# NORTH CAROLINA-

## Hospital gives gifts to newborns during Christmas season

Hospital this Christmas will receive a special Christmas present. The hospital is giving

Newborns at Albemarle those newborns handmade, cross-stitched bibs. The bibs bear a Christmas motiff, and the words "Albemarle Hospital."



Young Rita Pitkin proudly holds sister Katie. Katie is wearing her Christmas present from Albemarle

Hospital, a cross-stitched bib. (Albemarle Hospital Photo by R. Currie)

### Expert suggestions offered for safe parties

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RALEIGH-The extended Christmas/New Year's holiday period is the most dangerous time on our roads and highways, according to Edwin C. Guy. Direcotr of the Governor's Highway Safety Program and former commander of the Highway Patrol.

Because of company and private parties where alcoholic beverages are served, the number of impaired drivers increases drastically during these few weeks," he says.

The Department of Motor Vehicles, which collects such statistics, reports that last year North Carolina experienced a total of 938 reportable accidents during the period December 23-26, with a total of nine fatalities and 562 injured.

Of these accidents, it was determined that 174 were alcohol related (and several hundred more were suspect), with two deaths and dozens of injuries.

During the December 30-January 2 period, 811 accidents were reported, of which 116 were known to be alcohol related, with three fatalities. (A total of five were killed and 561 injured.)

To reduce the number of impaired drivers, he offers the following suggestions for those planning holiday parties in homes, clubs, restaurants or at a company.

1. Make it clear to everyone that the purpose of the party is to have a good time and not to get intoxicated.

2. Hire a professional bartender, who is in a better position to refuse someone a drink than an employee, or member of the family.

3. Have a good supply of nonalcoholic drinks prominently displayed, many people prefer these.

4. Have plenty of food available

5. Plan to close the bar about an hour before the party is over, and do so without an announcement, which will cause a rush of fast drinking.

This is the second year the bibs are to be given.

One bib has already gone out to Katie Pitkin, premature daughter of Edith and Steve Pitkin of Elizabeth City.

'I think it's really nice. Everyone here has been so good to us," Edith Pitkin said.

Young Rita Pitkin proudly held her baby sister for pictures. Rita is a "graduate" of another recent hospital project, Big Brother and Sister Class. In the class Rita learned how to hold the baby, and other useful information.

Nursery nurses are planning to give out handmade toys for Christmas presents also. For many years, the nurses have made the little stuffed toys for holiday giving to their patients.

"The mothers really like the bibs and the toys," said nursery nurse Karen Havner.

Some babies will be in the hospital this Christmas. But

thanks to the Christmas spirit in the Nursery, and at Albemarle Christmas presents.

#### PHOTOGRAPHY by george

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