

# Wishing You A Year Of Happiness!



## THE CHOWAN HERALD



Published In The Most Beautiful Little City On The North Carolina Coast

Volume LLIH - No. 1

Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, January 1, 1987

Single Copies 25 Cents

### The Public Parade

#### Standing At The Gate

As we stand at the exit gate of the old year, we here at the Chowan Herald want to wish everybody along the Public Parade a happy and prosperous new year.

As the old year wound down, the community experienced some reverses. An attractive and much-needed new industry changed its mind about locating in Edenton. Our competent and much-liked town manager decided to accept a greater challenge in Tarboro. And there were signs of a general business slowdown.

But there were during the year many happy developments. Our new mayor and town council got their feet solidly on the ground. Already they are negotiating developments to fill the void left by the Reiss corporation. And the county commissioners have approved a renovation agreement which holds great promise for the future of Edenton downtown.

Despite some setbacks, work is progressing on the new Albemarle Sound bridge, which will be a great improvement to transportation into and out of Chowan County. And the appointment of Phil Godwin of Gates County to the State Transportation Board will mean much to future highway development in the northeast. He is replacing two board members who permitted tussles over turn to impair their effectiveness as board members.

Our schools continue to be the envy of larger communities in the state, maintaining a level of academic and athletic excellence that has attracted national notice.

Still, there is much to be done during the new year. Far too many of our young people, not to mention those who are old enough to know better, are involved in drugs one way or another, a growing problem which will require the co-operation and best efforts of parents, peers, police, and other law enforcement officers and school officials. We wish them the best of success during the year and we here at the Chowan Herald are anxious to help in any way we can.

Our hospital and medical community continue to keep pace with

Continued On Page 4

### Hunting Accident Reported

A Virginia man was fatally injured in an apparent hunting accident Monday in Perquimans County.

According to State Wildlife Enforcement Officer Jack C. Staley Jr., the accident occurred around 8:30 a.m. in the Whiteston area, near the Perquimans and Gates County line.

Jimmy Stallings of Norfolk was struck in the upper chest by one pellet from a 12-gauge shotgun fired by his nephew, Ricky Stallings. Staley guessed the victim to be in his early fifties.

Staley said a group of sportsmen were hunting with dogs when a deer emerged from the woods and the nephew fired. The victim was out of the line of sight and hidden by a wood thicket.

"Some of the pellets went through the woods; the man was standing there and was hit," Staley said.

Some of the pellets struck the deer, which was killed later by another hunter unaware of the accident.

Staley said the incident is still under investigation, but will most likely be ruled as accidental.

## Area Leaders Discuss Goals For The New Year

By JACK GROVE

Everyone has their goals and aspirations for the coming new year and area governmental leaders are no exception. Interviewed on this subject were state legislators from the First District, Sen. Marc Basnight, Rep. Vernon James and Rep.-elect R.M. (Pete) Thompson; Edenton Mayor John Dowd; and Chairman of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners Alton Elmore.

Senator Basnight responded, "To work in the field of transportation remains a top priority." He said that when the governor

sends his highway funding plan to the General Assembly, it may include a tax increase on gasoline sales.

Basnight said that he would like to see transportation funds guaranteed to the Albemarle Region, "written into the law. If the opportunity arises, I would propose a regional distribution system of funds that would offer us more funds than we receive in this area—a fairer distribution."

Another goal of the senator's is the "equalization of funds for the mentally ill, mentally retarded and substance abuse programs.

We've never recognized that we have a drug problem in North Carolina."

On another subject, "I'm going to be coming out with a water quality bill that will affect the Albemarle." Basnight was instrumental in the establishment of a Virginia-North Carolina Chowan River Study Commission that met in Edenton in the first days of December.

And finally, concerning auto insurance, he stated, "We need insurance revision and control, even more than last year."

Representative James has a lot

on his mind for the new year also. "We need to continue our progress that we got started on the Chowan River and clean up our waterways in general. We've made a pretty good start and should not lose our momentum."

He was asked about Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan's recent statement that he (Jordan) would favor a ban on phosphates in detergents, following the initiative of Virginia. "I agree that we've got to ban phosphates on a state-wide basis. If they (Va.) ban phosphates, we should too," James stated in apparent reference to the fact that the Chowan's headwaters are in Virginia.

Failed legislation last year would have imposed a ban that James and Basnight said had too many exceptions. "If they'll leave those exceptions out, I'll support it," James said.

The legislator said that he was concerned with "The big ticket items—schools, transportation, the economy, tourism and agriculture. Smaller businesses are helping our area and we need to build on them."

He concluded his agenda with, "We need a good four-lane road. We don't have anything going west." Referring to the newly appointed Phillip Godwin to represent this district on the State

Board of Transportation, "I look forward to Phil Godwin doing a lot for our area."

Representative-elect Thompson feels that, "Our economy needs to be picked up. We need roads and we need markets for our farmers. People follow roads."

Also, "I'm interested in more local control for our county and town officials."

Concerning education, "I'm in favor of the Basic Education Plan. I would like to see our young folks get a college education in the local area, at COA and ECSU. We've got to make education affordable locally for our young people," Thompson concluded.

