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THE CHOWAN HERALD

Vol. LXVIII, No. 45 Published in historic Edenton . . . The South's prettiest town. Single Copies 50¢

Community pays tribute to veterans

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

Keynote speaker Tim Dannelly praised the sacrifices made by America's servicemen and women during his remarks at the Chowan County Veterans Day ceremony held Sunday in Edenton.

"We are here today to say 'thank you' to those who are serving and to those who have served our great country in the ranks of the American military," said Dannelly, a Vietnam veteran. "Their sacrifice and commitment, their depth of character has assured us the right to pursue our life's goals.... This is no routine Veterans Day observance. For the first time in decades, careers will be interrupted, families will be separated...and some lives will be sacrificed..."

Dannelly noted that a surge in the patriotic spirit of Americans followed closely on the heels of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America.

"Hours after the fateful events of Sept. 11, we began gathering in Edenton to pray for our country and for the victims of this cowardly act of war and for the families of those victims," he said. "It seemed the normal thing to do

— to pray..."

Many of us, Dannelly said, are acquainted in our daily lives with someone who has served our country.

"You may work with one of those patriotic heroes or live next door to one or go to church with one," he said. "I go to church with Mac Privott, who left a good job and a full life to go to Vietnam. And Murray Byrum who can tell you stories about World War II that are so vivid, you feel like you can hear the bullets whiz past. In our town are men like Jimmy Yates and David Ambrose and Carroll Wood Jones and Ken Stalls and Morris Small, and so many others who have kept the backbone of the Army strong with our proud local Guard unit.

"Maybe you're here today remembering one who has passed on," he added. "I remember a few myself—real men with names like Wallace Bass and George Cooke and Ralph Outlaw and Bill Perry. These fellows did their duty in World War II simply because it was their duty and their watch. Their patriotism was as strong as iron and their character was sterling."



Keynote speaker Tim Dannelly (at podium) praises the sacrifices of America's veterans. (Staff photo by Debbie Collins)

Nixon is top administrator

Edenton-Chowan Schools administrators have chosen the county's top administrator for 2001-02.

White Oak School principal Mary Nixon was selected from among her peers for the honor. Nixon will represent Edenton-Chowan Schools as the system's Wachovia Principal of the Year, in a program co-sponsored by the NC Department of Public Instruction and Wachovia Bank, NA, North Carolina.

Nixon was born in Chowan County and attended school here as well. She has taught in the county nearly 30 years. She received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from East Carolina University.

Nixon has taught first, third, seventh, and eighth grade students. She served as elementary supervisor and assistant principal in a middle school, high school and elementary school.

"My first teaching position in Chowan County was at White Oak," Nixon said. "So when the principalship became available (in 1990) it was like coming home."

Nixon said it's the children, "of course," that make her



Mary Nixon

work so rewarding. "Each child is a precious gift with an internal fire to be lit," she said.

Service to Edenton-Chowan Schools runs in Nixon's family—her husband, Billy, is transportation director for the system. The Nixons have two sons: Jon, who lives in Chowan County, and Jim, who lives in Beaumont, Texas.

Nixon now moves on to compete with other local award recipients from the northeast region of the state. One princi-

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Northern Chowan Community Center opens for citizens

BY HELEN KERR OUTLAND
Staff Writer

A ribbon cutting Wednesday, Nov. 7, celebrated four years of planning and hard work to officially open the much-needed Northern Chowan County Recreation Center. City and county officials had long recognized the need for additional space. The plan eventually encompassed the needs of nearby Chowan Middle School in that it was rapidly outgrowing the needs its present facility could meet.

"This facility is awesome," said Wayne Goodwin, County Commissioner. "Whoever thought that four and a half years ago we would be stand-

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Smiling faces and lots of praise capped off a momentous occasion for the citizens and school children of Chowan County during a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Northern Chowan County Recreation Center. Robbie Laughton, Director, his staff, shown above, and the Chowan County Commissioners (left) participated in a joint ribbon-cutting ceremony that officially marked the center's opening. (Helen Kerr Outland photos)



A Queens, NY neighborhood burns following the plane crash. (CNN photo)

Plane crash not terrorist-related

Witnesses say the Flight 587, bound for the Dominican Republic, broke into several pieces Monday before crashing into a Queen's New York neighborhood in what was initially thought might have been a terrorist-related attack.

The plane had undergone a mechanical overhaul in December of 2000, a thorough maintenance check on October 3rd of this year, and a follow up maintenance check this past Sunday.

Chowan County Jail receives award for outstanding facility

BY HELEN KERR OUTLAND
Staff Writer

The Chowan County Detention Facility was recently awarded the Small Facility of the year award.

A press release from the Chowan County Sheriff's Office states that the Chowan County Detention Facility received the award at the Annual North Carolina Jail Administrators meeting in Burlington, NC.

The award process started in June with each county facility submitting an application accompanied by a letter stating why the facility should win. Also included were several letters of recommendation from local business, law enforce-

ment and professional people.

The jail administrators then reviewed each application. A committee selected by the administrators made a follow up inspection of each facility selected.

Each facility was evaluated on inmate behavior, cleanliness of the facility, security within the facility, compliance with state standards, plus the professionalism, morale, knowledge, and appearance of the staff.

The facility was also evaluated on functions that contribute to the community service programs, reparation programs, school release, SCAAP and Inmate release for work programs.

The committee selected a

large facility comprising 100 or more inmates and a small facility with less than 100 inmates. The selection was made from facilities throughout the state.

"I would like to congratulate the detention staff on a this recognition for a job well done," says Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill. "It is a real honor for them to be awarded the Small Facility of the of the Year."

The Jail Administrators Association is comprised of administrators from jails located throughout North Carolina. A letter from the Grand Jury of Chowan County, dated October 15, 2001 states, "The Grand

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Farm-City Banquet planned Nov. 20th

Each year, Farm-City Week is observed nationwide as a way to bring together the rural and urban communities to better understand how farms and cities support each other. Chowan County traditionally celebrates this occasion with a communitywide invitation to attend and participate in the Farm-City Awards Banquet. This year will be no exception.

This year's banquet, coordinated through the Chowan Extension Advisory Council, will be held on Tuesday evening, Nov. 20, 7 pm at American Legion Post 40 in Edenton.

"Our program will focus on

another of the many area resources available to the citizens of Chowan and surrounding counties," said Chowan County Extension Director Mike Williams. "Dr. Mike Davis, Extension State 4-H Leader will present the Eastern 4-H Environmental Education Center located on Bulls Bay in Tyrrell County and opened early this past Summer. After one summer of use, many are just beginning to realize this facility's potential for organized camping, conferences and retreats. The location enables the center to put educational empha-

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