

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

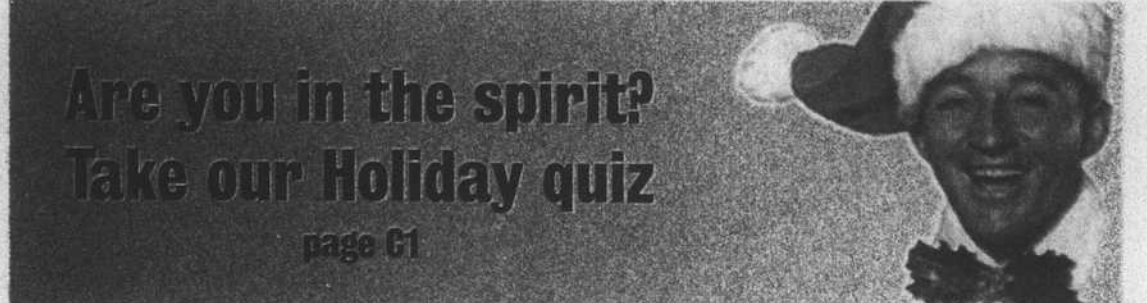
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**All Albemarle Team**  
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**Are you in the spirit?**  
**Take our Holiday quiz**  
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## Rocky Hock bridge reopens



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

An automobile passes over the newly reopened Rocky Hock Creek Landing Bridge.

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

More than two years after it was closed, the Rocky Hock Creek Landing Bridge is open again.

A shortcut to several sections of west-central Chowan County — including Tynch Town and portions of Rocky Hock — the bridge closed in late October, Scott Emory, resident engineer with the state Department of Transportation in Ahoskie, said Monday. The new bridge opened Nov. 30, Emory said.

The project cost roughly \$2.5 million, he added.

It was briefly delayed — about a month — after Hurricane Isabel tore through Chowan County in September 2003. Stormwaters put a dent in ongoing work.

"We had a lot of stuff (to repair) on the northeast end," Emory said. "We had some washing problems (from floodwaters in Rocky Hock Creek). We had to replace some stuff."

The majority of the upgrade to the bridge was to the northeast end of the span, Emory said. Environmental agencies had re-

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## Candlelight Tour big success



Photo by Bud Weagly for The Chowan Herald

Pat Carnrite prepares to serve some visitors to the Wassail Bowl celebration held at the Cupola House as part of the annual Christmas Candlelight Tour. The event drew over 1,500 tour-goers over the weekend.

BY ANGELA PEREZ  
Contributing Writer

Bill Frances and his wife Anne arrived in downtown historic Edenton amidst a flurry of shoppers and tourists. It's the 5th year that they have driven from their home in Newport News to take the self-guided Christmas Candlelight Tour and, says Bill, every year there is always something new and wonderful to see.

"The small-town charm," says Bill, "is really wonderful. The way people open their homes to us. It is really worth the drive and every year we bring our friends to see it with us. Just the eggnog at the Barker House alone is worth the trip," adds Anne with a smile. They, like many other would-be visitors last season, missed the 2003 Christmas tour because of the destruction wrought by Hurricane Isabel the previous September. "Last year, we didn't think Edenton had recovered yet," says Anne. "But this year, we wanted to see how far Edenton had come."

Whatever the reasons for taking the annual Candlelight Christmas tour, one thing is perfectly clear: No one celebrates Christmas like Edenton.

### Transcendent Charm

The 15-site tour kicked off this year as usual, with eggnog and punch at The Barker House, much to the relief of the Edenton Histori-

cal Commission (EHC). The house, which suffered extensive damage during Hurricane Isabel, had to be raised 10 feet above sea level to prevent future flooding. "The house was ready just in the nick of time," said Susan Creighton, EHC Special Events Committee member. "Building crews have been raising the foundations and it was truly a miracle that it was ready for the tour this year with all of the work that had to be done." Creighton said that it was the hard work of so many people and volunteers that made the tour not only possible, but also so successful.

Elevation questions certainly didn't deter visitors this year. Over 1,500 people signed on for the Candlelight tour. That's a long way from the 65 people who took the very first Candlelight tour in 1981, said Linda Eure, executive director of the Historic Edenton Visitor's Center.

Creighton agrees. "It was one of the most successful tours we have ever had," said Creighton. Last year's count was approximately 1,100.

"There were so many happy people here in Edenton this weekend. You could just feel the Christmas Spirit in the air," Creighton attributes much of the success to the uniqueness of the celebration. "There are few places left in America where people invite strangers into their homes and embrace them like family. It's really special."

