

Holidays celebrated
Chowan County
style . . .
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Huge crowd attends 2000 Candlelight Tour

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

Organizers of the 2000 Candlelight Tour are hailing this year's tour as hugely successful, with the number of those attending

totaling 1,756. That total exceeded the number of visitors from last year.

"It was a huge success," said Beverly Kirshmier, co-chair of this year's tour. "We were extremely pleased with the turnout."

Homeowners who opened their residences to visitors from all across America, and several foreign countries, during the tour pronounced themselves very pleased with the response.

"It's been a lot of fun, meeting

everyone," said one homeowner Betsy King, on Friday evening. King was the creator of one of the tour's most popular attractions, a Cookie Tree which adorned one room in her West Queen Street home.

Kingsaid the Cookie Tree, which appears much like a traditional Christmas tree, but replaces glass

ornaments with ones fashioned

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A line of visitors waiting to start the Candlelight Tour extends from the Barker House down the block to Edenton Office Supply (Staff photo by David Crawley)



Homeowner Betsy King poses alongside her Cookie Tree, one of the tour's most popular attractions. (Staff photo by Rebecca Bunch)



Christmas panorama

The Center Hill Baptist Church will present a live, drive-through panorama focusing on the life of Jesus Christ Dec. 20-22 from 6-8 p.m. behind the Center Hill Community Bldg. Admission is free.

Restoration project now on the table

Cannon's Ferry Fishery focus of effort

BY DERRICK ARMSTEAD
Staff Writer

TYNER—Once a proud epicenter for herring fishing, Cannon's Ferry has been slated for a revitalization effort, which when completed will provide an opportunity for residents to enjoy its present-day assets, in addition to gaining awareness of the area's past.

Spearheading the project are the Chowan County Tourism Development Authority (CCTDA), Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department (E-CRD), and Edenton-Chowan Special Projects Office (E-CSP), who are also receiving assistance from the Albemarle Resource Conservation and Develop-

ment Council (ARDC).

Coupled with a 50-year lease from Robert and Marvis Hendrix, owners of the Cannon's Ferry property, officials hope to implement a three-prong approach for revitalization, following a "very optimistic" outlook in regard to awardance of grants from the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Division of Water Resources), N.C. Coastal Management Division, and National Trails System.

"The first phase of the project will be the demolition of existing dilapidated buildings and the clearing and snagging of waterfront obstructions," said E-CSP representative Peter Rascoe.

"I'm sure that the county will be happy to see the area cleared," said Marvis Hendrix in reference to the impending clearing of the area.

The second phase includes construction of the wooden riverwalk and development of the park, which will be followed by a final segment focusing on the operation of the riverwalk (Cannon's Ferry Heritage Riverwalk), and park named Hendrix Park in honor of Robert and Marvis Hendrix.

Plans also include displays, including a twenty-six foot wooden deadrise workboat donated by Chowan County residents, Bobby and Herbert Byrum.

Nancy Nicholls, who serves as the CCTDA director, believes the project provides an aesthetic improvement.

"When nature is beautiful as that

you shouldn't have buildings detracting (from any of its beauty)," said Nicholls in reference to the Cannon's Ferry area. "It (restoration project) preserves a scenic site that can be enjoyed for generations to come."

E-CRD director, Robbie Laughton, also addressed the plan's expected impact.

"Nancy and Peter came to me and asked if the recreation department would have any benefits of project's proximity to water," Laughton said. "(We) immediately saw educational benefits. Primarily, the recreation department benefits from having access to the river for canoeing, kayaking, trails, etc."

County manager Cliff Copeland

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Waffs buy a local landmark

BY JEREMY DESPOSITO
Staff Writer

EDENTON - The Taylor Movie Theater here has undergone a few changes since it first opened in 1925.

For example, it has been partitioned into two theaters and the stage behind the screen is no longer in use.

Seventy-five years later, the theater's current owners, Paul and Janie Waff, plan to change it again. Only this time, they'll be restoring the building to what it originally looked like - bringing back the vaudeville stage and showing "classic" as well as current-release films.

"We anticipate starting work in January (on the renovations)," Paul Waff said. "We're still thinking about what events we can have. The main interest right now is bringing the building back cosmetically."

Part of the renovation will in-

clude repairing a section of the roof that covers the stage once used by traveling vaudeville acts. The theater will remain open during repair work, Waff said.

"We will work during the day prior to the movies, so there will be no interruption (of service)," he said. "We don't have the all the details worked out (as far as entertainment and stage use), but one thing is for sure, we will restore the building to what it should be."

Judy Earnhardt Adams, whose family owned the theater and two connecting shops for the past 40 years, said her main concern about selling the theater was finding new owners who would keep it in use.

"I'm delighted that there are local Edentonians who have great plans to keep it as a movie theater," Adams said. "It's a jewel for downtown Edenton to be able to boast a movie theater."

Richard Bunch, executive director of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, credited the

Earnhardts with keeping the theater in operation for the last 40 years.

"The Earnhardts have done a terrific job of keeping the Taylor Theater going," Bunch said. "It's the only theater in downtown Edenton. I'm excited that Paul and Janie Waff are going to keep it and bring it to the next level."

The original owners, Samuel and Ada Taylor, had operated an opera house in Edenton in the early part of the century before opening the theater in 1925, according to author Thomas R. Butchko in his "Edenton: An Architectural Portrait."

Kitty Field remembers the theater as the place to go for entertainment when she was growing up. Her father ran a jewelry store in one of the shops adjacent to the theater, so she didn't have to travel far to see all the serial movies that ran each Saturday.

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Edenton Motors has Angel Tree

BY DERRICK ARMSTEAD
Staff Writer

EDENTON—Christmas usually sparks joy and excitement in youth.

Unfortunately, economic hardship excludes many individuals within that age group from the holiday celebrations.

Hoping to alleviate the problem, Edenton Motors and the Salvation Army have joined forces to provide assistance for those unaccustomed with "yuletide delight."

Serving a nine-county area in northeastern North Carolina, the Elizabeth City-based Salvation Army's designation of Edenton Motors as a central drop-off point prompted the establishment of an Angel Tree that will bring Christmas day joy to several youth, according to Edenton Motors general manager, Stuart Deacon.

"This project is in conjunction with the Salvation Army," he said. "My understanding of the

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Stewart Deacon and Teresa Conrad add some names to the Angel Tree at the Edenton Motors dealership. (Staff photo by Derrick Armstead)

The Greatest Gift - A Drive-Through Panorama of Nine Scenes in the Life of Jesus

Center Hill Baptist Church

December 20-22 From 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm nightly

936 Sandy Ridge Road ~ Tyner in Chowan County ~ Call Pastor Don English at 221-4060 for more information