However, busy physicians did not always have the time to write articles. So after a few months, Dr. Policastro began writing them all himself.

He continued doing so when he retired from Nanticoke in 2007 and went back to full time Developmental and Behavioral Medicine pediatric practice with Nemours.

One of the main areas that he emphasized when working with patients was to make sure they understood what was going on with their medical issues. He felt the same way about using his article to educate the community on a variety of topics.

Then when the COVID-19 epidemic broke out, he realized that the national news media focused on sensationalizing the disease. There was a narrow focus on hot spots. There was a lot of conjecture that was not based upon fact.

He saw a need to provide a more objective viewpoint of the disease process. There was a need for some subjectivity like the need for people to wear masks. However, the goal was just to make the public aware of information that was un-

filtered by media opinion. Thus began the weekly COVID-19 update added to his column.

Sue Bramhall

Sue is a fourth generation Seafordian, the daughter of Wright and Pearl Robinson. Wright was the owner and editor of The Seaford Leader, so during her younger years Sue worked at numerous jobs at the newspaper office: wrapping the papers for mailing every Thursday, answering office calls, proofreading, writing "personals" for the paper, manually assembling the many pamphlets the office printed, and even wrote a "Seaford Person You Should Know" column for several years, ending in the 1960s.

After graduating from Seaford High School, Sue entered the University of Delaware and eventually earned her Masters in Education from Salisbury University. Sue first taught seventh, eighth and eleventh grade English at Federalsburg High School, and then became a full time English and U. S. History teacher at Seaford High School when the new high school opened and full integration of schools in Seaford began.

Sue continued working in the Seaford School District for a total of 25 years or so, as either a full time or substitute teacher. In 1987, she became a Delaware Realtor and was recognized by both the Sussex County Association and the Delaware Association of Realtors, as the Sales Associate of the Year in 1996 and the Realtor of the Year in 1998. She served as the 2000 president of the Sussex County Realtors Association and the 2004 president of the Delaware Association of

CONGRATULATIONS FOR 25 YEARS!

The City of Seaford congratulates Morning Star Publications on their 25th anniversary, and thanks them for their dedicated coverage throughout the years! We appreciate all you do for the Seaford community and wish you many successful years to come!



Realtors.

At the national level, Sue was a NAR director, a NAR instructor in its international division, and served as NAR’s Ambassador to the Ukraine for four years. In December 2020, after being a Realtor for 33 years (25 years with Callaway, Farnell & Moore), Sue retired from real estate.

Sue has been a Trustee for the Christiana Hospital for a number of years and has also served on the Western Sussex County Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee for many years.

Sue has been a member of the Seaford Historical Society for years and currently acts as a docent at the Ross Mansion.

Sue is also a member of the Nathaniel Mitchell Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and her patriot’s tombstone can be found under St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. She also is a member of the Editorial Board of the Seaford/Laurel Star, and for the last 2 or 3 years has been writing weekly articles about Seaford and nearby towns for the paper.

She is married to George Bramhall, a retired Sussex County attorney, and is the mother and step-mother to four children: Ricky Holt in Tennessee; George, Jr. in California; Lynnae in Seaford, and Laurie in Washington.

Julleanna Seely

Julleanna Seely first started writing for the Seaford Star nearly 20 years ago during a summer internship for college. She went on to graduate magna cum laude from Liberty University in 2003 with Bachelor of Science degrees in both History and Communications with a Journalism specialization.

Seely continued to write for the paper after graduating until she took a job as a marketing coordinator for a commercial builder in Wilmington, Nason Construction. Since then, her career blossomed in new home sales and marketing for both a national builder and local custom builder for 12 years.

Today, Julleanna Seely is an active real estate agent with the award-winning Griffin Higgins Team, part of Keller Williams Realty. In addition, her husband Adrian Seely and she started a home building business over a year ago, Seely Homes, LLC.

She is an active member of the community with three young children in the Woodbridge School District, where she serves on the Board of Education. In the midst of her busy life, she has appreciated the opportunity to employ her love of writing as a freelance contributor to the Seaford Star over the years.

