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Regional leaders discuss response to Navy plans

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
 Staff Writer

This past Thursday representatives from five different counties also met in Hertford to discuss the potential impact on these counties should the Navy establish an outlying landing field in any of the six northeastern counties.

The concerns of such a landing field are not limited to the tremendous impact on those counties already targeted for a landing site. The issues are not only the negative impacts such a facility would have, but also the negative impact on the surrounding counties in terms of agriculture, environment, and tourism of all the counties involved.

At present the six North Carolina counties are under investigation for a proposed airstrip are Perquimans, Carteret, Bertie, Washington, Hyde, and Craven counties. The only county not represented at today's meeting was Washington. Burke County, Georgia is also on the list or proposed sites.

The counties slated for con-

sideration are rural counties where citizens spent years making a living farming combined with fishing the sounds or rivers. They were poor counties. They are also counties that have spent years revitalizing by tapping into the resources of outdoors, sports, tourism, and their natural and environmental resources including the Great Dismal Swamp.

It is the vitality and growth of all these counties that appear jeopardized by a landing strip. The intentions of those gathered were to formulate a plan of action. The seven proposed sites targeted for a landing strip, four of which are in northeastern North Carolina, could have a dramatic impact on Edenton/Chowan County's quality of life. According to information gathered by the community representatives from the Navy's Atlantic Fleet, the Navy requires a minimum of two thousand acres for the actual landing strip and wants to restrict about 53 thousand acres as a buffer around that strip.

This really concerns Bryan Steen, Hyde County Manager,



Regional leaders discuss concerns about the possibility of an OLF being located in our area by the Navy during a meeting in Hertford last Thursday. (Staff photo by Helen Kerr Outland)

one of those present for the meeting. His concerns and fears reflect the feelings of most of the representatives present. "Ninety-nine percent of our

(Hyde County) constituents are against the proposed landing site. There are a handful here and there saying we need to be patriotic," says Steen. "I don't

think this has anything to do with a lack of patriotism. It is the financial losses that these

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Briefing planned locally

The Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, Chowan County, and the Town of Edenton will host a public information meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 6 p.m. at Swain Auditorium to inform local citizens about the Navy's plan for a new outlying landing field (OLF) for its planes to practice carrier landings.

The seven proposed sites, four of which are in northeastern North Carolina, all could have dramatic impact on Chowan County's quality of life, they said, in announcing the meeting.

The Navy has identified four Navy or Marine Corps air stations as potential main bases for the F/A-18 Super Hornet, slated to replace the Navy's F-14 Tom-

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Community touched by Harris visit

BY DAVE CRAWLEY
 Publisher

"Whenever my good friend asks me why God has placed him in such a place as New York City at this moment in History," said Edenton's Father Tom Rickenbaker. "I tell him that it is because God has chosen him as his man for this hour and that place and those hurting people."

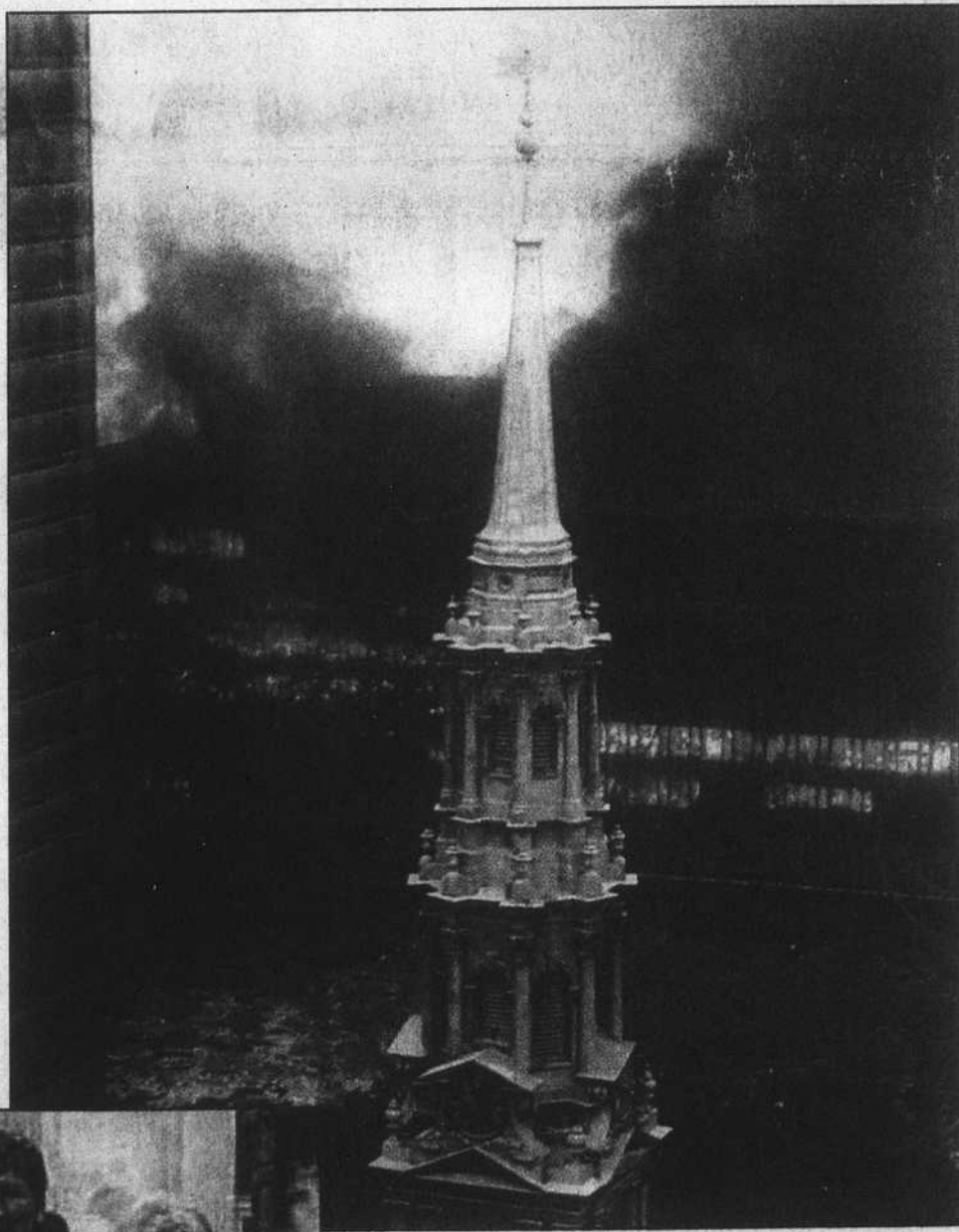
Father Rickenbaker's friend was also the man for this time and this place and these people as he brought his message and his mission to Edenton on Saturday night.

