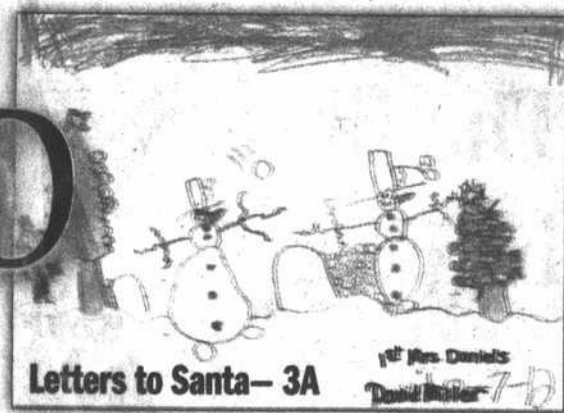


# CHOWAN HERALD

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## Aces come up short as stellar season ends

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

Editor's note: See coverage of the state championship game on 9A.

The Aces fought to the very end and the community fought right along with them.

The hard-charging football team from John A. Holmes High School lost 58-12 in the 2A state championship game Saturday.

Wes Chesson, an Aces standout in the 1960s who was a record-setting wide receiver at Duke and later played professionally, now operates an insurance business in Raleigh. Chesson was one of a number of former Edenton players who now live out of town who made it to Winston-Salem Saturday night to cheer on this year's Aces.

"We appreciate the great times we had in Edenton and we appreciate the great support that we had when we were playing in Edenton," Chesson said.

He said he was glad to see the community support so strong for this year's squad.

"I thought the turnout was fantastic," Chesson said of the crowd of Aces supporters Saturday night at BB&T field.

Chesson said he was proud of the excellent season the Aces had and how hard they played against a much bigger Reidsville team that had a strong, sophisticated passing attack.

"I was proud of the Aces," Chesson said. "They never gave up, never gave in, never quit fighting. We're mighty proud of what they're doing."

The community support for the team was evident not

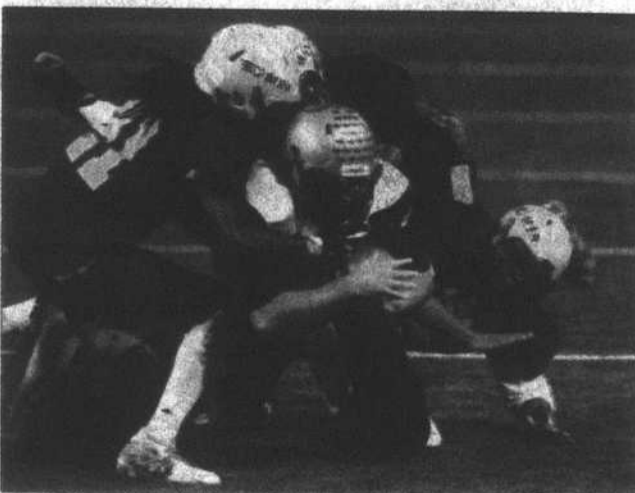


PHOTO BY DEAN STRICKLAND

Edenton's James Cofield (21) and teammates make a stop on Reidsville's Tanner Wilson inside the 10-yard line that held the Rams to a field goal during Saturday's 2A state championship game. Reidsville won 58-12 at Wake Forest's BB&T Field.

only in Winston-Salem but also here in Edenton this past weekend.

Jamika Moore, an Aces cheerleader, commented on

the significance of the team's trip to the championship game just before the start of a pep rally in front of John A. Holmes High School Friday

Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Rob Jackson said the turnout of Edenton fans for the game Saturday night was tremendous. "It was an incredible number of folks who traveled from northeastern North Carolina to support the team," Jackson said. The season drew together the community, the alumni and current students in a wonderful way, Jackson said. "The team achieved a historic season in terms of wins and losses but I'm more proud of the way they did that," Jackson said. "Our team represented the school system and the community with class and with great sportsmanship and were the representatives that we would want out there showcasing who we are as Edentonians and Chowan County residents." Jackson said he appreciated the leadership of the coaching staff in instilling values related to handling adversity, handling success, being good role models and doing well in the classroom.



