

Wetlands Advocate speaks to Rotary ... 12-A



Yeopim Ruritans enjoy golf tournament ... 1-B

Peanut Festival, County Fair held ... 1-C

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U.S. Postal Service issues public guidelines for safe mail handling in wake of anthrax

BY BOB DART
Cox News Service

WASHINGTON, DC - With Americans increasingly fearful of letters containing anthrax, the U.S. Postal Service formed an industry-wide security force Monday and warned both postal workers and the public to beware of unusual packages and envelopes.

"In two words: Be vigilant," said Postmaster General John E. Potter. If anything suspicious comes to a mailbox, he said, "Don't open it. Don't shake it. Don't smell it. Instead, keep others away from it. Put it in a plastic bag and seal it."

"Then wash your hands

with soap and water and call 911," Potter said in a speech to the National Postal Forum in Denver.

Potter announced the formation of security task force to review "every approach we have toward mail security and the handling of hazardous materials in the mail."

The group will be led by Kenneth Weaver, the chief postal inspector, and include union representatives, safety and medical specialists and representatives from throughout the mailing industry.

Concerns about the mail increased Monday with a letter containing anthrax being sent to the office of Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., and anthrax

spores being found in a post office in Boca Raton, Fla.

Asked if postal workers were worried about anthrax being sent through the mail, an American Postal Workers Union spokesman said, "That's the understatement of the century."

"We're trying not to ... add to people's panic level," said Tom Fehey, the union's communications director.

He said the Postal Service will have a nationwide teleconference Tuesday to provide safety instructions to managers and workers in the field.

Potter said he met Friday with union officials and management associations and "assured them I am con-

cerned about the safety of every employee and will keep them abreast of developments."

The security task force held its first meeting on Monday and is scheduled to hold daily sessions for the foreseeable future.

In his speech to the mailing industry, Potter said he is spending his days "telling the American public that the mail is safe."

The risks are small, he said, with 208 billion pieces of mail being delivered every year.

But he warned about the growing fears in across America.

"Make no mistake," he said. "We cannot sit back and allow our nation's confidence

in the mail to erode."

The fears were certainly not calmed on Monday by the news that a letter received Friday by Daschle's office contained a powder that contained anthrax, according to early testing.

At the White House, President Bush said the letter "had anthrax in it."

Bush said the half dozen or so recent letters suspected of bearing anthrax might be linked to Osama bin Laden, the terrorist leader accused of being behind the Sept. 11 attacks.

"I wouldn't put it past him, but we don't have any hard evidence," Bush told reporters at the White House.

After the suspect letter was

opened in Daschle's office, all congressional offices were ordered to stop opening their mail.

The letter to Daschle was postmarked Sept. 18 in Trenton, N.J. An earlier letter containing anthrax that was sent to the NBC anchor Tom Brokaw was also postmarked in Trenton.

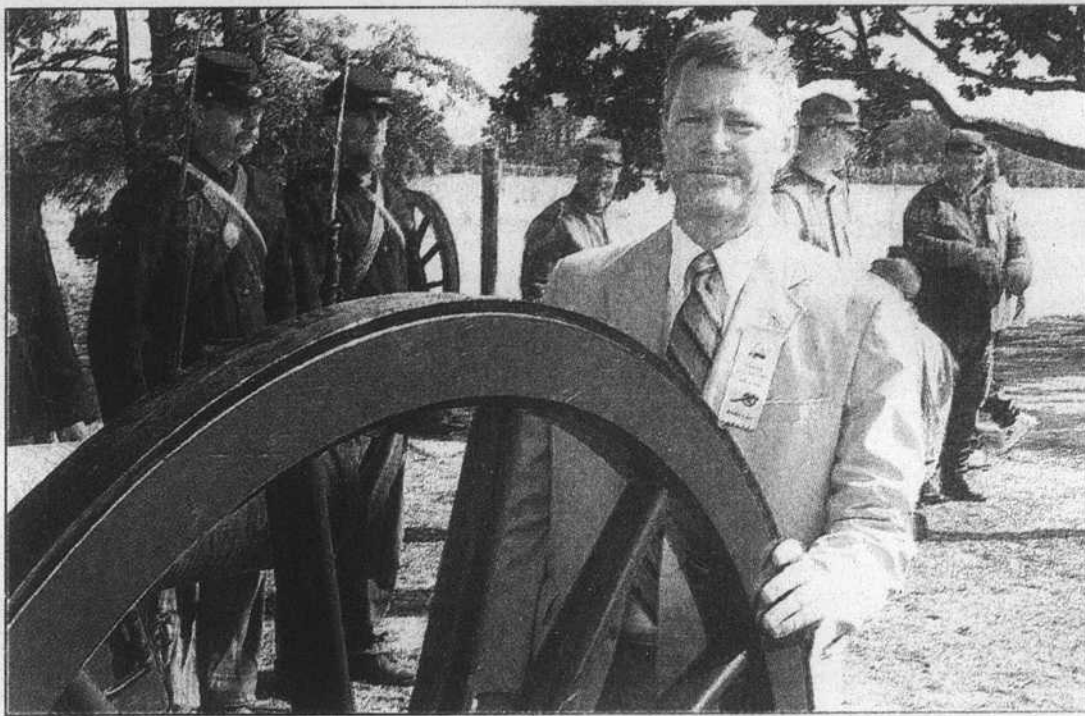
Meanwhile, portions of a post office in Boca Raton, Fla., were closed Monday after anthrax spores were found there. This post office that handled mail for a publishing company where a photo editor died earlier this month after contracting anthrax.

