

Christmas Greetings
and
Letters to Santa

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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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NCHP urges motorists to drive carefully

RALEIGH - The North Carolina State Highway Patrol is urging thousands of motorists who will be traveling North Carolina's roadways this holiday season to slow down and work with the Patrol to ensure everyone has a safe holiday season.

The leading cause of col-

lisions in North Carolina is speed. The Patrol will be increasing the number of Troopers and Motor Carrier Enforcement officers on the interstates and heavily traveled corridors, targeting aggressive and impaired drivers.

"Holiday travel can be very dangerous on our

highways if people don't obey the laws and use common sense when they travel," said Colonel Richard W. Holden, Patrol Commander. "We take impaired driving very seriously and urge everyone to make the right choice — don't drink and drive."

During the holidays, the

Patrol will also be participating in the state's "Booze It and Lose It" anti-drunk driving campaign and the national Combined Accident Reduction Effort, (C.A.R.E). Sobriety checkpoints are being held throughout the state during the entire week.

Last year during the

Christmas and New Year holiday weekends, 18 people were killed.

The 2003 Christmas holiday period begins at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24, and ends at midnight on Thursday, Dec. 25.

The New Year holiday period begins at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31, and

ends at midnight on Thursday, Jan. 1.

Drivers and passengers are also reminded to wear seat belts, slow down, and allow plenty of time to get to your destination. Motorists with cellular phones can report safety hazards to the Highway Patrol by dialing *HP (*47) toll free.

DRESSED IN HOLIDAY STYLE



All across Perquimans County, lights twinkle and lawns are decked for the holidays. Just about everything on the lawn of this home off Lake Road (above) is awash in lights. In Matthews Acres (right) lights glisten all across the front lawn and a huge tree twinkles through the windows.



This waterfront home (left) uses wreaths, outdoor lights and spotlights to draw attention to its Christmas splendor.



On the road to Billy's Beach, a house is outlined in icicle lights with lighted garland along the porch rails.



A variety of lighted decorations adorns this lawn on Old Neck Road.



Superintendent Ken Wells (second from right) and principals Melvin Hawkins, Billy Stallings, Ed Williams and Hans Lassiter celebrate state recognition for preparing to proactively address a critical incident that might occur on a local school campus.

Schools ready for incidents on campus

School officials hope the training and documentation can be placed on a shelf and never used.

But in the event a critical incident does occur on a local school campus, administrators, faculty and staff at all sites are prepared to take action.

The Perquimans County School system is being recognized by the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for preparing proactively to address a critical incident occurrence on campus.

Early last year, the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention — Center for the Prevention of School Violence mailed every school in the state of North Carolina a critical incident response kit. These kits contained a booklet and video about a

school with an active shooter on campus.

Since the distribution of these tools, hundreds of schools have met the recommendations found in both the video and booklet. In an effort to recognize these schools, the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention have established the Critical Incident Response Kit Recognition Program.

To be recognized, Perquimans County Schools had to meet the following three criteria: assembly of two Critical Incident Response Kits; completion of School Site Survey form (which provides important information to emergency responders about the school); and viewing of the video "A Critical Incident: What to do in the First Twenty Minutes" by school staff.

Holiday deadlines

The Perquimans Weekly will close at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 24 and remain closed on Dec. 25 and 26 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Deadlines for the Dec. 31 edition will be Monday, Dec. 29 at noon.

The office will also close on Thursday, Jan. 1 in observance of the New Year's holiday.

Deadlines for the Jan. 7 edition of the newspaper will be on Friday, Jan. 2 at 5 p.m.

Regular deadlines for news and advertising are Friday at 5 p.m.

Regular office hours are Monday—Friday, 8 a.m.—5 p.m.

Call 426-5728 for further information.

HOLIDAY WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 50
LOW: 30
MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 54
LOW: 32
MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 56
LOW: 33
MOSTLY SUNNY