Carol Kinsley

Carol Kinsley has loved writing since her days as a cub reporter for the now defunct Charlotte (N.C.) News. She has been writing part-time for Morning Star Publications since semi-retiring from American Farm Publications in 2008. She earned a bachelor’s degree in professional writing from what is now University of Maryland Global Campus and has managed her own professional services company, providing writing and editing, for 20 years. She has enjoyed helping several people prepare books for self-publication. Most recently she served as public relations coordinator for the Delaware Farm Bureau.

Kinsley and her husband moved to Seaford in 1990. They have two grown children and five grandchildren.

Gene Bleile

Gene is a 1965 Seaford High graduate and 1970 graduate of the University of Delaware with dual certification in Health and Physical Education, and earned a Masters Degree in Elementary Guidance in 1994 from Salisbury University. He was a teacher in the Seaford School District for 28 years (1971-1978 and 1986-2006), an Advertising Director for The Leader from 1979-1985, and coached Seaford High varsity soccer 1986-1990.

Gene was a sport writer and photographer at the Star from 2006-2008 and 2010-2020.

Al Higgins

I was born and raised in Massachusetts. After graduating from high school I enlisted in the U.S. Navy, served 4 ½ years and made 3 trips to Vietnam.

Following my Honorable Discharge I attended the University of Massachusetts and obtained a degree in Arboriculture and Park Management.

My family and I eventually settled in upstate New York.

I began writing for the outdoor industry in 1975 and have been featured in several national magazines over the years.

For 18 years I wrote a weekly newspaper column for the Kingston Freeman, in Kingston, New York and I continue to write magazine articles. My novel, The B.A.M.B.I Syndrome, was published in 2000.

In 2011 I moved to the Eastern Shore

and began writing for the Business Journal and then the Salisbury Star.

I continue to write for the monthly publication.

Ali Nicole

Contributing to Morning Star Publications since 2019, Ali Nicole is an Eastern Shore native and enjoys covering the best Delmarva has to offer. Much of her writing focuses in and around the Salisbury and Wicomico areas, highlighting everything from the stories of the people living and working in the area, to leadership and business.

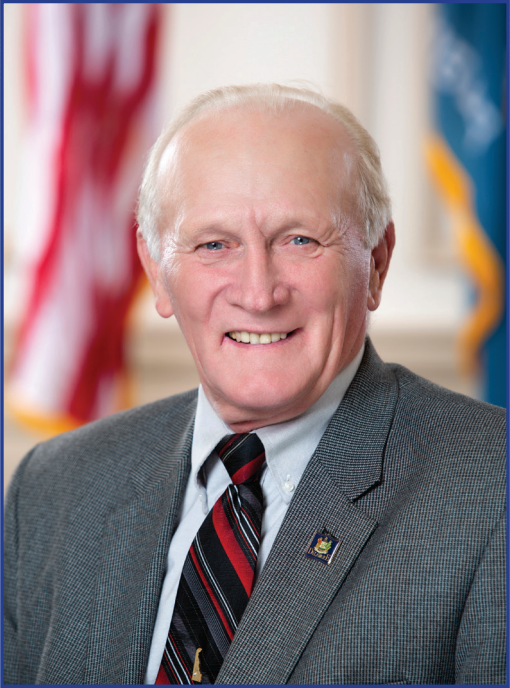
Ali has a particular interest in the events happening on the shore and bringing attention to all the excitement and engagement taking place locally.

Ali has her M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and gained a penchant for writing from her matriculation which focused on a variety of composition types. Her past work includes academic, entertainment, and health articles in local publications in print and online. When she isn’t writing, Ali can be found gaming, putting together a cosplay, or following the orders of her demanding cats.

Bernard W. Carr

Bernard W. Carr, a resident of Bridgeville, has served as a volunteer at Morning Star Publications since 2013. His primary duties include sports and news event photography, and frequently searching for and writing articles.

In 2019, he joined the MSP Editorial Board. Recently, Carr has accepted assignments to photograph clients purchasing ads/storylines for inclusion in the monthly



DAVE WILSON

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Business Report Magazine.

Carr is a graduate of Woodbridge High School and Delaware State University. He is a U.S. Army veteran. Carr was employed as an Intelligence Analyst at the FBI headquarters in Washington, DC. He retired as a police officer with the Metro Transit Police Department in 2013.

