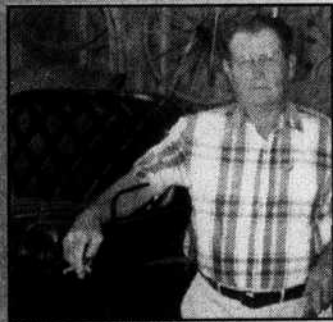


THE CHOWAN HERALD

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County says it won't spray mosquitoes...not yet

BY DERRICK ARMSTEAD
Staff Writer

One of this summer's most pressing health problems—Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) — found its way into Monday evening's Chowan County Commissioners meeting following a report of its existence in neighboring Perquimans county.

However, a decision was made not to spray mosquito chemicals, based on the 'landing count' sampling method, which is conducted by citizens (Chowan County currently has 12) who record the total number of mosquitoes that land on humans within a one-minute period.

The county's position was also clearly presented in its pre-meeting agenda, "Based on the samplings to date and after consultation with Health Department officials, it is not recommended that

spraying be done at this time because it is believed that spraying would not be effective. Monitoring will continue."

With a current pool of three licensed sprayers, the groundwork has been laid if the board reverses its position.

"They (health department officials) are the experts in this area," said Copeland. "And we will go based on their recommendations."

Furthermore, Copeland said the decision not to spray is a "day-to-day" scenario and that if the county

opts to spray at a later date, there is the option of using town equipment and personnel — creating a situation where the spraying process could occur in as "little as a couple of hours."

County Planner Martha Daniel Hobbs spoke about her department's project near the White Oak Elementary site and its soon to be adjacent counterpart, D.F. Walker Elementary school.

"The first idea that the planning board had was to do an (appropriate planning) zone... so you don't

get any questionable businesses within the planned area," said Hobbs. "What we tried to do was block off an area for R-25 (residential zoning code)...so that the buildings would not have to be grandfathered in and we would not affect any new businesses."

Expounding on the 'questionable businesses' angle, Hobbs said "I think the main thing is that they didn't want any gas stations, with the cigarettes and all, near the children going to school there."

Another topic put before the

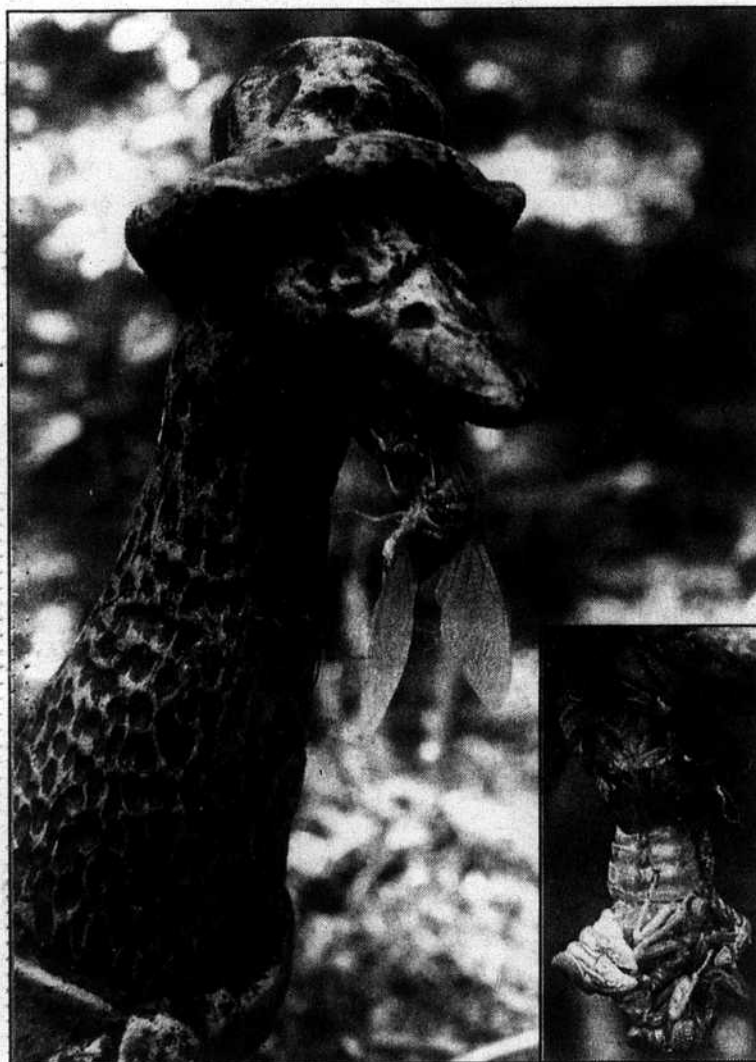
board was the Work First Plan, which requires every county to adhere to a 'standard' or 'electing' format.

"We in 1997 decided to go standard because the Work First project was solid," said Department of Social Services Director, Ben Rose. "Now the two-year cycle has ended and now we visit this issue again."

Rose added, "there are two primary reasons why we wish to re-

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Miracle of nature



Chrissie Currie of Edenton was tending her flowerbeds recently when she spotted a cicada in partial metamorphosis. What was unusual was the fact that the pupa was attached to the beak of an ornamental goose. It took half an hour for the cicada to finally work free of the cocoon. When it finally did so and spread its wings, the iridescence of color was breathtaking in its splendor. For Mrs. Currie, it surely made an afternoon spent in the garden just a shade more memorable. (Photo by Blair Currie)

Interfaith Disaster Response team begun

Next meeting of group is planned for August 15th

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

Helping the community in the aftermath of a hurricane or other natural disaster is the focus of an interfaith group now forming in Chowan County.

