

CHOWAN HERALD

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Wednesday, December 2, 2015



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HOLIDAY SHOPPING OFF TO BIG START Small Business Saturday a big hit for all

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Shoppers looking for unique gift ideas found them in downtown Edenton on Small Business Saturday.

Between locals and lots of out of town visitors trying to work in some holiday gift buying before heading home, businesses reported brisk sales over the weekend.

Among them were Joy and Tradd Toppin of Charleston, S.C., who were in town visiting Tradd's parents, Haurice and Shirley Toppin. The Toppins were accompanied on their shopping expedition by their 14 month-old twins, Audrey and Owen, who nestled contently in their twin stroller as the couple browsed at Shoppes on Broad.

"We're looking for Christmas presents for our nieces and nephews," Joy said. "I like coming to places like this because you'll find things you wouldn't find somewhere else."

And that's just the point of shopping in small shops that are locally owned while avoiding the crowds that are typically encountered at big box retail stores, said Donna McLees, owner of Shoppes on Broad.

"We've certainly been glad to see our local customers come in," she said.



Rebecca Teyerbaugh gestures while Christmas shopping at the Silly Monkey in downtown Edenton on Small Business Saturday with her daughter Kayla, 5. Also joining them was daughter Olivia, 9. This will be the family's first Christmas in Edenton.

"And we've also had people in town for the holiday stopping by. Some of our customers have come from some distance away just to see what we have for

Christmas because they love the shop."

McLees said the holiday season is a favorite time of year for merchants and customers alike.

"It's a fun time," she said. "Some people who've come in we haven't seen for a while so it's been like home week. They're here visiting relatives and friends and

have stopped by."

Gloria Wadsworth, owner of the Our Place retail shop, agreed that between

See SATURDAY, 4A

Black Friday a good day

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Local merchants experienced a successful Black Friday.

The major shopping promotion also was a hit with shoppers.

Sam Halloran of Edenton was at Peebles around 7 a.m. Friday. She said the store was the first place she went on Black Friday.

"This is the first year I have ever done it," Halloran said of her Black Friday shopping.

She was looking especially for shoes and already had a shoebox under her arm as she browsed a few other items.

Halloran said she was planning to shop at Byrum's and maybe stop by some other places later in the day.

Edna Zachary of Edenton was shopping around 7:30 a.m. Friday at Peebles. She didn't go shopping on Thanksgiving Day and said

See FRIDAY, 4A

Missing woman's family seeks help from nonprofit

BY PETER WILLIAMS
The Perquimans Weekly

The family of a woman missing since May has enlisted the help of a national volunteer agency.

Karen Bosta was last seen visiting the Walgreens in Edenton on May 30. Her car was found a few days later in the Gaslight Square parking lot off Broad Street in Edenton. Bosta was living in Holiday Island in Perquimans County at the time of her disappearance.

To date lawmen have had few clues as to what hap-

pened to her.

"As her mother, I am pleading with the community to be vigilant when you are out and about especially our hunters, farmers, boaters, fisherman, aviators and all outdoor workers for anything

suspicious," said Arlene Murrin. "Pay attention to abandoned homes, barns or buildings. Any rumors or hearsay should be reported. With everyone's help, I know we can find her."

The Wilmington-based non-profit group CUE Center for Missing Persons is

helping with the search. CUE stands for Community United Effort. The group was founded in 1994.

Murrin said she heard about CUE and contacted them in October.

"They're doing a lot of research work, and a whole lot of work with social media," she said. "They've been wonderful."

Murrin said she's been distributing fliers.

"I've been handing them out to people working in the area, road crews, propane companies," Murrin said. "I've even stopped hunters

where I could. I'm just trying to do everything we can."

Murrin plans to be at Christmas parades in Hertford, Edenton and Elizabeth City this year to hand out more.

Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley said law enforcement has few clues.

"We've had it on TV, we've had it in the papers, we've done searches. Unless something comes up, we're at our wit's end," Tilley said.

To contact the sheriff's office, call 426-5614. A \$5,000

See BOSTA, 3A



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Karen Bosta has been missing since May.

Democrat, Republican file in 1st Commissioner District

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Although the first half hour of filing for the March 15 Primary did not generate any contested races in the Primary, a potential General Election contest emerged for 1st District county commissioner as incumbent Commissioner Emmett Winborne, a Democrat, and Republican Ron Cummings both filed for the seat.

Cummings was the first candidate to file once the filing period opened Tuesday at noon. Moments later,



CUMMINGS

Winborne and Lynn Gilliard, a Democrat seeking election as Register of Deeds.

"Hopefully my name is getting out there now," Cummings said in a brief interview after filing. He noted he received 41 percent of the vote in his unsuccessful bid for the seat in 2012, and 43 percent in 2014.

Cummings, who has been a leader in the citizen movement to adopt a more stringent wind energy ordinance in the county, said the wind turbine issue is part of his campaign - but only part.

He said he also is concerned about how money is being spent. He cited



GILLIARD



WINBORNE

See FILING, 3A

Mobile Crisis offers alternative in mental health emergencies

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

A new initiative in Chowan County is improving access to care for people suffering from mental illness.

The involvement of an Albemarle area Mobile Crisis team led by Keith Hamm is expected to ease the burden on the emergency room at Vidant Chowan Hospital and local law enforcement officers who are frequently called in to deal with family crisis situations involving mental health issues for which they are not trained.

The team is able to respond to an individual's requests for assistance before they go to the hospital ER for help. Once they have gone to the ER the team is no longer able to respond, Hamm said. Law enforcement officers can also request help

"Anytime you make changes, there are going to be issues. What we've got now is, we've got people that can be called in to help bridge the gap for people in crisis in combination with other services."

Keith Hamm
Oversees Mobile Crisis team

from the team in dealing with crisis situations, he said.

Hamm said he was pleased to be able to assist in providing help to the mentally ill and

their families, who often don't know where to turn except to take their family member to the emergency room or call law enforcement for assistance when a crisis occurs.

Hamm said that options for families in crisis became limited when Albemarle Mental Health closed its doors about seven years ago until East Carolina Behavioral Health in Greenville stepped in to fill the void. As a result of a merger, that agency is today known as Trillium Health Resources.

And where Albemarle Mental Health offered hands-on services, Trillium's approach has been to make referrals to appropriate agencies. That's where the Mobile Crisis team can help in emergency situations in Chowan and other

See CRISIS TEAM, 3A

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