Lynn Schofer

My name is Lynn Schofer and I am one of five children. I grew up in the city of Reading, Pennsylvania, where I was introduced to sports at a very young age and played both organized athletics and neighborhood pick-up games.

I was a cheerleader through 8th grade, swam competitively in summer and winter, played basketball from 5th grade through my senior year in high school, field hockey in high school, and although it did not take any athletic ability I was the bat girl for the boys' baseball team.

Recreationally I played tennis, bowling, and street hockey and always played to win. My parents and siblings all still live in Reading and my father is a Berks County Hall of Fame Bowler and at 86 years young continues to coach young athletes in the sport of bowling.

I am an avid sports fan, love spending time with friends, and I enjoy hiking, walking, photography, music, and exploring new things. I am a devoted Philadelphia sport fan, Penn State Football where we enjoy season passes to the games, and Duke basketball. I also love spending time with my family and we were blessed when my son Zach married Danielle McTeer in 2015. In 2020 our entire family welcomed our first granddaughter, Annabel Jane. My husband, Steve, and I live in Seaford with

our two dogs, Zoe and Barkley.

The joy of combining my passion of athletics and photography has been an immense blessing and am truly grateful for the opportunity. I am passionate about sharing the stories of our local athletes, coaches and programs.

I have met coaches who are now some of my most valued friends, athletes who have graduated and gone on to play in college, watched young people grow into community leaders, and I get to stand on the sidelines of the sports with a close up view of the action.

I look forward to reading the weekly newspaper and what the Star reporters write about our local town. What a great place to be.

Richard Ralph

I have been in the paper business for around 12 years and haul bundles of papers and boxes of magazine of various publications for multiple companies including the Business Report for the Morning Star Publications.

I am very fortunate to work for a great company like Morning Star Publications, and am very fortunate to work for great people like Carol and Bryant Richardson and staff.

Isaac Dwayne Giles

Isaac has been delivering to the Seaford and Laurel Star newsstands for the past four years.

A devoted father, Isaac has five children, Isaiah Giles, 14, Jayden Giles, 11, Ciara Giles, 6, Taylor Thomas, 19, and Dawayntay Giles, 23.

He also has his own business, Isaac's Lawn Care, and works part-time at Walmart.

Star players

I want to take time to mention some very special people who have contributed to our publishing business over the years and who continue to be our friends.

Tina Reaser

Now retired, Tina has been part of our operation from the beginning. Tina was our very efficient production manager and kept us on deadline.

Her dedication to helping us succeed and taking a risk to join our operation early made her a valued worker and friend.

Frank Calio

Frank wrote columns and news articles for the Banner and then for the Stars. Frank's knowledge of politics and business and his heart for doing what is right for his community combined to bring an interesting perspective for readers. He has shown over the years his support for journalism.

George Beauchamp

As a former director of the Seaford Chamber of Commerce, George was well known by members of the business community and was able to add to our sales success as soon as joining Morning Star Publications.

To the Editor

I would like to offer a special tribute from a M.E.R.I.T. perspective to Morning Star Publications (Seaford and Laurel Stars) celebrating your 25th anniversary.

I want to acknowledge all you have done to promote our program and for being a key factor in spreading the successes of our M.E.R.I.T. alumni.

You supported M.E.R.I.T. every step of the way through Dr. Ben Carson and his family events (which were often sold out), which ultimately assured the

successful opening of the Boys and Girls Clubs at Hollis Park and the Laurel Armory.

You have become an integral part in both M.E.R.I.T. and the Western Sussex Boys and Girls Club.

Your support was vital through your outstanding staff – Tony Windsor, Lynn Parks, Mike McClure and Bryant Richardson – reporting on all the activities and development and the extensive sports coverage of Laurel, Delmar, and Seaford – so rewarding to these young athletes.

John Hollis
Seaford

Congratulations to the Star on their 25th Anniversary!



We look forward to doing business with you in the future.



TOWN OF LAUREL

Great Things Come Naturally

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townoflaurel.net



Congratulations to the Star newspapers on 25 years of serving the community!
Thank you for all you have done for our business!