Tentatively known as the Chowan Interfaith Disaster Response Effort, the group includes representatives from area churches, including the Rev. Jim Huskins, pastor of the Edenton United Methodist Church. Huskins, a former Outer Banks resident, has more than a passing familiarity with riding out tough storms and a keen interest in making sure Chowan County is ready to meet the challenge.



Dr. Carolyn Tyler talks with local residents during an Interfaith organizational meeting held at the COA Chowan County Center last Tuesday evening. (Staff photo by Rebecca Bunch)

"You (those at initial Aug. 1 meeting) can bring more people in," he said. "Each one of you can bring ten - and that's what we're looking

for. Each person who helps is important, but no one can do it all." He encouraged everyone to bring friends to the next meeting, sched-

uled for Aug. 15 at 7 p.m. at White Oak Elementary School.

See RESPONSE On Page 12-A

Rocky Hock Playhouse dedication Saturday

BY DAVID CRAWLEY
Publisher

ROCKY HOCK - Open house and dedication of the newly renovated, Rocky Hock Community Center will be held this Saturday evening beginning 7:00 till 9:00 PM. The official ceremony will begin at 7:30.

For almost six months, members of the Rocky Hock Ruritan

Club have been hard at work repairing and renovating the facility just off Rocky Hock Road, at the corner of Evans-Bass Road. For at least the next two years the newly remodeled community center will be home to the widely known and highly celebrated Emmerich Theatre productions.

Operating under the name Rocky Hock Playhouse, the Community Center and the dynamic

musical productions planned for the remainder of this year will draw thousands of people from all over the mid-Atlantic coast and will host thousands more during next year's summer schedule.

"Realizing the impact that the Emerich group has on our local economy," said a spokesperson for the Ruritans. "we were very fortunate to work out a coopera-

tive arrangement with the Emmerichs that still allows community activities to continue as in the past."

The club extends an invitation for everyone to come and see what has been done and stay to enjoy a time of fellowship and refreshments. The community center is located at 126 Evans-Bass Road.

Learning center symbolizes dream

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

A recent groundbreaking in Chowan County symbolized the first step in the realization of a dream for Carlton Griffin, who recently returned here after spending years living and working up North.

Griffin said that she and her niece, Doris Jackson, will serve as co-directors for the new facility to be built at the site on Sandy Ridge Road, the C&N Basic Learning Center.

While the center will be modeled on a daycare concept, offering quality child care to children ranging in age from six weeks to 12 years old, it will also be much more.

"One thing we really want to focus on is an educational component," Griffin said. "We want to tailor our program to incorporate activities that they would enjoy, but we also plan to help them with their homework thereby alleviating that burden on their parents because in many households, both parents work."

Griffin said that she and Jackson also plan to incorporate the teaching of good manners into their curricu-



A groundbreaking was held recently at the site of the new center on Sandy Ridge Road

lum. "We plant to teach them the importance of respecting their teachers as well as their parents," she said. "We realize we have ambitious goals, but we firmly believe that if you can make a difference in the life of one child, it would be worth all the hard work that goes into it." Parental involvement will also be necessary in order for their program to succeed, Griffin said. "We really need for them to continue to reinforce what we've started in the classroom. We want parents to know that we will welcome, and encourage, their involvement. They will be a big part of what we're trying to

implement." The new facility will be built in a special place, too.

"This is farmland we actually grew upon," said Griffin, a Chowan County native. "We all were out there, picking cotton and chopping."

Griffin, a poised professional who holds a degree in Business Administration from North Carolina A&T University, lived and worked in New York for AT&T in a managerial position since 1983, before recently retiring and returning to Chowan County. Ironically childless, she said that she had nevertheless taken an active role in the lives of her nieces and nephews, and saw working with young

people as a way to make a difference in the world.

"I just started thinking about how we as a family could build and leave something behind from our family," she said. "That's how the child care center idea came up."

Staying very busy in retirement, Griffin began making plans for a learning center that will open with eight well-qualified teachers. She acknowledged that teaching requires certification, and said that she has already returned to school to get hers - something she says was a real, but enjoyable, chal-

See DREAM On Page 3-A

NC Highway Patrol hosting forum here

The North Carolina Highway Patrol will hold a Community Relations Forum at 7 p.m. on Aug. 14 at the New Chowan County Courthouse, 101 South Broad St., Edenton. The meeting will take place in the second floor Commissioners Room.

The Patrol is inviting community leaders and all citizens from Chowan County to attend the forum to establish an exchange of ideas and information that will enable the Highway Patrol to more

effectively meet the needs of citizens of North Carolina.

The forum is a structured meeting in which community leaders and citizens can share with the Patrol any ideas or concerns they have about how the Patrol accomplishes its mission of ensuring safe transportation on the state's highways.

The forums are being scheduled in every county in North Carolina in an effort to improve the Patrol's service to citizens.

'Colony' Choir is coming

The Lost Colony Choir will perform at Swain Auditorium, 200 E. Church St., Edenton, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 13, under the direction of Dr. Paul LaPrade. Dr. LaPrade has been a recipient of the Award for Teaching Excellence from the Eastman School of Music.

The choir includes students from many major musical institutions. The performance is free of charge and open to the public.

The concert is underwritten by Colony's Professional Workshop and is supported in part by a Grassroots Grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, the Chowan Arts Council, and the Edenton-

Chowan Chamber of Commerce. Musical selections will range from classical to traditional, spiritual and jazz.

The performance will continue a tradition that dates back to the 1930s, when the Lost Colony began a community outreach program of music.

The Lost Colony is the nation's premier and longest-running outdoor drama, staged on the grounds where the real-life events took place more than 400 years ago.

"You are encouraged to make plans to join your friends and neighbors in attending this very special event," said Arts Council Executive Director Sue Clark.