



Christmas parade photos — 1B

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COA, schools apply for Golden LEAF funds

Thursday's forum to provide feedback

By **RITCHIE STARNES**
Editor

The College of The Albemarle and Edenton-Chowan Schools are respectively posturing for the lion's share of Golden LEAF's \$2 million.

COA has applied to Golden

LEAF's Community Assistance Initiative for funding the redesign of the former D.F. Walker School, which presently represents the school's new campus footprint in Edenton-Chowan. Plans call for the community college to make the campus the hub for an



Deitemeyer



Smith

more than Golden LEAF earmarked for Chowan County. "We find that building brings

expanded human services curriculum, specifically adding programs aimed at dental hygiene. Preliminary estimates show the renovation would cost \$2.5 million.

so many things to the community," said Kandi Deitemeyer, COA president. "We are looking for that building to be a show piece of the campus. This grant gets us started."

As for COA's request, plans call for the campus' main two-story building to be rehabilitated. Funding sought, however, would cover the expense of the first of three phases. Phase one includes refurbishing only the

first level of the building that would launch an oral healthcare curriculum amid hope of fostering a relationship with East Carolina University's dental clinics in northeastern North Carolina while also bolstering improved dental care here.

ECU's school of dentistry has committed clinics to Elizabeth City and Ahoskie. Plans call for

See **GOLDEN LEAF**, 4A

Planner reverses previous stance

AB deer processing biz now allowed

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Five months after Chowan County's contracted planner ruled a deer processing business at an Arrowhead Beach residence was not permissible under current zoning regulations, he reversed his stance.

Landin Holland explained his changed position at Saturday's Arrowhead Beach's Property Owners Association meeting. Holland previously advised the Board of Commissioners in June that Danny & Angela "Cissy" Dupraw's seasonal Hunter Deer Processing at their 307 Chinook Trail residence was in violation of the county's R-15 zoning. Neither did the business qualify as a home occupation, Holland ruled. But, Holland said a few tweaks of the operation now qualify the Dupraws as a home occupation that is permissible under the county's zoning regulations. He issued a permit last week that the couple can operate as a home occupation.

"The Dupraws are operating legally in the eyes of the county," Holland said.

When the Dupraws resumed their operation in October as they have for the past three years, despite repeated notices of violation, Holland said the couple came to him seeking a remedy to make their business compliant with the county's definition of a home occupation.

"I told the Dupraws that they were not allowed to go back into business as they did before," Holland said.

In an Oct. 31 email obtained by the Chowan Herald, Holland advised County Manager Zee Lamb with the request that he forward the

See **BUSINESS**, 3A

DECKING THE HALLS



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

Visitors gather to tour The Woodard house on Court Street during Edenton's 31st annual Candlelight Tour, Friday.

Candlelight Tour sparks holiday flurry

Event scores second busiest

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

The weekend's Christmas Candlelight Tour led to something that has been eluding merchants in recent years — a financial boom.

About 1,700 tickets were sold to this year's Tour, second to the 1,756 sold in 2000, according to Linda Eure, manager of the Visitor Center. From restaurants to retail shops, nearly all of the local businesses polled experienced an uptick in weekend commerce. The fortuitous turn of events came on the heels of Edenton celebrating its 300th anniversary with the Tour marking its first major event of the 14-month campaign.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

Barbara Fickler, (left) of Boykins, Va., looks at Christmas decorations at the Chesson house on Water Street during Edenton's annual Candlelight Tour, Friday.

"This was a very successful tour: Climer said of the tour that just ended. "I think some of that was because of the 300th anniversary and all the interest that's been generated," said Jerry Climer, president of the Edenton Historical Commission that sponsors the annual holiday event.

Anne Rowe, manager

of the Barker House and benefactor of the Tour, said attendance was "among the better ones" organizers had seen. "That's especially true considering that the economy has not been great," Rowe said. "I would say we've had an amazing response."

The 31st annual Tour, which also included the

popular historical landmark Hayes Plantation, was so popular organizers were forced to print more tickets. Ticket sales are roughly 60 percent higher than last year, organizers said.

Piggybacking on the response was a host of businesses.

See **TOUR**, 4A

Tour home catches fire

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

A house fire on the eve of the 31st annual Christmas Candlelight Tour left one home off downtown Edenton's most revered holiday event.

Hood and Anne Ellis were at their 409 Court Street home Thursday night when a strange smell filled their home.

"We noticed a peculiar smell but couldn't identify the source," Hood Ellis said. "About 30 minutes later, I saw flames coming out of an electric receptacle in our living room."

Edenton firefighters responded to the 10:44 p.m. 911 call. Fire Chief Craig Forlines confirmed Friday that the fire originated in an electrical outlet used for a timer that controlled Christmas lights.

"We were very fortunate we caught it when we did," Forlines said. "Damage was confined to one room."

The Ellis home was scheduled to be part of the Candlelight Tour held Friday and Saturday, but the couple opted to forgo the event, citing not enough time to return their home to presentable conditions.

"We are sadly dropping off the Christmas Tour," Hood Ellis said. "We have some damage around the receptacle and obviously smoke permeated the house, but other than that we were blessed with an early Christmas present. We are here and so is our house."

The Ellises credited the fire department's quick response for saving their home.

"Our town is very fortunate to have the fire chief and fire department we have," Hood Ellis said.

Hood Ellis serves as Edenton's town attorney.

Bush impersonator punks congregation

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

Open Door Church Pastor Steve Mizell knows the value of keeping a secret — and how hard it is to do

so. For several months Mizell had been telling his congregation that he had lined up "a very special guest" who would be making an appearance at the church's Christmas dinner this year.

"Of course, when you don't tell somebody something it makes them want to know even more," Mizell said Sunday evening after he had successfully pulled

off a huge surprise — the seeming arrival of former President George W. Bush.

When Bush impersonator (skillfully portrayed by John Morgan) walked into the room accompanied by members of his "Secret Service" detail, and with "Hail to the Chief" playing, loud gasps could be heard amid shocked expressions on the faces of those in the audience.

"Steve has done a great job of keeping me a secret," joked the make-believe former president as he walked onto the stage at Leon Nixon's Catering where the dinner took place with about 300 people in attendance.

The impersonator added that he wanted to dedicate his appearance that evening to those who serve

See **BUSH**, 3A



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Former President George W. Bush (portrayed by John Morgan) speaks to the audience at the Open Door Church Christmas dinner Sunday evening as a member of his "Secret Service" detail keeps watch.



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DRIVE THRU CHRISTMAS PANORAMA **DECEMBER**
The Greatest Gift 14th, 15th & 16th
6 PM - 8 PM
BY CENTER HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, 296 SANDY RIDGE ROAD, TYNER, NC