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Mother's Day is May 9th! A gift card is the perfect gift!


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Day & Evening Hours

We are open with regular hours.
Limited capacity – call for an appointment.
Your patience is appreciated.
Looking forward to serving you!


25 years of Western Sussex memories



WESTERN SUSSEX-Shown (clockwise from left) are: the crowd at the Laurel Fourth of July Festival in 2006; members of the Red Sox are pictured during the Nanticoke Little League opening day ceremony in 2018; and the ferris wheel at the 2009 Apple-Scrapple Festival is pictured at dusk. Star File Photos

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WE'VE GOT THE SCOOPS- Pictured (clockwise from top right): the city of Seaford is joined by Governor Jack Markell for the groundbreaking for the Residences at Riverplace in 2015; February 2010 blizzard brings two feet of snow; and the Woodbridge School District breaks ground for the new Woodbridge High School in September 2012. Star File Photos

Call 302-629-9788 to subscribe to the Stars.



FRUITLAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Congratulations Morning Star
Publications on your 25th Anniversary
serving the community.*

P.O. Box 25, Fruitland, MD 21826 | fruitlandmdchamber.com

**Congratulations
to the Seaford
& Laurel Star
on 25 Years
of Local
News!**



**Congratulations
to the Star!**

25

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**JESSE
VANDERWENDE**
State Representative
35th District



FLASHBACK- Shown (clockwise from top left) are: the Delmar varsity field hockey team celebrating the first of its five straight state championships in 2016; the float in at the 2013 Nanticoke Riverfest; a motorist is rescued following severe flooding in September 2011; and a building was taken down by tornado that passed through the area in April 2019. Star File Photos

Unique One of a Kind Gifts by local artists & artisans



The Nanticoke River Arts Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the appreciation, practice, and enjoyment of all visual and performance art in western Sussex County, and to advance creative endeavors, educate, and engage the community in cultural experiences.

**Support local art
Donations appreciated**

Join us for our Spring Sidewalk Art Show

Saturday, May 15th (Rain date Sunday, May 16th) 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Live Entertainment provided!

324 High St., Seaford, Del.
(302) 628-2787 (ARTS)
email: nrac107@yahoo.com
nanticokeriverartscouncil.org

Gallery 107 Hours
Thurs & Fri 1-5 p.m., Sat 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
or by chance or appointment

A view from the cheap seats

By Mike McClure, Star Publisher



To quote Robin Williams in the movie “Dead Poet’s Society”, I’m going to take you on a trip down “Amnesia Lane”.

A few years ago (numbers are not important here) I was working as a freelance writer after writing full-time for the former Georgetown paper. I was already doing some work for the Delaware beach papers, but I sent my resume to newspapers throughout Sussex and Wicomico counties. Eventually I got a call from Bryant Richardson. He said he expected me to follow up with him, but he still scheduled an interview with me.

At the interview, he gave me some assignments for future issues of the Stars and said “let’s see how it goes”. I guess it went pretty well because 20 years later I’m still here, serving as the papers’ editor and publisher.

But as Paul Harvey used to say on his radio show, “but wait, there’s more.” “Here is the rest of the story.”

I worked as a freelance writer for about a year when I had a chance encounter with Pat Murphy. I was turning in a story or paperwork at the office when I came across Pat in the parking lot of the old Star office. I’m sure we had to talk about the Phillies first, but eventually he asked how things were going.

At the time I had an office in Millsboro (in the old Cooper Realty build-

ing), lived in Dagsboro, and was driving to the beaches, Salisbury, Georgetown, and western Sussex to cover events for all of the various publications I was writing for. I was ready to go back to working in an office, with other people, and covering one area instead of several areas.

I told this to Pat and he said he’d see what he could do about it. A couple weeks later I was offered a full-time position at the Stars and a couple weeks after that I started working here. That was 19 years ago.

Sometimes things happen by chance and sometimes things work out the way they are meant to work out. I believe the latter is the case with my time at the Star. Sure, I’ve butted heads with some co-workers over the years, but sometimes that’s what family does.

I couldn’t imagine a more welcoming group of communities for a “outsider” from Pennsylvania than the western Sussex towns. I recently came back home to Delmar and have appreciated everybody’s warm wishes, but I feel like I am at home wherever I go in western Sussex.