On the county level, Commissioner Elmore's two main projects are "Getting the Swain School project moving with private financing and the completion of the rooms at the county office building."

Elmore added, "Everything we're doing is within the current tax structure. We're just not going to have any tax increase in ad valorem taxes for the next year."

Mayor Dowd's main thrust will be on cooperation between local groups. "The first thing I think is that the spirit of cooperation between the town, the county, Historic Edenton, the Chamber of

Continued On Page 4



AT THE WHITE HOUSE—The senior class of John A. Holmes received a "commencement address" from President Ronald Reagan in the Rose Garden of the White House in May. Here students reboard their bus for sightseeing that included a tour of the Capitol Building.

## Reflections Of A Year Gone By

The year just past has been, like any other year, a time of triumphs and tragedies, of hopes dashed and dreams realized, and of change.

The highlight of the year for many local residents was an invitation to the White House for the John A. Holmes High School graduating class of 1986. This singular honor, due to their dedication to excellence, thrilled students, staff, parents and county citizens alike.

The usual cold weather early in the year gave way to a dry spring and summer that, along with high production costs and low commodity prices, spelled disaster for some area farmers. The year's weather was also punctuated with several tornadoes and Hurricane

Charlie side-swiping the county.

Turnovers saw a change in the administration of the Edenton Housing Authority, a new executive director of the Chamber of Commerce and the resignation of Edenton's town manager who will move on to Tarboro.

It was an active election year

with seemingly everyone running for one office or another on the national, state, and local levels. For the first time in recent memory, Republicans entered the lists with Shirley Perry of Perquimans losing to two Democrats, R.M. (Pete) Thompson of Chowan and Vernon James of Pasquotank for

Continued On Page 4

## Buckle Up; Avoid Fines

Beginning January 1, the best reason for buckling seat belts may be to avoid serious injury, but the second best reason may be to avoid a traffic fine.

The mandatory seat belt law was enacted in September, 1985 and law enforcement officers have been issuing warning tickets until motorists could develop the habit of buckling up.

But beginning today, the fine for not wearing a seat belt will be \$25. The tickets will not cost points against driver's license or insurance.

N.C. Highway Trooper Mike McArthur of Chowan County said, "Our attitude is going to be that the law was written as a safety statute and because we care about the welfare of our citizens, we are going to actively enforce this law beginning Thursday morning."

McArthur summed up the opinions of most other law enforcement officers with, "I'll stop people for that reason".

There are two exceptions to the law. One would be if the driver has in the car a certification from a doctor saying he cannot wear the belt for medical reasons. The other exception is older model cars which did not have seat belts installed by the manufacturer.

Opinion among area legislators on the mandatory seat belt law is mixed as opposition has grown.

Senator Marc Basnight of Manteo says he voted against the

Continued On Page 4

## Break-Ins Investigated

The Edenton Police Department is investigating two break-ins which occurred December 28.

The first was discovered just after 9 a.m. at Hobbs Implement Company. On routine patrol. Officer Chuck Alexander noticed that a window had been broken in the southwest side of the building.

Inside the building, Alexander discovered that keys had been removed from a desk, vending machines had been opened and approximately \$200 stolen. An undetermined number of 22-cent stamps were also taken.

Alexander later found that a gas pump had been broken and gasoline was stolen. Investigation

is continuing by Alexander and Officer Bland Terry.

The second break-in was discovered at Albemarle Eye Care Center on North Broad St. by Mrs. Carol Weyant just after 11 a.m. the same day.

Edenton Police Chief J.D. Parrish said entry was gained when a window was opened and relocked after the entry. An unsuccessful effort was made to open a safe, desks were ransacked and a small amount of money was taken.

Officers Alexander and Delvin Jethro are investigating.

Continued On Page 4



FIRES PLAGUE AREA—Fires in Chowan and Perquimans Counties kept firemen busy this week. Two house fires in Chowan left families homeless. Here Bethel Volunteer Firemen pry open the hood of a car ravaged by fire Sunday. The Volkswagen station wagon was the property of Dennis Simmons of Holiday Island.

## Two Homes Lost To Chimney Related Fires

Four children were removed from a burning home on the Greenfield Road after a passerby noticed a fire.

According to Fire Chief Lynn Perry, two county homes have been lost to fire in the past few days. Both fires were chimney related.

Perry said a passerby notified Mrs. Barbara White that her house was on fire just after 2 p.m. December 23. Mrs. White came

out of her house, saw the fire and then went back inside after the children.

Perry said the fire erupted in the single story wooden structure when a chimney fire went through a crack and entered the walls of the home, causing extensive damage. The fire was contained within 10 minutes after the fire department arrived.

The second fire erupted at the home of Everett Small on Old

Hertford Road just after 8 p.m. December 28.

Perry said it was the type of fire that is "beginning to show up" in older homes, built when construction often left timbers flushed against chimneys and no chimney liners were used.

Perry said the Small home had a two by four timber flush against the chimney and the wood had dried over the years from the heat

Continued On Page 4