

**CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 1, 2012**  
9am to 2pm

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## Thanksgiving Day holdup



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Surveillance video shows a suspect during a Thanksgiving night robbery of the ETNA station on North Broad Street. The suspect, armed with a knife, concealed much of his identity with an unusual looking hoodie.

## ETNA robbed at knifepoint

From staff reports

A man armed with a knife and masked by a cow-print hoodie robbed the ETNA gas station and convenience store on Thanksgiving night, according to Edenton police. Just after 6 p.m. Thursday a man entered the store located on North Broad Street at the cor-

ner of East Gale Street where a female clerk was working alone, said Chief Jay Fortenbery. The man brandished a knife before fleeing on foot with less than \$100.

"Most convenience and retail stores try to not keep large amounts of cash on hand and this robber is facing a minimum four to five year prison sentence

if convicted," Fortenbery said.

The suspect headed north on Broad Street after fleeing from the store, the chief said. Police called in bloodhounds that tracked the suspect to East Carter Street before losing scent, Fortenbery said.

Although the suspect's face was mostly covered by his hoodie, the clerk

saw enough of the man to determine his race.

"The clerk is sure the suspect is a black male because she could see a small area around his eyes," Fortenbery said. "Hopefully someone will recognize the coat and provide some information that will lead to his capture."

See ETNA, 4A

## Steinburg fields Herald's Q & A

From staff reports

On Nov. 6 voters elected Edenton's Bob Steinburg as its N.C. House Representative for District 1, which also serves Chowan County. At the request of the Chowan Herald, Steinburg agreed to submit to a Q & A about how he plans to address some of the challenges facing those who live in the Albemarle.



Steinburg

**Q** As you embark on your freshman tenure as the new NC House Representative for District 1 identify some of the more critical challenges facing the NC General Assembly?

**A** North Carolina's unemployment rate is the fifth highest in the nation at 9.5 percent. Without question getting people back to work and getting our state's economy moving again is job 1. That means getting government out of the way to create a more business friendly environment. We must lower tax rates, reduce onerous regulations, develop a skilled and educated work force while at the same time ensuring our transportation system can adequately accommodate the needs of expanding commerce.

Another challenge: Currently we owe the federal government \$2.8 billion the (Gov. Bev) Perdue administration accepted to extend unemployment benefits in our state during the recession to 99 weeks. Interest alone on this debt is costing state taxpayers \$185,000 per day. A plan to repay the debt will be among the first bills presented to the newly convened General Assembly in January.

**Q** Since you are among the newly elected first-time legislators, explain why you can make an immediate impact for your district?

See Q&A, 3A



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## Deals Start Early



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Andre Green shows off the brand new flat screen television set he purchased at Sears shortly after the store opened its doors at 4 a.m. on Black Friday.

## Thanksgiving, Black Friday sales ignite holiday season

### Area retailers surprised by boost

By REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

**S**hoppers and retail managers were uncertain what to expect as local stores stayed open longer hours to encourage early holiday shopping.

Both ended up pleasantly surprised by the experience.

On Thanksgiving night, for instance, Peebles Department

Store opened from 8 p.m. until midnight for the first time on that particular holiday. Store manager Janelle Wagner said she couldn't be more pleased with the result. Over the four-hour period the store took in about \$8,000 in sales. Three thousand dollars in sales occurred from 8-9 p.m., she said.

"Things have gotten crazy but in a good way," Wagner said in describing the mood at the store on Thanksgiving night. "We weren't really sure what to expect so this has been a nice surprise."

Based on sales that evening,

Wagner said she had little doubt the store would open next year on Thanksgiving night.

"I imagine we'll be here," Wagner said.

Having the store open Thursday night came as welcome news for shoppers filled with turkey who wanted something to do besides sit at home and watch football.

Among them was Michelle Haloran who was shopping with her two young sons in tow.

See SHOPPING, 2A

## Habitat tools stolen

### Theft outside of newly-built home

From staff reports

Someone broke into and stole power tools stored in a Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity construction trailer used to build the latest Habitat house in Edenton.

Some time between 4:30 p.m., Nov. 19 and 7:45 a.m., Nov. 20 the trailer's side door was pried



Copeland

open as it remained parked outside the non-profit's latest constructed house at 205 East Peterson Street. Stolen were various power tools, including nail guns, saws, and air compressors, according to Edenton Police Chief Jay Fortenbery.

Police have a possible person of interest in the crime. Fortenbery said police are looking for Demetrius Lamonte Copeland, also known by a nickname of Junior, of Edenton. "Officers were able to identify him in a larceny of a heater from CVS pharmacy that occurred on the morning of Nov. 23 and a warrant for larceny has been obtained," Fortenbery said.

Tom Austin, Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity president, said the tools were valued at about \$2,000.

"We acquired them (tools) over a period of time," Austin said. "If we have to replace them before the next house, which we

See TOOLS, 4A

## Storage shed catches fire

From staff reports

Firefighters have yet to determine what caused the blaze of a storage building.

Neighbors called 911 after a fire was observed behind the home of 206 S. Oakum Street early Fri-

day morning.

The Edenton Fire Department responded to the 12:18 a.m. reports of flames, according to Capt. Derast Bonner.

Fire fighting efforts were delayed when a fire hose burst, Bonner said.

## TREE ILLUMINATION



CHOWAN HERALD FILE PHOTO

Students from White Oak Elementary School sing Christmas carols after last year's tree illumination. This year's tree lighting ceremony will take place this Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. at the foot of the monument on South Broad Street.

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