Thank you to all of the advertisers, readers, and staff members that helped make this special section and this milestone possible. Looking forward to doing this again in 2046.



25 YEARS IN THE COMMUNITY- Pictured (top) is the groundbreaking for the Nanticoke Senior Center, which took place in February 2011. Above, the Laurel fans cheer on their players during the 2014 Blue-Gold football game. The Laurel football team advanced to the state championship game that year while the Bulldogs’ softball team won its second straight state title. Star File Photos

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In memory of some of our champions

By Bryant L. Richardson

Many people and organizations have contributed to the success of Morning Star Publications, Inc. Sadly, some of those who helped our businesses grow and prosper are no longer with us.

In this article I will be sharing some of the special memories I have of how they played a part in the history of our publishing businesses, Banner Publications Inc. and Morning Star Publications Inc.

Jo Ann Sullivan

In 1984, shortly after my thoughts shifted to starting a newspaper in western Sussex County, my sister, Jo Ann Sullivan, offered to help her brother. Jo Ann had no newspaper or sales experience but was determined to see Banner Publications succeed. She started by looking up people to call from the Seaford phone book. Jo Ann became very good at sales and brought three of her children into the business, Michael, Denise and Cindy. Jo Ann worked for the Banner, for The Leader when the Banner was sold and then helped start Morning Star Publications, Inc. Jo Ann named our business, based on words in the Bible. She died of cancer at age 64.

Pat Murphy

Pat came to our home in Seaford shortly after the Seaford Star was published. He brought us an article about a trip his friends were planning to a Major League Baseball stadium. He and his friends liked to visit ball parks around the nation. An avid (to say the least) Phillies fan, Pat enjoyed talking baseball and ribbing anyone who was not a Phillies fan. On his visit to our home, Pat asked about an ad we were running looking for a salesperson. He asked to be given a chance. Pat worked for us for a number of years before he became ill. He often came to work early and never watched the clock. He was Mr. Laurel to many.

Barbara Conn

Barbara Conn came into our office one day and asked us if we needed someone in sales in the Salisbury market. We hired her on the spot. Barbara did an amazing job for us in Salisbury. When she broke her wrists, my wife drove her to her assignments. Barbara was persistent and we said she would not leave a business until they bought an ad.

Rick Cullen

Rick came to us after retiring from the Daily Times where he had served as sports editor. We did not have an opening in editorial, but always were willing to have someone join us in sales. Rick filled that role until his death in 2018.

Doug Mordes

Doug was my first and only business manager. While he lived in Seaford, his business was in Salisbury, Md. Doug would come by the Star on Tuesdays for about an hour. My wife often said that Tuesday was production day and that was not a good time to visit, but Doug didn't mind. Each time before he left our office, he would say that he had some important people to talk to now. I remember the day he came into the office and was not his usual smiling self. That was the day he said he was diagnosed with lung cancer. Many times I think to myself, "What would Doug advise me to do in this situation."

Phil Livingston

I remember Phil coming to our home in Westview, Seaford, right after the Seaford Star was born eager to become our first subscriber. Phil became someone who contributed photos, articles and sales into the Stars. He became a very good friend and someone I respected for his service in the FBI. He drowned during a storm when he went to check on his boat anchored along the Nanticoke River.

Rita Brev

Rita worked in the publishing business in New Jersey before moving to Laurel. As a widow she raised six children. Rita worked in composition at The Leader and State Register along with her oldest daughter, Tina [Reaser]. They both came to work for Morning Star. Not an early riser, Rita came to work late mornings, but worked evenings until all the work was done.

Knowing these people has been one of the many blessings of my life. They are missed.

Congratulations Morning Star Publications on 25 years!



