

# CHOWAN HERALD

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Inspiration, C8

## Center Hill Chapel Baptist Church

The 110-year-old church provides counseling, library to community

## Candlelight Tour

Edenton gears up for the event

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Do's and  
Don'ts

Sports, B3



Fun Ad  
Contest  
winners

Inside, A3

## Clue surfaces in mystery of unkown bones

BY MARGARET FISHER  
*The Perquimans Weekly*

**HERTFORD** — Human remains found in the basement of a local church several months ago are most likely those of a black woman in her 30s, a bone analysis conducted at East Carolina University suggests.

The study of the human skull and two femur bones also suggests the woman was no more than 5-feet, 10-inches tall, Megan Perry, an assistant professor of anthropology at ECU, said.

There is no evidence from the skull to suggest the woman died after being hit by a blunt object, Perry said.

The identity of the woman, her exact age and how the bones ended up in the basement of Hertford Baptist Church still remain a mystery, however.

Perry conducted tests on the remains after they were dis-

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Daily Advance file photo

**A skull and two thigh bones found in Hertford recently are believed to be from a black female. The exact age of the bones is unknown.**

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## FIRE TREATED AS ARSON FOR NOW



Patrick Cumby

Edenton Fire Department firefighters work to put out a blaze that destroyed a South Oakum Street home in the town's historic district on Thanksgiving morning.

## Investigators probing cause of Thanksgiving Day fire

BY SEAN JACKSON  
*Staff Writer*

Local and state investigators are treating a blaze that destroyed a historic district home on Thanksgiving morning as a potential arson.

Edenton Police Det. Dwight Rawlins said investigators have leads into the fire that erupted inside a 114-year-old home at 210 S. Oakum St. last week.

"We don't have any suspects," he added. "We just have leads."

Through Monday, Rawlins only had interviewed Tina Rodriguez, the owner of the home. The home, known as the Camilla L. Skinner

House, was built in 1892.

"It's the worst fire in a long time in the historic district," Edenton Fire Chief Charles Westbrook said.

There were no injuries reported, officials said.

Rawlins said he expects to interview other family members and friends of Rodriguez.

"Everybody's going to be interviewed," he added.

Rawlins said he would not be surprised if an arrest is made once interviews are concluded over the next several weeks.

"It doesn't look good," he added. "And arson may not be the only charge."

He said Monday no evidence had

been found that an accelerant had been used to aid the blaze.

Rodriguez was the only person in the home when she was awakened by a smoke detector. After going outside and seeing flames coming out of the front of the home, she called 911.

Firefighters were on the scene for about three hours, Westbrook said. Fire stormed through the two-story front of the home, leaving only a frame of charred timbers. Westbrook said he wasn't sure when a fire as bad had struck a historic district home.

Rodriguez purchased the home in August, shortly after finalizing her divorce, Rawlins said. She was restor-

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## J.A. Holmes student faces murder charge

Knife found on high school campus in related incident

BY EARLINE WHITE  
*Staff Writer*

Holmes student, Donovan T. White, 17, is charged with allegedly murdering a Baltimore man in Maryland last month.

"It appears that robbery was the motive for the crime," Nikki Monroe, public information officer with the Baltimore City Police Department, said Monday.

Using surveillance videos set up around Baltimore as well as other sources, a possible suspect was identified and his whereabouts linked to Edenton, Monroe said.

White was charged with premeditated malice and murder in the death of Joe Bradley, 39, of Baltimore.

Video footage shows an assailant approaching the victim as he sits on a park bench, then striking him over the head with a blunt object, knocking him to the ground. The assailant then rummages through the victim's belongings for a few minutes before fleeing the scene, court records say.

Phone records for Bradley's cell phone were used in the investigation.

Bradley was transported to the hospital for treatment, dying later that day. His death was ruled as a homicide caused by blunt force trauma, the autopsy says.

Chowan County Deputy Greg Whitehurst took White into custody Nov. 20 for questioning about the homicide when it was discovered that White was allegedly in possession of a knife on the Holmes campus. White was subsequently arrested.

If convicted of all charges, White faces the death penalty for first-degree murder, up to 20 years for the armed robbery, up to three years for possession of a deadly weapon with intent to injure, up to 18 months for theft of less than \$50 value (cell phone), and up to five years for reckless endangerment.

White made his first appearance in court Nov. 21 and will return to court on Dec. 19 in Maryland.



White

## Christmas Candlelight Tour prepares to welcome visitors

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
*Editor*

Bev Kirchmier, co-chair for this year's Christmas Candlelight Tour, said Tuesday that organizers are anticipating a strong turnout based on advance sales and inquiries.

"Our advance ticket sales have been strong, and we've been getting lots of phone calls from people interested in coming," she said.

In fact, the biggest challenge the tour, sponsored by the Edenton Historical Commission, is facing so far is the challenge of helping everybody who wants to come find rooms.

"All the local B&B's have been booked up for the last six months in advance of the tour," Kirchmier said, "so now we're getting calls from people asking us to help them find a place to stay."

Self-guided tours of local homes will take place next Friday

and Saturday, Dec. 8-9, from 4-8 p.m.

Companion events are scheduled to include: the Barker House Holiday Repast, the Cupola House Wassail Bowl and the Iredell House Groaning Board, which take place both days from 1-5 p.m.

The Chowan Arts Council's Confection Perfection which will welcome visitors Friday and Saturday from 4-9 p.m.

There will be caroling on the

green outside the 1767 Chowan Courthouse Friday evening starting at 6 p.m.

And, Saturday morning at 11 a.m., Santa will arrive in style during the Edenton-Chowan Christmas Parade.

Tickets are \$25 per person or \$20 for groups of 20 or more. Children 12 and under will be admitted free of charge.

More information is available from the Chamber of Commerce, (252) 482-3400 or 1-800-775-0111.



Beautifully decorated homes will be open Dec. 8-9 for the annual Candlelight Tour.

**Rocky Hock Opry** Friday, Dec. 1, 7:30 pm  
E.A. Swain Auditorium  
Edenton, NC  
Saturday, Dec. 2, 7:30 pm

**Tickets \$10.00 Available At**

Byrum True Value Hardware - Downtown Edenton 252-482-2131  
Acoustic Coffee - Downtown Edenton 252-482-7465  
Nixon Family Restaurant - Rocky Hock 252-221-2244

Woodard's Pharmacy - Downtown Hertford 252-426-5527  
Mail orders call 252-221-4875 or 252-340-3438  
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