

We've got
the
Holiday Spirit
in the bag!

THE CHOWAN HERALD

Wednesday, December 6, 2000

Vol. LXVII, No. 49

Published in historic Edenton . . . The prettiest town on the North Carolina coast.

Single Copies 50¢

Winter snowstorm blankets whole community

Accidents and power outages result of storm

BY DERRICK ARMSTEAD
Staff Writer

EDENTON—Encompassing an area 50-100 miles east of an initial National Weather Service (NWS) report, Sunday's storm system cloaked the area in a seven-inch deep white canopy, caused back-and-forth power outages in one local neighborhood, and is reported to have caused numerous accidents.

"We had 20 weather-related snow accidents throughout the county," said Chowan County Sheriff, Fred Spruill. "Most of these can be attributed to people driving too fast for the weather conditions."

EMS director, Doug Belch, said several calls were fielded.

"I know we had numerous reports of vehicles going into the ditch," said Belch, "but there were only two that we required trips to

the hospital...with neither of those having serious injuries."

Belch also addressed the response time of emergency vehicles during inclement weather.

"We definitely try to respond to calls as they come in," said the EMS director. "But we have to respond in a manner, where number one, we have to get there, and two, we have to make sure that we also get there in a safe manner."

Belch added, "Weather conditions will affect the speed of our response time, when road conditions are bad."

And in regard to the weekend storm, effective pre-planning could have prevented the majority of roadway mishaps, according to Spruill.

"In the future, individuals should prepare a supply of non-perishable food in advance," Spruill said. "This will ensure that they don't have to get out to the grocery store in such a (hurried) nature. They should also prepare their homes in advance, so that their residences are just as well-prepared."

However, individuals who had

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Road crews were hard at work on Monday morning, clearing accumulated snow and ice from Broad Street in downtown Edenton. Estimates are that seven inches of snow fell across the community on Sunday. (Staff photo by David Crawley)

Christmas Candlelight Tour this weekend

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

Homeowners are putting the finishing touches on their houses this week as they get ready for this weekend's Christmas Candlelight Tour. Set for Friday, Dec. 8, and Saturday, Dec. 9, the tour will be held from 4-8 p.m. both days.

Among those getting ready was Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton. Knighton, who maintains a hectic professional schedule, said her strategy was a simple one: "I'm doing a little bit each night after I get home from work to get ready," she said.

Also making preparations were Gary and Natalie Foreman, whose Queen Street home boasts a beautiful Christmas tree, complete with electric train circling it.

"I've got four train sets," said Gary Foreman. "One of them was from the very first series of the American Flyer ever made."

Special ornaments also adorn the family Christmas tree.

"We've got a whole collection of sterling Gorham 'Year by Year' ornaments, including the Silver Snowflake that is this

year's featured ornament," said Natalie Foreman.

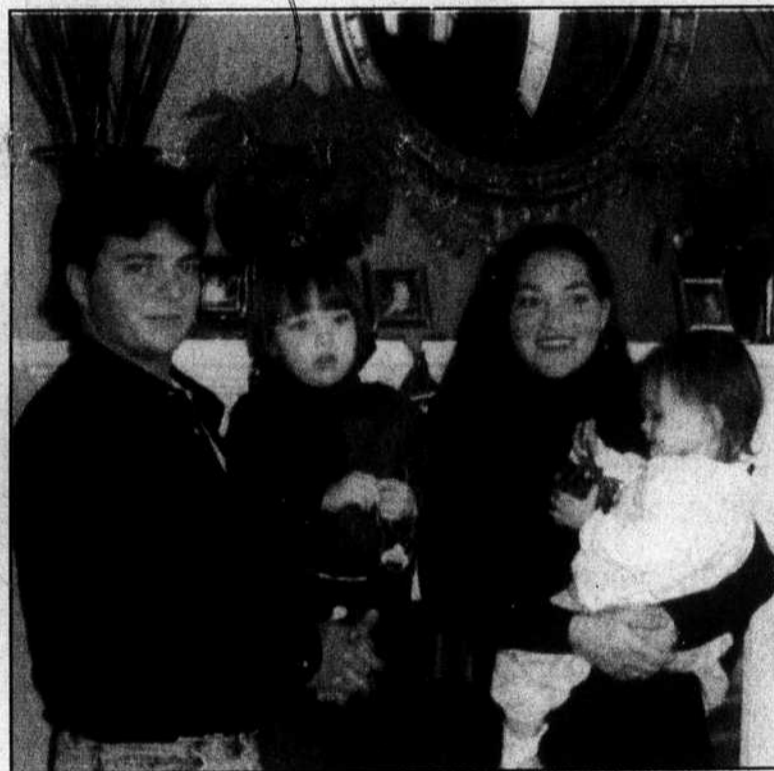
The Foremans, who live on Queen Street with their two young children, son Gaskin, and newborn daughter, Newbern, have resided in their house for just four short years, but say they love it — especially