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Business Report

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Find out what this R&D company is up to next

+FROM ADS TO RICHES
One company's success story

+WHERE TO HOST YOUR
HOLIDAY PARTY



Business Report goes from newsprint to a glossy magazine in 2008

When the Morning Star Business Report went from newsprint to a glossy magazine format, the first edition featured an article on ILC Dover. Part of the focus of the company was on the production of sophisticated spacesuits. Thus, the cover was designed to emphasize this business product. The design shows an astronaut holding a copy of the Business Report, which features an astronaut holding a copy of the Business Report, and on and on. The creation of the cover was done by Daniel Richardson, son of Bryant and Carol Richardson, who was part of Morning Star Publications for a few years before he changed careers. He now lives in Washington, D.C. and works in Information Technology. Above is a photo of Daniel's Jack Russell, who appears to be proofreading the Business Report and reacting when he finds an error.

Through the years, we appreciate your talent and efforts.

Together, we take pride in your commitment to serving the schools in our community.



Seaford School District congratulates the Seaford Star on Celebrating 25 years.

Happy 25th Anniversary
MORNING STAR PUBLICATIONS, INC.

We are thankful to have a quality local newspaper that is truly committed to serving our community.

The Seaford & Laurel Stars are one of our primary sources of print advertising, and we appreciate the opportunity to support another local business.





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The Chamber is excited to finally celebrate this 100+ year milestone with a momentous event in 2021. The "Centennial Party on the Wicomico" will take place on July 16th at the beautiful Green Hill Country Club in Quantico, Maryland. The celebration will take place on the 10th fairway, overlooking the beautiful Wicomico River.

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Tickets are limited! Reserve Yours Today!

\$175	If purchased by June 30, 2021	\$200	If purchased after June 30, 2021
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In Appreciation of the Star Tribute to the Boys & Girls Club



Transfer of ownership of National Guard - Laurel Armory from State of Delaware to Boys and Girls Club.



Jim Bowden shows Dave Crimmins how to install the phone system at the new center.



Board Member Senator Thurman Adams talks with board member Sally Higgins and Dorothy Hollis.



Original Board Members



*Tom Matte, former Baltimore Colts player
Chuck Thompson, voice of Baltimore Orioles*



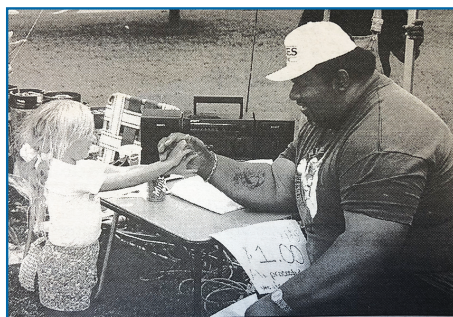
The Boys and Girls Club moved from Arch St. to a new building on Virginia Ave.



Laura Bush, wife of Texas Governor and presidential candidate



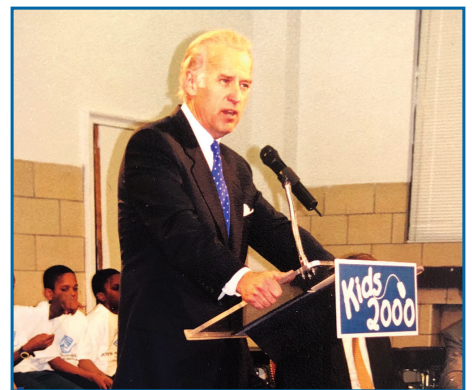
Tony Windsor & Dave Crimmins at the Charlie Daniels fundraiser concert in Lewes for Western Sussex Boys and Girls Club



Mike Hall has dedicated his life to working with young people.



Country music star Bryan White concert fundraiser



Senator Joe Biden



Dr. Ben Carson spoke at the prayer breakfast with 800 in attendance.

Sports Tribute

The Star has provided excellent coverage of the multiple state championships for the Woodbridge, Seaford, Laurel and Delmar Schools!



Cal Ripken Sr.

Excited to be a part of the anniversary celebration of Morning Star

I have always viewed life metaphorically as a ‘merry-go-round.’ The merry-go-round spins around and hours turn into days, days turn into weeks, weeks into months and months into years.

Every once in a while we take the time to stop the merry-go-round and we are forced to witness the impact of the time that has whizzed past us at what seems an extraordinary velocity.

The merry-go-round stopped for me recently as I was informed that Morning Star Publications, Inc. is celebrating 25 years of publishing the Seaford and Laurel Star newspapers.