The popularity of the tour also stems, in part, from the variety of sites featured on the tour, said Creighton. "We have older homes and newer homes - all with their own particular charms. Some of the historic homes had never been



Photo by Bud Weagly for The Chowan Herald

Edenton Historical Commission member Susan Creighton, right, joins her sister, Cynthia, for Caroling on the Green Friday evening.

opened to the public until this year's tour." The inclusion of historic sites on the tour, including the Cupola and Iredell House, the 1767 Courthouse and The Old Jail, as well as the Chowan Arts Council, which served up over 100 lbs. of chocolate to visitors, helped make

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## Technology director earns state honor

BY GLENDA JAKUBOWSKI  
Edenton-Chowan Schools

Edenton-Chowan Schools' Nelle Hyatt received the 2005 North Carolina Technology Director of the Year Award at the recent North Carolina Educational Technology Conference in Greensboro.

"This honor is certainly well-deserved," said Edenton-Chowan Schools superintendent Allan T. Smith. "Nelle's dedication, hard work and tireless service to our students is a tremendous asset to the school system."

Each year the Instruction Technologies Division of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction recognizes an administrator who has provided outstanding leadership in planning and implementing instructional technology in ongoing school programs.

Hyatt was recognized for her leadership above and beyond her assigned role as Technology Director for Edenton-Chowan Schools; for her innovative technological staff development for all school system employees; and for her relentless search for new opportunities to integrate technology into the school curriculum through partnerships with other education agencies and business partners.

Hyatt is known for her egalitarian management style, according to one of the school system's media specialists. "Nelle never says she's the Director of Media and Technology," said Amy Asbell, media coordinator at John A. Holmes High School. "When people ask her what she does, Nelle will say, 'I work with the technology department.' She never takes any credit and always, always tells people that the technology and media programs are a result of a team effort."

D.F. Walker media coordinator Nancy Heiniger, in addition to citing the 100 percent Hyatt gives to her job, mentioned the personal touch she brings to the position. "A kinder, more caring person never existed," Heiniger said. All of us media folks refer to her affectionately as Mother Nelle. No one else deserves this award more."

True to form, Hyatt took the opportunity the award provided to praise the media and technology staff. "Any award or recognition is due to the dedicated and talented technology and media staff with which I work and the tremendous support I receive from the Board, Dr. Smith, and Rob Boyce," Hyatt said.



Nelle Hyatt

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**NE Partnership joins Parton in Pigeon Forge.**

## Employee is charged in theft at McDonald's Saturday

By SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

An Edenton woman was arrested early Saturday morning after allegedly stealing more than \$700 from her workplace during a fracas outside McDonald's on Virginia Road.

Christina Thompson, 28, of 137 E. Albemarle St., was arrested by Edenton police during a prearranged drug raid at 206 Vance Lane. Thompson was charged with larceny by an employee, possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, possession of stolen property, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Thompson allegedly stole \$731.55

from her cash register during a fight outside the fast-food eatery at approximately 9 p.m. Friday.

"At the time," of Thompson's arrest within several hours of the alleged theft, police Chief Greg Bonner said Monday, "she still had \$100 on her. She was in the process of taking a hit off a crack pipe when officers raided the house."

Thompson was confined at Albemarle District Jail in Elizabeth City under a \$12,500 secured bond.

"She confessed," to the theft, Bonner



Thompson

added.

Also arrested during the raid was Jerry Grissom, 41, of 206 Vance Lane. He was charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, maintaining a dwelling for the storage of a controlled substance, manufacturing cocaine, possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was jailed at the Chowan County Detention Center in lieu of a \$14,500 secured bond.

In addition, police arrested Ricky Jones, 46, of Edenton. He was charged with possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Jones was confined under a \$3,500 secured bond.

Finally, Haywood Jones, 20, of Chowan Beach, was charged with two counts of assault on a police officer, two counts of resisting arrest, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was jailed under an \$11,000 secured bond.

During the raid, officers confiscated 25 rocks of crack cocaine, marijuana, and cash. Edenton police were assisted by the Gates County Sheriff's Office's K-9 unit, state Probation and Parole officers, and the Chowan County Sheriff's Office.

Police involved in the investigation were Det. Sgt. Rhonda Copeland, Det. Aaron Davidson, and Sgt. Bill Phillips.

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December 17, 18, 19  
from 6 p.m.  
until 8 p.m.

**Center Hill Panorama**  
Center Hill Community Center  
Sandy Ridge Rd, Tyner

For more info  
call  
221-1060