



THE CHOWAN HERALD



Volume LVII - No. 7

Published In The Most Beautiful Little City On The North Carolina Coast

Single Copies 35 Cents

EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1995

Crowd Relives Memories Of WW II At Community Center

By REBECCA BUNCH

Approximately 750 local residents crowded into Swain Community Center Sunday afternoon to relive memories of World War II through a concert, exhibit, and USO-style reception sponsored by local American Legion, VFWs, and the DAR, and hosted by the Chowan Arts Council.

Opening the program was a free concert by the U.S. Air Force Air Combat Command Heritage of America Band. Under the direction of S/SGT Joseph A. Ott, the band performed such wartime favorites as "St. Louis Blues March," "Over There," "You Made Me Love You," and "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree."

"The crowd just loved hearing all those old songs again," said CAC Executive Director Ann Perry. "One of the ladies I talked to later said that tears just rolled down her cheeks, because listening to them brought back so many memories."

"Someone else I talked with said what they enjoyed most was that the band played the songs using the original arrangements, and so they sounded just the way people remembered them," Perry added.

At the conclusion of the concert, Edenton Mayor Roy Harrell addressed those assembled. He said that while he had served during the Korean Conflict rather than during World War II, he could relate to the feelings re-

calling those times brought back.

"I wouldn't give anything for the years I was in service," Harrell said. "It is an honor and a privilege for me to be here with you today, to stand here and pay tribute to all of you. The Town of Edenton owes you a debt, the State of North Carolina owes you a debt, and the United States of America owes you a debt."

Following Harrell's remarks, a USO-style reception was held downstairs in the Arts Council Gallery. With the sounds of the Glenn Miller Band playing in the background, guests enjoyed viewing WWII memorabilia loaned by more than 100 families in the community.

"We had a special sign-up area for veterans who visited the exhibit on Sunday afternoon," said Perry, "and we had 103 who registered with us. We were delighted to have so many of them here to receive this special tribute."

One portion of the exhibit was of particular interest. It featured photographs of many Chowan County veterans in their uniforms. Many visitors crowded around the photographs looking for the faces of family members and old friends.

"We learned many things while preparing this exhibit," Perry said. "Many younger residents of our community weren't aware of how many heroes of World War II we had right here in our community. Although, let me hasten

to add that in my mind everyone who served the cause of freedom in that war is certainly a hero in the truest sense of the word."

Other special features of the exhibit were guns, swords, helmets, hats and mannequins dressed in soldier uniforms. There were also scrapbooks, model airplanes, Japanese and Nazi flags and 'Old Glory' complete with 48

stars. "We couldn't possibly have put an exhibit of this magnitude without the devotion and countless hours donated to the project by Corinne Thorud," said Perry. "She did an absolutely remarkable job."

"While everyone connected with the project worked really hard and deserves a tremendous 'thank you' from

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African-American Heritage Celebrated

The images of civil rights leaders Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., appear alongside that of South African President Nelson Mandela in the Black History Month showcase now being exhibited at the Shepard-Pruden Library in Edenton. February is Black History Month, and is the focus of several special programs at the library (see related stories on page 12-A of this week's newspaper. (Staff photo by Rebecca Bunch)

Knife Possession Results In Arrest

By MARGUERITE MCCALL

A first period class was evacuated to the school library at 8:30 a.m. Monday when a John A. Holmes High School student sprayed pepper gas into the room.

When confronted by school officials, the student, Michael Dennis, 17, admitted to having a knife in his possession but said he had no pepper gas. Later in the day, when questioned again by school au-

thorities, Dennis confessed to having sprayed the gas and to having hidden the container in his sock, said Edenton Police Capt. G.K. Bonner.

Police Chief C.H. Williams said he was contacted by JAH Principal David Wright at 5:25 p.m. Monday regarding the incident. He said Dennis and his father agreed to come to the police station Tuesday morning to give a statement.

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High-Speed Ferry Idea Appears Closer To A Reality

By CLIFF CLARK

For two years the idea of creating a N.C. "Harbor Town" which would be serviced by high-speed ferries has been vigorously pursued by Bunny Saunders, head of the tourism division of the Northeastern N.C. Regional Economic Development Commission.

It now appears her idea is about to become a reality.

At first glance the plan seemed a longshot, but Saunders said Monday that she is currently negotiating

with a company, which she wouldn't identify, that could operate a high-speed ferry on the Albemarle Sound as early as this summer. The ferry would shuttle tourists to the small picturesque towns which dot the shores of the sound. Edenton, of course, is included in the Harbor Town concept.