It seems like just yesterday that I was sitting at the dining room table in Bryant and Carol Richardson’s Seaford home helping them and a few other colleagues, plan what was soon to be the newest community newspaper.

At the time, I had about 12 years of experience as a community journalist. In 1984, Bryant Richardson came to work one morning at his former Seaford Banner office on Pennsylvania Avenue and found me standing on the doorstep like a piece of mail.

I should consider myself lucky that rather than calling the police, he offered to talk to me about a job. I came back the next week, met with him, and for me the rest is history.

I have been extremely blessed to call Bryant and Carol Richardson my friends

TONY WINDSOR

On production days, it was not unusual for us to get back home sometimes as late as 4 or 5 the next morning.



for all these years, and even more blessed that they are willing to consider me a friend as well.

I also feel fortunate that since starting as a journalist when I did, I was able to experience the very last days of using the typewriter as the prime tool for conveying a story.

Many were the night that Bryant and I would travel to Dover at the end of the work day carrying sheets of typed news that would be transcribed for news print by typist using a computer typesetting process.

I can still recall watching Bryant as he would cut the finished newsprint with an Exacto knife, and fit it on the newspaper templates to be sent to the printing presses. On production days, it was not unusual for us to get back home sometimes as late as 4 or 5 the next morning.

By the mid-1980s, the Seaford Banner

began using apple computers and we were able to bypass the traditional typewriter and type our news stories into the computer.

Eventually, technology enabled our news copy to be electronically sent to the printer in Dover, ushering in the digital age of local newspaper production.

In 1988, the Seaford Banner was purchased by Chesapeake Publishing, owners of The Leader and State Register. I joined Bryant and others from the Banner staff in working at the Leader and State Register for the next few years.

I was Managing Editor of the newspaper in 1996, when Bryant left the newspaper. Within a few weeks, I also left the Leader and State Register and joined Bryant at his new journalistic endeavor, the Seaford Star.

The beauty of being on the ground floor as the paper was being birthed, was having the opportunity to meet with members of a cross-section of the community to find out what they wanted, and expected, in their community newspaper.

This was extraordinary information to use as a development resource.

Bryant’s newspaper philosophy has always mandated the need to maintain local autonomy and provide readers what they want, rather than follow a cookie-cutter, one-size-fits-all, newspaper template, as many larger publications seemed to be developing in the late 20th century.

I left my full-time position as Manag-

ing Editor of the Seaford and Laurel Star newspapers in 1998, after undergoing open heart surgery. I took a position with Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware where I have been for more than 23 years.

However, I never left the Star. I have remained a contributing writer and columnist. It has always been my greatest honor to serve the local communities as a journalist, and work with Morning Star Publications, Inc. owners Bryant and Carol Richardson.

All my sincerest appreciation to the readers of the Seaford and Laurel Star newspapers for supporting these community publications and tolerating my sometimes rambling thoughts.

Now, on to the next 25 years and beyond!

W. Wright Robinson


Note: Sue Bramhall’s column reflecting on the life of her father, W. Wright Robinson, is found on the Final Word page of this week’s Seaford and Laurel Star newspapers.



W. Wright Robinson

CONGRATULATIONS

*to Morning Star Publications
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*We Appreciate
The Star!*

TIM DUKES

**Your State Representative
40th District**



History of newspaper publishing: 1984-2021

Continued from page 1

The day after receiving this news I woke early and read the last chapter of Job, because I felt I was having a Job experience.

As anyone who has read this book knows, when Job prayed for his friends, God restored what he had lost. In fact, he received twice as much as before.

So, before I went into my office at The Leader to remove my personal items, I prayed for those who decided to let me go and told God I forgave them.

At my office I was thinking about my next step. I knew that I did not want to work for a corporation again, so I thought about buying a newspaper, even though my resources were not that substantial.

I picked up a copy of Editor & Publisher, a trade journal that I had a stack of on my shelf, and called a broker near Raleigh, North Carolina, a Mr. Lawrence.

Mr. Lawrence told me he had a similar job loss experience when he was about my age (mid 30s). After a few days of feeling sorry for himself, he said he started a newspaper in the area surrounding Raleigh. In nine years he started nine newspapers and sold the group. He now was operating a composition business and doing newspaper brokering.