"A community truly came together tonight," commented one excited person as she was leaving Swain Auditorium after hearing the South Carolina born, New York City minister address an overflow crowd.

The evening had indeed been full of excitement, love, and brotherly kindness. There had been songs of Praise and Worship, songs of Patriotism and songs of hope.

As the Reverend Lyndon Harris stepped on to the stage

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(Top photo) The spire of St. Paul's Chapel stands tall in the midst of the inferno that followed the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York; (left photo) the Rev. Dr. Lyndon Harris talks with some nuns; (right photo) Harris, right, at St. Paul's Parish House in Edenton with Rev. Tom Rickenbaker and Ann Perry, chair, 300th Anniversary Celebration.



Rector shares what he's learned since Sept. 11

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
 Staff Writer

On Sept. 11 Reverend Lyndon Harris's life, along with everyone else's around the

world, and his ministry were change forever. Reverend Harris, Episcopal Rector for Saint Paul's Chapel in New York City, is a tall, slim, South Carolina native who loves jazz. He

is soft spoken, but determined in his faith and conviction. His youthful face and expressive eyes shouldn't mislead one about the depth of his maturity. For his eyes reflect the

wisdom found only in a gentle soul. They are intense as his well-chosen words describe his experience on that

See LEARNED Page 6-A

Senate candidate visits community

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Editor

Dr. Ada M. Fisher, a North Carolina Republican who hopes to fill the seat in the U.S. Senate being left vacant by the retirement of longtime Sen. Jesse Helms, visited Chowan County late last week to meet and talk with voters about their concerns.

Dr. Fisher describes herself as a "business-minded physician" with experience in the Occupational and Employee Health field. During her career, she has served as medical director of Amoco Oil Company; a substance abuse detoxification director at John Umstead Hospital in Butner, NC, serving 17 counties; and a certified teacher for secondary, college and medical education.

She also is a strong supporter of historic preservation efforts in the state, and serves on the board of Preservation North Carolina. Dr. Fisher noted that she was delighted to see such obviously strong support for those types of efforts personified along the streets of Edenton. "This is truly beautiful," she said.

And, she said, she is also a



Dr. Ada M. Fisher

staunch believer in the importance of preserving another type of treasure in our state - small businesses. "I would like to see that become a Cabinet-level position," she said. "That's how important I think it is."

Ironically, she noted, it is another candidate, also with ties to Salisbury, NC, Elizabeth Dole, who has received the lion's share of media attention since announcing her candidacy for the Helms Congress-

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Hundreds attend Walker dedication

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
 Staff Writer

About three hundred parents, teachers, students, and county official gathered at the new D. F. Walker School Sunday afternoon for the dedication of the new facility.

D.F. Walker Principal Mary Anne Karriker is very proud of the school and its faculty. "We are so pleased and thankful for the support of the community and the commissioners," she said. "There is nothing as rewarding as providing the best education, in a state-of-the-art facility, to the children of Chowan County. I am proud to be a part of that effort."

"School sure has changed since I attended," said County

Commissioner Pete Dail pointing out the pluses and technology of the new facility. Dail has a grandchild attending the new school.

Superintendent of Chowan County Schools Dr. Allan Smith praised the vision, leadership, and commitment to the project by the County Commissioners, the Board of Education, and the County Manager. "They say you can judge a community by the way they treat their children. The new D. F. Walker School shows that in the final analysis everyone in Chowan County will do what is best for the kids," he said.

Smith went on to discuss the outstanding efforts and deter-

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