"If negotiations are successful," she said, "there is a good chance a ferry will be in operation this summer." She said the company, which hasn't been identified because of the

"sensitive nature" of the negotiations "has a boat that is ready and available for this region."

This represents perhaps the biggest step forward in making the Harbor Town concept a reality. Since the beginning of the discussions, the ferries have been proposed as a foundation upon which success would spring.

"We've got to have the boats. It's that simple," said Saunders. "Can you think of a more appealing way to move

people back and forth between the Harbor Towns?" she asked rhetorically.

Her sentiments have been duplicated by William Rich, an Elizabeth City developer who heads the Rich Co. "It won't work without the boats."

Rich is acting upon his belief that the Harbor Town idea will work. He has said he will be forming a Harbor Town Investment Group with a goal of raising \$15 million in private funds to help the waterfront-revitalization project.

The money would be raised by issuing shares of stock in the company, offering half to large capital venture groups and the other half to small private investors.

Using private funds, as opposed to state funds, is paramount to the effort's success said Saunders. "For success, there has to be private sector investment. There is clearly not enough money in the public sector to finance a development of this size."

With events moving so

quickly, Saunders said that she will soon be approaching the local governments of the proposed Harbor Town participants to "buy into the idea. Each town will have a chance to decide if they want to be included in the concept," she said.

According to spokesmen for the Town of Edenton and the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, there has yet to be a formal request made by the tourist division for in-

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Snowfall Gives Kids A Holiday From School

By MARGUERITE MCCALL

Several inches of snow fell Tuesday night, Feb. 7, while most of the populace slept.

By dawn, children's shouts awakened many local households. "Snow! Snow! Hooray! No school today."

All day long youngsters were seen making snow people, throwing snowballs, riding sleds pulled by four-wheelers and just generally, having a joyous time.

Some motorists, who were forced to venture out, didn't have such a good time. According to Faye Gray, with the N.C. State Highway Patrol in Elizabeth City, there were numerous incidents in Chowan County where vehicles slid into ditches.

"A lot of these vehicles were pulled out without having to be written up," she said.

The only report Mrs. Gray gave for Wednesday, Feb. 8,

occurred at 5:30 a.m. on U.S. 17 Business North near state road 1323.

She said Ernest Raynor Jr., 38, of Route 2, Edenton, was traveling north at a slow rate of speed when his vehicle lost traction, turned around on the highway, and slid into a ditch. No injuries were sustained she said. The damage to Raynor's 1994 Isuzu stationwagon was estimated at \$4,000.

Trooper D.C. Garriss investigated the accident.

As for the children, the holiday ended Thursday, with school resuming two hours late. Their snowballs began to resemble large marbles, scattered here and there across lawns. Their sculptured efforts gradually melted into heaps of dirty garments, procured for clothing from Mom's rag bag.

Promises by TV weathermen of more white stuff over

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A wee feathered friend huddles beside a birdseed feeder last week. As much as the kids enjoyed the snow, care had to be taken that outdoors critters had nourishment and thawed water. (Staff photo by Marguerite McCall)

Marina And Dock Get Portion Of Grant Funds

The Edenton Marina and the Edenton Town Dock received a portion of a \$109,000 grant to install marine sewage disposal stations, Governor James B. Hunt announced last week.

The grants, administered by the N.C. Division of Coastal Management, are part of a program designed to increase the availability of sewage pumpout and dump stations and to reduce the amount of marine sewage discharged into North Carolina's coastal waters.

The Edenton Marina was awarded a grant of \$4,944.73 which is to be matched with \$1,648.25. According to Thomas Newhams, manager of the Edenton Marina and owner of Boat Doc, construction of the pumpout station will begin in about a month.

The Edenton Town Dock received a grant of \$6,420 to be

matched with \$1,500. Details of any upcoming construction were not available at presstime.

Marine sewage is sewage

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Light Odor Activates Detector

Edenton Fire Chief Lynn Perry said a bad fluorescent light in the laundry area of Britthaven of Edenton emitted an odor that made the fire detector activate Thursday, Feb. 9, at 6:34 p.m.

"We responded to the call," Perry said, "but it was a minor problem, I'm glad to say."

He said an earlier response Thursday to a residence at 123 E. Gale St., was also a minor problem, with no structural damage occurring.