During our conversation, Mr. Lawrence said that I had a wife and three children, two boys and a girl. I asked how he knew that and he told me his wife told him.

The night before my "random" phone

call, Mr. Lawrence's wife told him someone who needed his help would be calling and gave him details about my family.

Some may dismiss this as a coincidence. I believe that God is in the business of making coincidences happen.

My wife and I went to North Carolina to visit an area where Mr. Lawrence said I could start a newspaper. When I picked up a copy of the newspaper we would be competing against, the editorial glorified our Lord Jesus. This is not where we needed to be.

The next day I was led to read the story of the life of Joseph, one of the 12 sons of Jacob (later named Israel). Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, but 13 years later became the second in command in all of Egypt.

Joseph and his wife had two sons, Manasseh, which means "God has allowed me to forget my troubles," and Ephraim, which means "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

From our dining room table, I started looking into the possibility of starting a newspaper in Seaford, what seemed to be the "land of my affliction."

When I called a printer, the Dover Post, the Jim Flood family told me I would need \$100,000 to start a newspaper and would also need a line of credit.

My wife and I had two cars. I sold one for \$3,000 and put the money in the bank. We were short \$97,000.

Despite this deficit, Jim Flood Sr.

agreed to print the Seaford Banner and not start charging for the printing until the fifth edition.

On April 26, 1984, the first edition of the Seaford Banner was published.

The money? The business generated the money to pay the printing bill on time and none of the money we had in the bank to live off of was needed. By the time that money was almost gone, we were able to draw a salary from Banner Publications Inc.

We did not need \$100,000 or a line of credit.

In 1989 my wife and I sold the Seaford Banner to the corporation that in 1984 said "I no longer fit into the new picture." I was given an ironclad employment contract and went back to work for The Leader and State Register.

Tom Bradlee, the man who first hired me into the newspaper business in 1972 was the new president and someone my wife and I trusted.

Then in 1996 The Leader and State Register was sold. My employment contract was over and I did not want to work for another corporation. My wife and I started Morning Star Publications, Inc.

On April 25, 1996, the first edition of the Seaford Star was published.

In August 1996, the Laurel Star was printed. The next year Morning Star Publications, Inc. added the Salisbury Business

Journal and the Morning Star Business Report.

I wish I had a similar story about the start-up of the Star newspapers. I do not.

My wife and I borrowed \$50,000 from the bank and established a line of credit. We worked with banker Ed Cranston, who looked beyond our finances and granted the loan because of his belief in our vision to serve the community.

Other bankers who have helped us along the way are Jack Riddle and John Craig.

Part of our beliefs is that businesses should give back to the community. When we started selling subscriptions in 1996, we gave \$2 for each subscription sold during the first few weeks of circulation.

We were able to donate more than \$4,000 to the Boys and Girls Club construction project headed by John Hollis.

Over the next two decades and a half, we have had some very good years and some lean years. This past year the COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on our business, but we have survived and are looking forward to serving our communities for years to come.

Our success is due to the outstanding efforts of some very energized and talented staff members.

The names of many of the people who helped with our success is found in the article entitled, "The men and women behind the headlines," starting on page 2.

Let's regain our optimism about Delaware's future



Senator Richardson

We will come through the pandemic stronger and with greater resolve to rebuild our economy.

We must remember those who have struggled the most, sacrificed the most during the shut-downs and offer our support.

We are a resilient people. We will recover and come out better than before.

Our faith in God gives us this confidence and a renewed commitment to lift up each other.

State Senator Bryant Richardson

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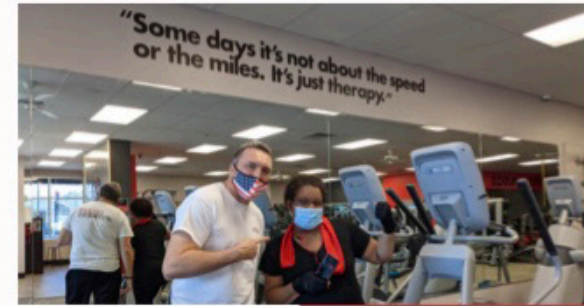
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