



Candlelight Tour draws crowd

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Gripping the bars of his cell, John Morehead begged for smokes while his cellmates whooped and hollered at passers-by.

"You got a cigarette?" Morehead growled as fellow jailbirds called out for liquor, women and freedom.

Only thing was, a door just to their left stood wide open. "Inmates" wandered in and out of the cell at times. A gas heater warmed the black-and-white-striped prisoners. But like they did for both nights of the annual Christmas Candlelight Tour, Edenton Rotary Club members remained in character long enough to get a few laughs from visitors.

"Call my wife," Jack Habit pleaded Friday night, "she doesn't know I'm in here."

Elsewhere on the tour, homes elicited words of de-



Visitors admire the beautiful high ceilings at Beverly Hall, home of Samuel and Gray Dixon and their family, on the opening day of the annual Candlelight Tour in Edenton. (Staff photo by Sean Jackson)

See TOUR On Page 5-A

Vandalism won't kill holiday spirit

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL
Staff Writer

Despite a visit by Santa vandals, Chowan County resident Danny Stalling still believes in the spirit of Christmas.

According to Stalling, who resides on Highway 32 in Edenton, vandals in a dark truck with a loud exhaust system sliced the 12.5 foot inflatable Santa in his yard two Fridays ago between 9:00 and 9:30 p.m.

"We've had people stopping and looking at our inflated Santa since Thanksgiving," notes Stalling. "I had someone tell me how much their grandchild loved it and they had to

come back so the child could look at it. It's a shame two people have to ruin things for everyone else."

Stalling's son, a high school student, does the yard decorating for Christmas and needless to say, was very upset about the vandalism.

"My son really loves Christmas," Stalling states. "I had some real unhappy kids that Friday night. So to the persons who did this, you got the reaction you wanted."

If it wasn't for the alertness of his neighbors, Stalling wouldn't have had any information to help identify the

See SPIRIT On Page 3-A



A lovely table awaited visitors to the Barker House Restaurant during the tour. (Staff photo by Bud Weagly)



Eric Bergevin, left, and John Morehead, right, beg for mercy while confined to the old Chowan County Jail for the duration of the tour. They were imprisoned there along with fellow Rotarians...but all in good fun! (Staff photo by Sean Jackson)

Firefighters get new equipment

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A federal grant of nearly \$100,000 will allow the Edenton Fire Department to pay for new firefighting equipment.

During its Dec. 8 meeting, the Town Council approved entering a matching grant with Homeland Security for the purchase of fire safety equipment. Homeland Security will pay \$96,700, with the town paying slightly more than \$10,000.

The total grant will equal \$106,700.

The money will pay for 15 self-contained breathing apparatus and other materials, fire department officials told the council.

"We got the very best price we could get," Fire Chief Charlie Westbrook said last month.

Prices for the equipment were expected to rise after Jan. 1.

See FIRE On Page 3-A

More vaccine on way

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

If the flu bug is what scares you, then be prepared to shell out big bucks to pay for the only vaccine available in Chowan County: a \$60 inhaled-mist variety.

A spokesperson for the Chowan Medical Center said last week that the flu-shot vaccine has run out at the medical center and the county health department. Both agencies use different providers for the shots. The spokesperson said the medical center could restock its shot vaccines "in the next couple of weeks." There were some state-provided vaccines for at-risk people, such as children with chronic asthma, the spokesperson said.

A federal agency could bring vaccines to the area a little sooner than that.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has shipped an additional 2,490 doses of traditional injectable vaccine to North Carolina and an additional 7,500 doses are expected next week. In addition, the N.C. Division of Public Health Immunization Branch has also negotiated with Wyeth Lederle, the manufacturer of FluMist, so that nasal spray vaccine can be ad-

See VACCINE On Page 5-A

Generations enjoy sharing their creativity during holiday season

BY ANGELA PEREZ
Staff Writer

Last Monday, the Historic Edenton State Historic Site sponsored its 6th annual Holiday Wreath Making class at the Iredell House. Record numbers of women (several mother and daughter teams) came from as far away as Suffolk, Virginia and Greenville, N.C. to participate in this fun and festive activity.

After reading about the class in her local newspaper, Laurie Roberts drove to Edenton from Elizabeth City with her high-school daughter Megan in tow. Inside the old one room schoolhouse located behind the Iredell House, the mother and daughter team giggle as they exchange evergreen branches. Laurie exclaims, "This is even more fun than we thought it would be!"

Meanwhile, just outside the door, four generations from one family stand huddled around a plank table enjoying the sunshine while piecing together their holiday wreaths. The eldest, Ruth Doughtie, 78, of Virginia, stands with her daughter, Sandra Edmundson, her niece, Thelma Bunch (of Tyner), her grand niece,



Four-generations of family joined together Monday for holiday wreath making at the Iredell House. Pictured left to right are: Melody White, Thelma Bunch, Will White, Sandra Edmundson, and Ruth Doughtie. (Staff photo by Angela Perez)

Melody White (also of Tyner), and her great-grand nephew, Melody's son Will (a student at John A. Holmes High School). "This is our second year coming to this," said Sandra. "We just love it. And mother here used to play in this schoolhouse as a little girl when it was on the Bandon Plantation. Ruth looks up briefly from

her work and smiles. "I used to pretend I was a school teacher," she says as she works deftly with the greenery. "This is really a family tradition now," adds Melody. Debbie Sliva, Special Events Coordinator/Historic Interpreter for the Historic Edenton State Historic Site, felt that the overall results of the

classes were fantastic. "This just grows every year from word of mouth, from family members. Everyone had a wonderful time and we will continue as long as people are interested." Go ahead and mark your calendar for next year - the classes are always held the following Monday after the Christmas Candlelight Tour.

Third drug arrest is carried out

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL
Staff Writer

During a routine patrol, Edenton Police Officers Aaron Davidson and Dennis Smith

stopped a vehicle that was operated by thirty-year old Norman Ford, of 311 East Church Street. Upon searching the vehicle after serving an arrest warrant for Ford, police found 34 grams of a controlled substance believed to be crack-cocaine. A substantial amount of money was also seized from Ford.

Ford was arrested and charged with trafficking crack-cocaine, and delay/resisting a public officer. Ford

See ARREST On Page 3-A

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Aces fall to Eagles.... 1-B

Lawrence sworn in at special session..... 6-A

Passion for trains shared with students.... 14-A

Kids Letters to Santa Section..... 1-14-C