

The Chowan Herald

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Excellence award to pay tribute to Bond

In celebration of National Tourism Week, May 2-8, the Chowan County Tourism Development Authority has announced that it will present the first Snooky Bond Excellence in Tourism Award to the Edenton Womans Club for their outstanding contribution to tourism in Chowan County.

On April 16-17, the 50th anniversary Biennial Pilgrimage was held, bringing in over 1,500 visitors and generating more than \$21,000 which will be used mainly for historic preservation projects.

The Chowan County Tourism Development Authority was created through legislation in October 1989 to promote and market tourism. The board, which is made up of Town and County Government officials, the Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Historic Edenton Site Manager, Edenton Historical Commission and two Accommodation representatives, works with the three percent Occupancy Tax collection to make sure that the mission is realized.

"A longtime Chowan County resident, Snooky Bond was the number one ambassador of this organization, and did whatever possible wherever possible to bring visitors to Chowan County and made sure that they

See BOND On Page 3-A



HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME

Parents and children gathered for fun and games at the annual May Play Day festival last Saturday. The crowd braved dismal weather conditions to enjoy games, music, delicious food and much more. Chairman Jack Evans said that the country music show that ended the festival played to a packed house, and that the barbecued chicken plates completely sold out. The festival was sponsored again this year by the Rocky Hock Ruritans and the Rocky Hock community. (Staff photo by Debbie Collins)

Mayor makes it official: he's in

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

Edenton Mayor Roland Vaughan made it official Tuesday morning: after giving it some thought, he plans to seek re-election next fall.

Vaughan said he had a number of reasons for making the choice, among them the desire

to see several projects currently underway completed.

"I would really like to continue to be a part of those things. Coupled with that is the fact that I have really enjoyed serving as mayor, being a good-will ambassador for the town, and helping to bring about positive change in the community," he said.

Vaughan said he was keenly interested in the areas of waterfront development and continued economic development in the town's two industrial parks (one at the Edenton Airport and the other behind the Fisher Nut building).

"I am also interested in being

See MAYOR On Page 3-A

Unveiling held at Courthouse

BY LAURIE HUFFORD
Staff Writer

According to Dr. Carl Lounsbury, of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, a leading scholar on the study of early courthouses, Chowan County's 1767 Courthouse is the most intact colonial courthouse in America. The unveiling of its restored Cupola (on April 30) was cause for celebration.

The fact that the wind decided to do the unveiling for us made it no less of a momentous occasion.

In 1970, the (2nd) Chowan County Courthouse (1767) was designated a National Historic Landmark. The first Chowan County Courthouse (1718) was a wooden building located at the north end of the Courthouse Green, and the 3rd Chowan County Courthouse, built on Broad Street, was dedicated in 1979.

As one of the most important surviving buildings of the colonial period, the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse has been the object of much attention.

Besides being the meeting place of some of Edenton's famous patriot leaders during the American Revolution, the building was the County's major public meeting place for many years.

An English architect, John Hawks, is generally credited with building Chowan's courthouse, but no documentation supports this. No records at all

exist regarding the architect, the builders, or the craftsmen involved in the building's construction.

The style of the Courthouse reflects British classical architecture, as expressed by local artisans using available materials.

The entrance to the building leads into the rear of the courtroom, with the focus on an elevated seat in the curve of the apse. This chair, for the chief magistrate, has a tall paneled back with denticulate pediment. The elevated platform, with steps at each end, was originally semicircular. In 1850, the bar was modified into its present more-rectangular form. Probably in 1816, by architect William Nichols, columns were added (needed to support the Assembly Room upstairs).

In the original courtroom, spectators stood. About 1900, pew-like seats were added, and a wooden floor was built over the original stone. In the restoration of the building, the floor will be returned to its original layout. About 2/3 of the area, where visitors stood, will be stone, and 1/3, where those involved in the proceedings walked, will be wood.

In addition, the unveiled cupola revealed windows instead of louvers. This returns the cupola to its original look.

