

# The Chowan Herald

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## Sound Country Celebration is coming

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

Nature enthusiasts, water lovers, and those who simply like to head outdoors for a good time, should all find loads of fun, food and entertainment at the inaugural Sound Country Celebration.

The Nov. 14-15 waterfront festival will include live music, canoe and kayak races, a host of food and outdoor-equipment vendors, boating suppliers, a raffle, and, of course, activities for children. Sound Country Celebration organizer Peter Bogus is hoping for a good turnout at the Edenton waterfront for Saturday's events.

"This festival was created to make people aware of the natural and cultural resources of our area," Bogus said, "and to help promote eco-tourism in our region."

The festival's activities will kick off with canoe and kayak races. The cost to enter the races, which will be sanctioned by the North Carolina Canoe

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### THE SEASON OF BEAUTIFUL THINGS

These beautifully crafted floral arrangements created by Teresa Forward carry her Blue Barn design label. They were just a few of the many beautiful things visitors to this year's fall craft show and sale at the National Guard Armory in Edenton had the chance to admire and purchase. (Staff photo by Rebecca Bunch)

## Approval of gas bonds holds promise for town

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

When voters approved \$200 million in natural gas bonds last Tuesday, the 22 North Carolina counties currently without natural gas service were given a helping hand in their efforts to recruit new industry.

While much of northeastern North Carolina, including Chowan County, is currently unable to effectively compete with gas-supplied areas in attempting to attract new indus-

try, the bonds could level the economic development playing field in the near future.

Local officials were polled last week regarding the passage of the bonds, and all were ecstatic about the potential for the county to increase its industrial base.

"We are extremely excited," said Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland last Thursday. "What it means is that northeast North Carolina will get natural gas. We're getting darn close to being able to compete (with gas-served areas)."

Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce Director Richard Bunch expressed similar sentiments, but added that existing industries and liquid petroleum (LP) gas suppliers will also profit from the bonds.

"It will be a benefit to the (existing) industrial base that has been asking for natural gas," Bunch said, adding that new industry will bring new jobs and employees to the county, increasing the residential customer base of LP sup-

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## Large scale retail store plan draws favorable survey reply

Readers of *The Chowan Herald* have recently had the opportunity to respond to a survey asking for public opinion on the need - or the lack of a need - for a new shopping center to locate in Edenton.

The results of that survey may surprise some local residents and business owners.

According to the drafter of the survey, Dr. Lloyd Griffin, Jr., an "overwhelming majority" of the responses favored a

big-box retail-style shopping center coming to the town in the near future. Griffin, an Elizabeth City resident who is attempting to rezone farmland he owns on "B" Lane to commercial highway (CH) status, conducted the survey after some local residents, retailers and public officials opposed the possibility of a Wal-Mart locating here. Griffin has been talking with developers since January about selling his property.

At least one developer has expressed an interest in bringing a Wal-Mart store here.

"I have never talked to him (Tri-Cor developer Joe Looney) personally," said Griffin last Thursday, noting that he had only dealt with an associate of Looney's. But Griffin said that Looney visited Edenton in the late spring and indicated he was interested in developing

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## ARC seeking funds to establish regional learning center here

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

The Albemarle Recreation Center is not wasting any time in its effort to provide hands-on environmental programs for young students across five counties.

Center director Bob Harrell appealed to the Chowan County Board of Commissioners last Monday for county funding which would result in the construction of the proposed Albemarle Learning Center. The 15,000-square foot facility would provide space for students to perform educational projects, including agricultural activities. The projected construction cost for the building, at a proposed site in Valhalla on NC 32, is approximately \$250,000.

Although the board did not vote on the matter last week, the deal would require that the county never assume respon-

sibility for operating costs of the program. According to Harrell, the center would use funds from a \$500,000 grant from the Annenberg Foundation to pay for all operational costs at the proposed facility.

The proposed agreement also states that the title of the learning center property would remain in the name of Chowan County.

Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland said this week that he will bring an update on the issue to the commissioners' December meeting. Copeland said that county and ARC officials will continue to discuss the possibility of collaborating on the construction of the learning center.

"We need to explore all the options before we make an agreement," Copeland said Monday morning. "Bob Harrell and his staff should be com-

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### KEHAYES CALLING IT A DAY

Byron Kehayes is shown here receiving the good wishes of his staff at a recent retirement party held in his honor at the Edenton Housing Authority building. Kehayes, whose dedicated service rescued the EHA from difficult times and led it to award-winning status as an exemplary facility, held the director's job for 12 years. Shown here congratulating him are Mary Harrell, new executive director; Kecia Phelps, administrative assistant; Carrine Liverman, maintenance aide; and Jesse Moring, maintenance supervisor. Not pictured is Clarence Wiggenton, maintenance aide. (Staff photo by Rebecca Bunch)

## Elizabeth Moore to be honored

Elizabeth Vann Moore, the woman affectionately dubbed Edenton's "unofficial historian" by many local residents, will be the guest of honor on Elizabeth Vann Moore Day, Friday, Nov. 20. A special celebration is planned that afternoon at the Edenton Cotton Mill.

"Elizabeth Vann Moore Day is being initiated in honor of Elizabeth and her contributions to Edenton and to North Carolina. A fund in her name is being created to engender interest in investigation and preservation of accurate history and its applications and usefulness in the future," said Peter Rascoe of Preservation North Carolina (PNC).

"Please join Preservation North Carolina in celebrating Elizabeth Vann Moore for her lifelong commitment to and achievements in historic preservation."

A program on her special day gets underway at 2 p.m. at the

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## Edenton nursing home earns national award

Britthaven of Edenton has named a recipient of the American Health Care Association's 1998 National Quality Award. The facility was one of only 52 in the nation, and five in the Britthaven chain, to earn the honor. It was the only nursing home in eastern North Carolina chosen, according to administrator Craig Miller.

Miller traveled to New Orleans, LA recently to accept the award on behalf of his staff during the AHCA's 49th annual Convention and Exposition.

With characteristic modesty,

Miller gave the credit for earning the award to his staff.

"They are just a great bunch of people. They are caring, hard-working...I feel very fortunate to come to work every day with such a fine group of people," he said.

The AHCA Quality Award is modeled after criteria from the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. It is designed to support continuous quality improvement efforts in the long-term care industry by pro-

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Members of the Britthaven of Edenton staff celebrate receiving a national excellence award

The American Legion  
Tickets \$5.00  
Door Prizes

## GALA ART AUCTION

Sponsored by Chowan Perquimans Habitat for Humanity  
Wednesday Evening, November 11, 1998

Preview: 7 p.m.  
Auction: 8 p.m.  
Refreshments