

THE CHOWAN HERALD

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Scam artists take advantage of holiday goodwill

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
 Staff Writer

The holidays not only bring cheer and celebration but, in most cases tend to bring out the best in people like generosity and tolerance. Unfortunately, the Chowan County Sheriff's office warns, is this time of year also brings out the worst in some, those taking advantage of the goodness of others.

For the third time in as many years the Chowan County Sheriff's Office is asking citizens to be aware that a group of individuals are

prowling the county taking advantage of residents. "Most of the victims of this scam are the elderly," says Detective Dwayne Goodwin. "These individuals are approaching homes and offering the residents a 'deal' on painting their house or barn or dumping gravel in the driveway."

According to Goodwin the scam artists say they are working on a project up the road, have some gravel left over, and will dump it in the homeowner's driveway for about \$40. "They offer the victims a ridiculously low price to have the gravel dumped," says



Goodwin

not the entire load. "Most people, especially the elderly, are easy targets for this. They will think they must have misunderstood, or they don't want to get into a hassle over it, and just pay these guys," Goodwin adds. "It may cost them \$150 or

more."

The same type of situation occurs when the scammers approach someone about painting the roof of their home or barn. Goodwin says the artist goes as far as to provide a contract and issue a receipt. "They do the painting with paint that has been cut with kerosene," says the detective. "It looks nice until the first rain."

Goodwin says that the contracts and receipts do not bear either the name of or a number for any company. "The 'contract' comes with an eight year guarantee, but there is

nothing indicating who to contact. People should be very observant of this before agreeing to sign anything," he adds.

"These people know how to pick their targets," Goodwin says. "They get in, get the job done and get out." Goodwin says that the main objective of the group is to get someone inside the house if possible.

One such group achieved this last year in Chowan County. One member of the group was allowed to enter the home to accept payment. Refusing to take a check and demanding cash, he watched as the elderly gentleman re-

trieved cash from a hutch. Asking for water, the scam artist got the wife to leave the room and the scammer stole the remaining cash from the couple, \$7,300. Luckily, acting on information provided by the homeowner, and with some sharp detective work by Chowan and Martin County Sheriff's offices, the money was recovered.

In another case, an elderly lady, not knowing how to fill out a check, just signed her name and allowed the scam artist to fill out the amount.

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Court in session: Teen Court offers alternatives to young offenders

BY GLENDA JAKUBOWSKI
 Edenton-Chowan Schools

Edenton-Chowan Schools this year added Teen Court to the services it helps to provide to students and the community, joining more than 880 Teen Court programs throughout the nation.

Nearly 20 John A. Holmes High School students trained for the Teen Court program, attending sessions of the Gates County Teen Court and working under the tutelage of District Attorney Joanie Ashley and attorney Will Crowe. Other adults involved in the Chowan County Teen Court are Karen Ames, of the Edenton-Chowan Schools Intensive Supervision Program, School Resource Officer Greg Whitehurst, School Resource Officer Larnell Valentine, John A. Holmes Guidance Secretary Angela Kemp, John A. Holmes Principal John Williams, the Edenton-Chowan Schools Director of Testing and Accountability Renee Harris, and Judge J.C. Cole.

The Chowan County Teen Court is a collaborative effort between the Office of Juvenile Justice, the District Attorney's office, the First District Court, the Chowan County Sheriff's Department, the Chowan County Interagency Youth Task Force and Edenton-Chowan Schools.

"Teen Court has been a big, big help to us," said Linda Terry, of the Department for

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John A. Holmes High School Teen Court participants provide an alternative to teen offenders who otherwise could have a criminal record of their offenses. Teen Court participants include: Kendra Bailey, Kyana Bailey, Samantha Belton, Veronica Bunch, Travis Bunch, Ciara Cofield, Jay Cooper, Caroline Dail, Jonathan Davidson, Ashley Klein, Dena Lassiter, Markeeta Littlejohn, Heather Matthews, Latasha Morris, Joretta Phelps, Barbara Sanchez, Casey Stallings, Chenitra White and Jenna Williams. Also shown are School Resource Officer Larnell Valentine, Judge J.C. Cole, attorney Will Crowe and District Attorney Joanie Ashley. (Photo by Glenda Jakubowski, Edenton-Chowan Schools)

Historic District being surveyed

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
 Staff Writer

Earlier this month Chowan County Planning Director Chad Sary introduced Michelle Michael to the Edenton Town Board. Michael, an Historic Preservation consultant, presented the board as overview of plans underway to conduct a survey of the Edenton Historic District. The results of the survey will give the town guidance for future expansion areas.

"We also want to advise the public of Michelle's presence

as they will see her around town taking pictures of area homes and businesses," says Sary.

Michael will be residing in Edenton in the next few months. "I will be conducting the National Registry District update and town inventory list for the town and the state," says Michael. Michael explains that the Edenton Historic District was placed on the National Registry in 1973. "The guidelines in 1973 were a little bit different than what they are

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Longtime officer leaving the force

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
 Staff Writer

After fifteen years of service to the town and the citizens of Edenton, Officer Wayne Forehand announced today that he is retiring from the Edenton Police Department. Forehand will be moving on as an automotive instructor with the College of the Albemarle Edenton Campus and in conjunction with the John A. Holmes High School's Work First Develop-

ment program.

"Throughout the years I have enjoyed working for the public," Forehand said. "And I look forward to continuing to serve as



Forehand

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Generosity of community spirit reflected in 2002

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
 Staff Writer

The year just past brought with it many changes. In 2002 several major corporate actions brought cheers and one left uncertainty in its wake. But, in the spirit of a community that looks out for its own, leaders did what needed to be done for the people who depend on them, and solved another problem.

What the community lacks in size it more than makes up for in heart. Like an atom the right combination of intuition, determination, and strength leave no room for misjudging the capabilities of those who call Chowan County

home. With the joy and accomplishments came the sadness of loss. From county leadership to the kid next door, the community said farewell to good friends. But, regardless how great or small their impact, they were members of the family of Chowan County and they will be missed.

The New Year began here as it traditionally does statewide with the addition of a new citizen. Jennifer Walton and her fiancée, Tory Riddick of Tyner welcomed their baby girl, Shamara Brion, into the world at 11 a.m. Shamara arrived just in time to witness the buyout of Tee-Lok by Mi-Teck Corporation on January 9. Mi-Teck is owned by Warren Buf-



The Tee-Lok buyout was one of the year's biggest business stories. (Staff photo by Helen K. Outland)

fet and Berkshire Hathaway Corporation and brought with them the promise of more jobs.

By January 19 the county had leapt into the 21st century by becoming an e-community. The link for this connection is rooted in a program known as e-North Carolina Initiative, an on-going program to connect all North Carolinians to the Internet. Bill Miller of Edenton was appointed e-Champion for Chowan County. "Local technology champions are critical in getting the rural communities on line," said Dr. James Luetze, Chairman of the Rural Internet Access Authority. E-North Carolina is a \$6.3 million dollar community outreach effort.

Before the month was out Chowan County, along with five others, held the first of what was to become many meetings to inform the public and initiate a plan of action against the Navy intentions to relocate and Outlying Landing Field in Northeastern North Carolina. During a meeting at the Albemarle Commission in Hertford to discuss the adverse effects on rural counties where citizens spent years making their living on farming combined with fishing the sound and river. It is the vitality of these counties that are jeopardized by the proposed landing strip.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!