In the middle of the 2nd floor,

See COURTHOUSE Page 3-A

Young athletes participate in 1999 Special Olympics games here

BY LAURIE HUFFORD
Staff Writer

Even the day's gusts could not snuff out the Olympic flame. The 1999 Special Olympics Games of Chowan County, held April 30 at the John A. Holmes High School Athletic Complex, were a huge success, judging both by attendance and by athlete participation.

Announcement of participants was made by John Guard, Personnel Director of Edenton-Chowan Schools, and the Parade of Athletes consisted of participants from John A. Holmes, Chowan Middle School, White Oak School, D.F. Walker School, and Life Inc.

One wondered about the lighting of the Olympic Torch in the face of such strong winds, but the task was quickly accomplished.

Dr. Allan T. Smith, Superintendent, welcomed all, and the games were officially opened

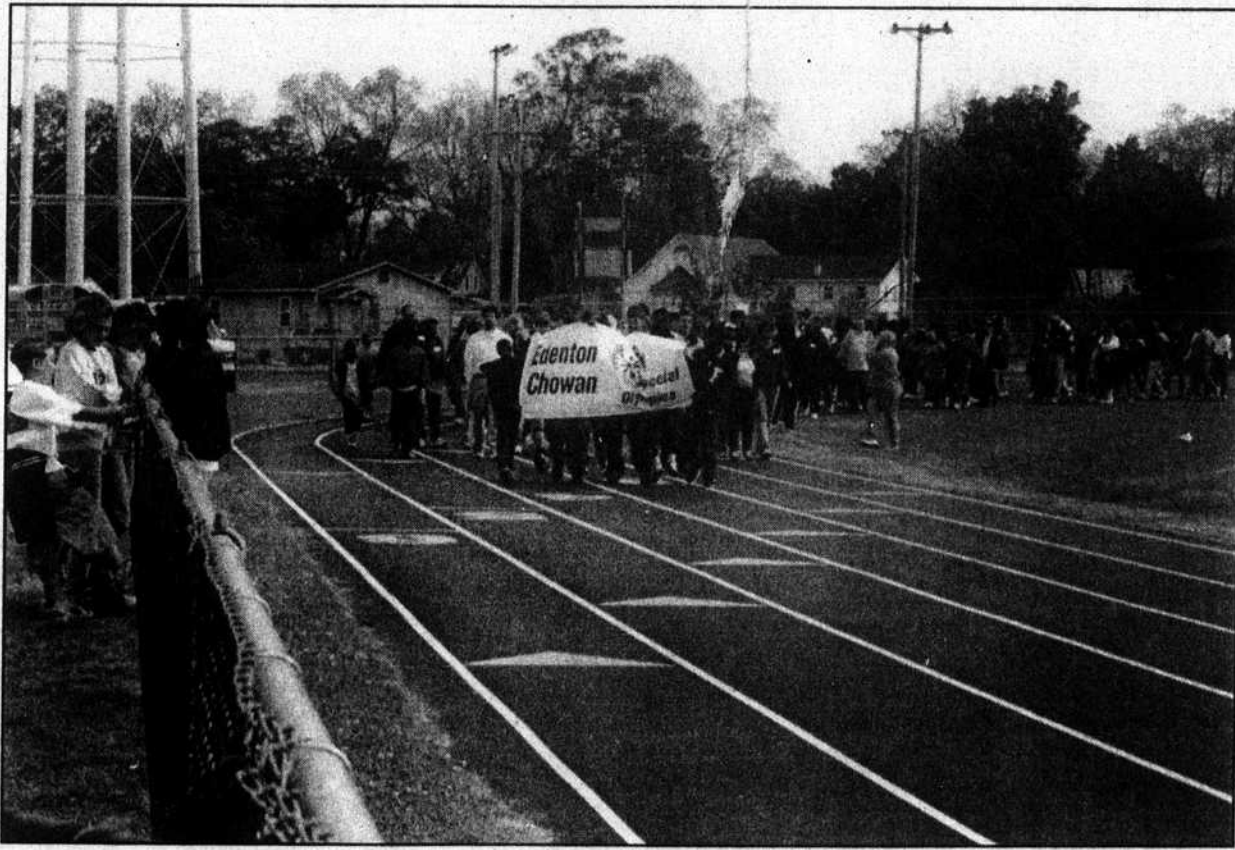
Vaughan.