celebrate a family Christmas each year.

The downstairs of the residence also boasts a new kitchen addition. That part of the house has been "gutted and redone," according to the Foremans. "That wing of the house looks very different than it



These colorful Christmas carolers will greet visitors to the home of Wesley and Betsy Chesson. Their home is open to visitors on this year's Candlelight Tour for the very first time. (Staff photo by Rebecca Bunch)



Gary and Natalie Foreman cuddle with their kids by the beautifully decorated mantel at their Queen Street home, which will be featured on the Candlelight Tour. (Staff photo by Rebecca Bunch)

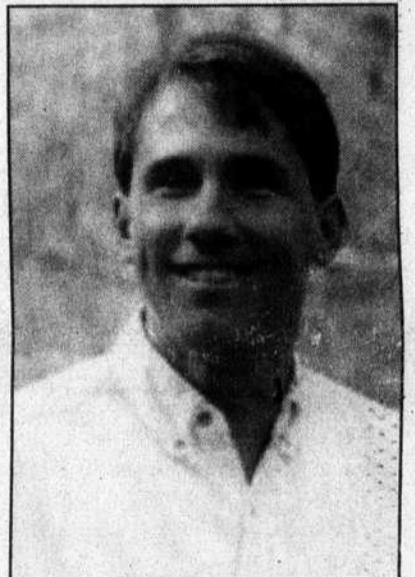
did," they said.

Another home on the tour will be that of Wesley and Betsy Chesson. Their home boasts a gorgeous collection of wooden figures, including carolers and the entire

cast of characters from Charles Dickens' classic, "A Christmas Carol."

Then, too, there is Betsy

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Nicholas Sparks

Edenton-based book is featured

Since his debut in 1996 with *The Notebook*, Nicholas Sparks has written two New York Times best-selling novels, consistently creating timeless love stories with a romantic style that is considered by many to be simply irresistible. New Bern's own "modern master of fateful love stories," discusses

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'Bags of Plenty' effort to bring holiday cheer

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

While for most of us, the approach of Christmas brings thoughts of family, love and home, for some in our community it is a time of sadness — a time for children who try not to get excited because they realize that their parents don't have enough money to buy them new toys, or senior citizens who can no longer afford to buy the nice presents for family members that they could when they were gainfully employed.

There is also the worry for some of not having even the basic necessities, such as enough food to feed their families.

"But in the midst of their suffering, there are still many kind-hearted people who want to help," said Chowan Herald Publisher David Crawley. "That's why my staff and I will be sponsoring a special holiday campaign called



Chowan Herald staffers (l-r) Titus Wynn, Zenetta Purvis and Mia Noble place bags inside this week's edition of the *Chowan Herald* as part of the "Bags of Plenty" food drive being sponsored by the paper this holiday season. (Staff photo by Derrick Armstead)

NCDOT plans public meeting here

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold a public meeting in the Edenton Town Council Chambers on Broad Street, downtown Edenton, on Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to seek comments from local citizens on transportation projects in the draft 2002-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Transportation Secretary David McCoy is asking for public comments on transportation projects included in the draft 2002-2008 TIP. The TIP is the department's

blueprint for statewide transportation projects including bicycles, public transportation, ferry, rail, aviation and highways.

The NC Board of Transportation will vote on the TIP in June 2001.

Citizens can also submit their comments in writing to: North Carolina Department of Transportation, Program Development Branch, Mail Service Center 1543, Raleigh, NC 27699-1543.

The draft TIP may also be reviewed on the Internet at <http://www.dot.state.nc.us>.

Public comments may also be e-mailed to the department at that site.

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