Cannon dedication, reenactment draw crowd to downtown Edenton waterfront

BY HELEN KERR OUTLAND
Staff Writer

In a ceremony befitting any dignitary the long-lost St. Paul, one of four Civil War cannons of the Edenton Bell Battery, officially came home Saturday, October 13th.

The four cannons, the St. Paul, Edenton, Columbia, and the Fannie Roulac of the Edenton Bell Battery unit were cast by the Tredegar Foundry in Richmond Virginia, April 28, 1862. The cannons were forged from the melted bells of churches and homes throughout the area. They summarily represented the unity forged among the men of the Battery and their families. By obtaining the cannons, the Edenton Bell Battery remained unified.



Peter Rascoe was instrumental in securing the return of the St. Paul to the community

See CANNON On Page 9-A

Citizens Workshop on proposed NC 94 extension planned

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold a citizens informational workshop for the proposed extension of NC 94 (Soundside Road) in Chowan County next week.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 23, from 4-7 p.m. in the cafeteria at John A. Holmes High School, 600 Woodward Street, in Edenton. This meeting will be informal in nature with no formal presentation planned.

Representatives from NCDOT will be available to answer questions and receive comments from the public about the proposed project. This project proposes to con-

struct a two-lane road on a new location.

For more information, contact Doug Jeremiah at (919) 733-7844, ext. 207, e-mail at djeremiah@dot.state.us, or write to: Project Development and Environmental Analysis, Mail Service Center 1548, Raleigh, NC 27699-1548.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services for disabled persons who wish to participate in this workshop to comply with the American Disability Act. Anyone requiring special services should contact Doug Jeremiah one week prior to the hearing.



Editor honored

Chowan Herald Editor Rebecca Bunch was honored during a luncheon held last Wednesday at the COA Chowan Center by the Edenton Tea Party Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) as its pick for outstanding media person of the year. Bunch's award was presented by DAR Media Committee Chairman Ann Harrell Perry. Perry noted that Bunch was chosen in recognition of her outstanding work in the field of journalism and in her dedication to serving the community. The DAR gives the award annually to a professional from the media in the field of newspaper, radio or television. (Staff photo by Mrs. Tressie H. Walston of Edenton. (Staff photo by David Crawley)

Business Expo opens at new location

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

When this year's Business Expo opens its doors, visitors will have the opportunity to talk with representatives of 32 area businesses about their work and career opportunities.

"We are just delighted with the response we received," said Brenda Spruill of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce. "And, we're very pleased to be presenting the Expo this year in conjunction with Perquimans County."

The 2001 Business Expo will be held at a new location this year, at the old D.F. Walker Elementary School in Edenton. In addition to the 32 other businesses, seven restaurants will also be participating. They include: the Lovin' Oven, Golden Corral, Mario's Italian Restaurant, Waterman's, Church Street Grille, Soundside Grille and Tommy's Pizza.

According to Spruill, the Expo will open with a sneak preview party on Wednesday, Oct. 17 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. She describes the party as "a social, networking event for area



Jill Jordan, a health educator with Albemarle Regional Health Services, talks with visitors to their booth during last year's Business Expo in Edenton as a colleague listens. This year's expo will take place Wednesday and Thursday of this week and has been moved to the old D.F. Walker School. A preview party will be held tonight (Wednesday)

businesses and the community at large. This includes an opportunity to visit the exhibitor

booths and area restaurants will be serving their specialties, making this a not-to-be-

missed event."

See EXPO On Page 9-A

BUSINESS EXPO 2001

SNEAK PREVIEW
Wednesday, October 17, 2001
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

STUDENT DAY AT THE EXPO
Thursday, October 18, 2001
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

EXPO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
8th Grade Night at the Expo
Thursday, October 18, 2001
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Co-sponsored by the Edenton-Chowan and Perquimans Chambers of Commerce at the old DF Walker School in Edenton