JACKSON

afternoon.

"Considering that this has been something big for a long time - we haven't gotten this far since my granddaddy's time - this is major," Moore said.

The cheerleaders and band helped the crowd of 400 or so rev the team up for the big trip

to Winston-Salem. Members of the community - many holding signs or dressed in Aces attire - gathered along Broad Street and Queen Street Saturday morning to give the team a big send off,

See ACES, 9A

## Santa Claus visits James Iredell House this week

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

In recent days staff and volunteers with the Historic Edenton State Historic Sites have undertaken a very special mission - getting the 1825 kitchen dependency on the grounds of the historic James Iredell House prepared for a visit by Santa Claus.

The historic site will host the visit by Old Saint Nick on Dec. 20-22 from 6 to 8 p.m. each evening. Bob Hopkins, site manager for state-owned historic sites in Edenton, said he and his staff could hardly wait for Santa's arrival and he's sure that children from the community feel the same way.

"Children of all ages are welcome to visit, give Santa their Christmas wish in person before Christmas and have their picture taken with Santa," Hopkins said. "Santa will be fireside in the holiday

decorated 1825 kitchen dependency and individual or family portraits with Santa will be available by professional photographer Kip Shaw, at a nominal fee - or you can take your own if you wish."

"Each visitor will get a candy cane from Santa," Hopkins added. "And in partnership with the Edenton Coffee House, Santa will distribute a coupon for a free hot cocoa for your enjoyment after your visit."

Visiting with Santa will cost only \$5 per person, payable at the gate. Hopkins said that photo portrait menu options would be available at an additional fee.

The 1825 kitchen dependency is located behind the James Iredell House at 105 E. Church Street in Edenton. For additional information about Santa's visit or to pre-schedule a group visit contact the State Historic Sites Visitor Center at 482-2637.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB HOPKINS/HISTORIC EDENTON HISTORIC SITES

Keith Furlough of the Historic Edenton Visitor Center, inside the kitchen dependency on the grounds of the James Iredell House which is beautifully decorated in anticipation of a visit from Santa on Dec. 20-22 from 6-8 p.m.

## Citizens gather at Beaver Hill for Wreaths Across America

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

Wreaths were placed on the graves of more than 800 veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces at the conclusion of the annual Wreaths Across America observance Saturday at Beaver Hill Cemetery.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 164 assisted with the placing of the wreaths on veterans' graves. The program was presented by the Post 40 American Legion Family.

Flo Lawrence, vice-chair of Wreaths Across America for Chowan County, told the crowd gathered for the ceremony that Americans today enjoy freedoms because of the sacrifices of veterans. The United States was founded on ideals of freedom, justice and equality, she said.

"America has always been the first nation to stand up for the freedom of people around the world," Lawrence said.

Lawrence said people should take a moment to say "thank you" when they see a veteran or active duty service



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member. Debbie Bonner, president of Unit 40 American Legion Auxiliary, said those being remembered were not statistics but real people, with families and friends who loved them, who answered the call to serve their country.

Bonner said it was important to teach children that freedom has not come without a price and that one day they might be the ones asked to pay that price.

The Rev. Chris Aydlett, pastor of Edenton United Methodist Church, gave the invocation. He characterized the occasion as less about remembering the deaths of those who graves were being decorated with wreaths and more about celebrating the lives they lived in service to God and country.

The Albemarle Sounds sang the National Anthem and also performed a medley of the military service anthems.

Patrick O'Neal played TAPS at the end of the program.



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Horice Toppin, a veteran of the U.S. Army, salutes after placing a wreath in memory of those who served in the Army.



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See WREATHS, 9B

"Come Join Us As We Celebrate  
Our Lord's Birth"

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The Rev. J. Malone Gilliam, Rector

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
invites you to our

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:00 PM FAMILY SERVICE

10:30 PM SPECIAL MUSIC

11:00 PM MIDNIGHT SERVICE

10:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE