

THE CHOWAN HERALD

Vol. LXVIII, No. 26 Published in historic Edenton . . . The prettiest town on the North Carolina coast. Single Copies 50¢

Library hosts book-signing for Currie.. 2-A

Local radio set to carry Steamers games..... 1-B

Partnership launches effort to raise funds for programming..... 2-B



Risky behaviors are program focus

BY MICHELLE ALEXANDER
Edenton-Chowan Schools

A few bumps and bruises are an unavoidable byproduct of a healthy childhood. But most serious injuries are not inevitable. Traffic injuries, drowning, fires, scald burns, choking, poisonings and falls are not random "accidents" - they are predictable and preventable. With education, motivation, and the support of caring adults, children can learn to be much safer.

Every year in the United States, one-quarter of all children ages 14 and under are hurt seriously enough to require medical attention. According to the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, each year, unintentional injuries kill and disable more children than kidnapping, drugs and disease combined - making them the #1 health risk factor facing school-age children today.

Angie Layden, RN, Certified School Health Nurse, knows these



Mary Rayner gives instructions to Kindergarten students about bike safety

statistics and experiences them firsthand with students and their families. She said, "Every time a child is injured or killed by something that could easily have been prevented, everyone suffers - the child, his or her family, classmates and friends, and the entire community. Our

educators work hard to help children prepare for a bright and challenging future. But if we don't teach our children how to avoid preventable injury and death, many simply will not realize their potential.

"This year in thinking back on past student deaths,

burns, drownings, playground accidents, bike accidents and motor vehicle accidents, I found out that many of the students had received fragmented information. I then decided to research

See FOCUS On Page 5-A

Town looks at postponing fall elections

BY MARIEL BETANCOURT
Cox NC Publications

The Town Council elections may have to be postponed from November until May to allow officials to redistrict Edenton's four voting districts.

Under federal law, municipalities are required to redistrict when the largest and smallest wards vary by more than 10 percent of the population. According to the 2000 census, Ward 3 has grown to 1,973, almost double the size of the smallest ward, Ward 4, which decreased in population to 1,103.

Because the town must have its redistricting complete by the third business day before the opening of the election's filing period - or July 23, in this case - the town has no choice but to postpone the elections, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said Monday.

The town did experience a delay in receiving its census

data from the U.S. Census Bureau, but the delay has not affected the redistricting process, Knighton said.

"Quite frankly, even if we had access to the data four or five weeks ago, I don't think we could have come up with a (redistricting) plan (in time)," Knighton said, later adding that under the "best case scenario, we could have a plan presented by the end of August."

A law adopted by the NC General Assembly in 2000 allows municipalities to postpone the filing period for 2001 elections if districts must be revised. The new districts must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice for approval before elections can be held.

The 2000 census data shows Edenton has a total population of 5,394, with populations in the four districts as follows:

See ELECTIONS Page 5-A

Local airport scheduled to receive several improvements

BY MARIEL BETANCOURT
Cox NC Publications

During the next four years, the Northeastern Regional Airport will undergo renovations that could total \$500,000.

The Town of Edenton, which owns the airport, will receive \$150,000 from the State Aid to Airports program after Town Council formally approves the grant at its next meeting July 10. To qualify for the money,

the town must match it with \$16,667 of its own.

The federal grant - combined with state dollars from the NC Department of Transportation - will be used to repair the six priority areas identified by airport personnel and DOT's Division of Aviation.

Runway 1-19, first on the priority list, needs the most work. Projects will cost \$230,000 and include sprucing, repair of damaged pavement, a new

overlay seal and new markings on the pavement.

Other improvements include: repairs on the taxiways connecting to runway 1-19; repairs to the aircraft refueling area; new centerline reflectors for the parallel taxiway; and repairs to runway 5-23.

Because the repairs could total \$500,000, the town would have a difficult time paying for them without the State Aid to Airports, said George Cipra,

airport manager.

"This helps a tremendous amount," Cipra said Tuesday. "And you don't have to put a burden on your local jurisdictions for all the expenses... (Repairs) can get expensive, and it would take a good chunk out of a local government."

Town and county officials paid a total of \$120,000 for six new hangars last year, Cipra said. Now, the two grants will

pay for improvements that will make the airport safer and more accessible, he added.