Approximately 60 athletes participated in the Games, which consisted of four events: the 50 yard dash, the 100 yard dash, the softball throw, and the broad jump. Each athlete participated in every event, and won a ribbon. Four athletes competed each time an event was held, and four ribbons, signifying final placement in the event, were awarded. Blue was given for 1st place, red for 2nd, yellow for 3rd, and white for 4th. Each athlete took home four ribbons, varying in color according to where he/she placed.

As Carrie Watson, head of the Volunteers, explained, "They're all winners!"

About 73 individual volunteers donated time to the Games. High school "buddies" numbered from 45-50, and other organizations, such as Scout troops and church organizations, assisted.

For years, local Games were



The Parade of Athletes marks the opening ceremonies for Special Olympics

held on Saturday, but they suffered from less than overwhelming support. Since the Games have moved to weekdays, with more publicity and "talking up", attendance has improved. At the '99 Games, for example, at least 14 classes from White Oak School were in attendance; at least 300 - 400 people were spectators.

The athletes in these Games train at the schools for a couple of months before the Games. Each meets with a teenager from the high school, who works with the athlete in stretching and in training. (These are separate from "buddies".)

Volunteers begin planning for the next games immediately after the current Games, and fund raisers are held to pay for the Games' expenses. Volunteers and contributions seem to make the whole event feasible. This year, for example, McDonalds, Burger

See GAMES On Page 3-A

Partin to be given special recognition

College of The Albemarle's Board of Trustees will hold its regular monthly board meeting at the COA Chowan County Center at 7 p.m. on May 10. Prior to the meeting, a reception will be held from 6:15-7 p.m. for the public to meet with Dr. Sylvester McKay, COA's new President; college trustees; faculty; and staff.

Special recognition will be given to former Chowan

County Center Advisory Committee members and to Mary Partin, former Dean of the Chowan County Center. Partin also served as chair of the 1998-99 Chowan County Center Fund Drive for the College of the Albemarle Foundation.

The public is invited to attend.

Please call 482-7900 if you are planning to attend the reception.

Youth services funding is outlined Post Office supporting Food Drive

BY LAURIE HUFFORD
Staff Writer

Monday, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Commissioners Room, Courthouse.

Highlights included a presentation by Sheriff Fred Spruill on the Council's recommendation for allocation of 1999-2000 Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (formerly CBA) funding and the decision to proceed with plans for a proposed fishing pier.

Recommendations presented by Sheriff Spruill were for Edenton/Chowan Schools Intensive Supervision (\$50,581)

and for the Victim Compensation & Juvenile Restitution Program (\$5,425). In the first program, "at risk" children are identified early and worked with, so that possible problems are avoided. The second program involves children who are 12 - 15 years old, where the offender works to pay restitution. The money earned goes towards payment of the debt; the child does not see any cash.

It was recommended, and decided, that both programs be funded at the requested amounts.

The \$100,000 in COPS grants recently received by the Sheriff's Office, and to be used

towards upgrading the 911 system, was discussed briefly. It was pointed out that the 911 system is intricately linked to other systems (e.g., Sheriff & Police Departments, even worldwide), and that any work done on it is expensive.

"We've come a long way in the last 10 years in Chowan County," noted Sheriff Spruill in regard to the state-of-the-art communications center.

County Manager, Cliff Copeland began discussion of the proposed fishing pier. There is time for details in design and other areas to be

See YOUTH On Page 7-A

Post Office supporting Food Drive

The Edenton Post Office is taking part in a Food Drive this Saturday sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers.

"On May 8, if you will leave any canned or prepackaged (boxed) food by your mail box as a donation, your mail carrier will pick it up," said Postmaster Linda Hodges. "Or, you can bring it to the Edenton Post Office. These donations will go to our local Food Pantry."

Center Hill
Community Building
beside Church

YOUTH RALLY • May 8 • 4-8:30 p.m.
3 for 1 - Against the Odds in Outdoor Concert

Bring Lounge Chairs & Blankets
Rain Location:
White Oak School