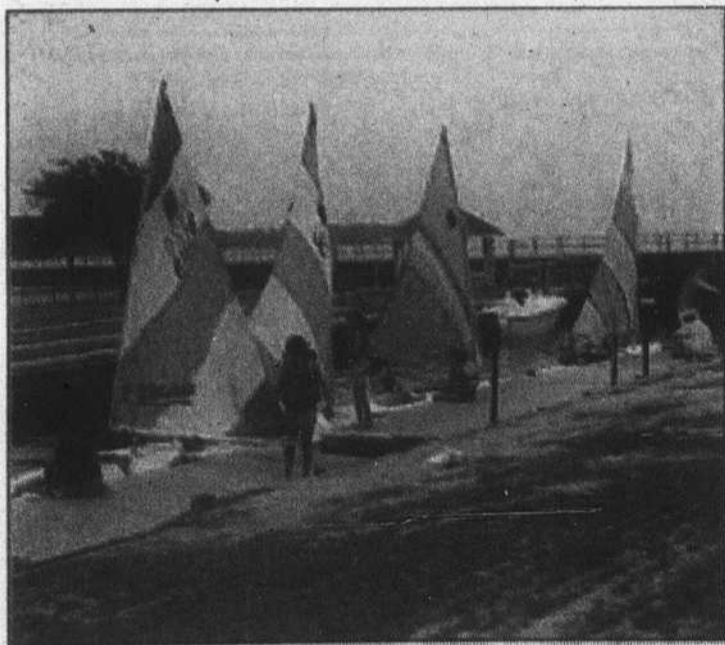
"(The repairs benefit) anyone basically from all over the world that might use this airport," Cipra said. "It services everybody, rather than just local (pilots)."

The two grants should pay for all the airport's priorities in the next three to four years, Cipra said.

The State Aid to Airports,

marked for airport improvements only, may be available again in 2002 and 2003, and the airport will apply for more money. The Northeastern Regional Airport could qualify for a total \$450,000.

The state's Transportation Improvement Program awards money to airports that need it most. The Northeastern Regional Airport is set to receive some of that money this year, but how much is not yet known.



Sailing lessons

Sailing lessons offered by the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department continues to be a popular activity. In addition to sailing; tennis, sports camp, and summer camps are being offered. For more information on any of the great summer activities, call the Recreation Department at 482-8595.

Safety tips are offered

This week communities all across the country will be celebrating the 4th of July. The highways and byways will be overwhelmed with travelers. Local law enforcement agencies and the North Carolina Highway Patrol will be working overtime to insure safety and attend the mishaps that are certain to take place.

Sheriff Fred Spruill of the Chowan County Sheriff's Of-

fice has released a plea for caution, patience, and safety as families and visitors to the county go about the holiday celebrations. "First of all, I would remind all motorists to practice the Golden Rule," begins Spruill's press release.

By following some simple rules of courtesy and awareness the Sheriff's Office encour-

See SAFETY On Page 5-A

Art Walk planned

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

An Edenton Art Walk is being planned for this fall in the downtown area. The event is open to interested artists, potters, photographers, and those who are involved with "old-time" crafts such as dollmaking, blacksmithing, etc.

According to businesswoman Marci Freeman, participants may either paint and/or demonstrate their crafts skills, or simply decorate booths for passersby to stop by and admire their work, which will also be for sale.

Freeman, who is the owner of By Hand in downtown Edenton, said that this Art Walk has the potential to become an annual event.

"I really believe that this event could be one of Edenton's most exciting," she said. "This area is

See WALK On Page 5-A



First bloom is discovered

Chowan County farmer Neal Bass joins his sons, Mark and Taylor, in showing off the first cotton bloom of the year. Their farm is located on Rocky Hock Landing Road. (Staff photo by Helen Kerr Outland)

Summer band classes start July 9

The annual Summer Fun Band Camp, designed for band students in the Edenton-Chowan Schools Instrumental Music Program, will be held at John A. Holmes High School July 9 through July 20.

Rising sixth grade beginning

band members will meet from 8 a.m. until 9:55 a.m. to get a head start for the upcoming school year. Rising seventh and eighth grade band members will meet from 10 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. to play new music.

Add-On Color Instruments

will be taught from 11 a.m. to 11:55 a.m. for students interested in learning Double Reeds, Bass Clarinets, Tenor and Baritone Saxophones, French Horns, Baritone, and Tubas.

See BAND On Page 5-A

Starts at 5:00pm



Live Music, Fireworks, Concessions

CHOWAN~EDENTON OPTIMIST CLUB'S ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION
Best Fireworks display in Eastern NC

