

THE CHOWAN HERALD

Vol. LXIX, No. 7

Published in historic Edenton... The South's prettiest town.

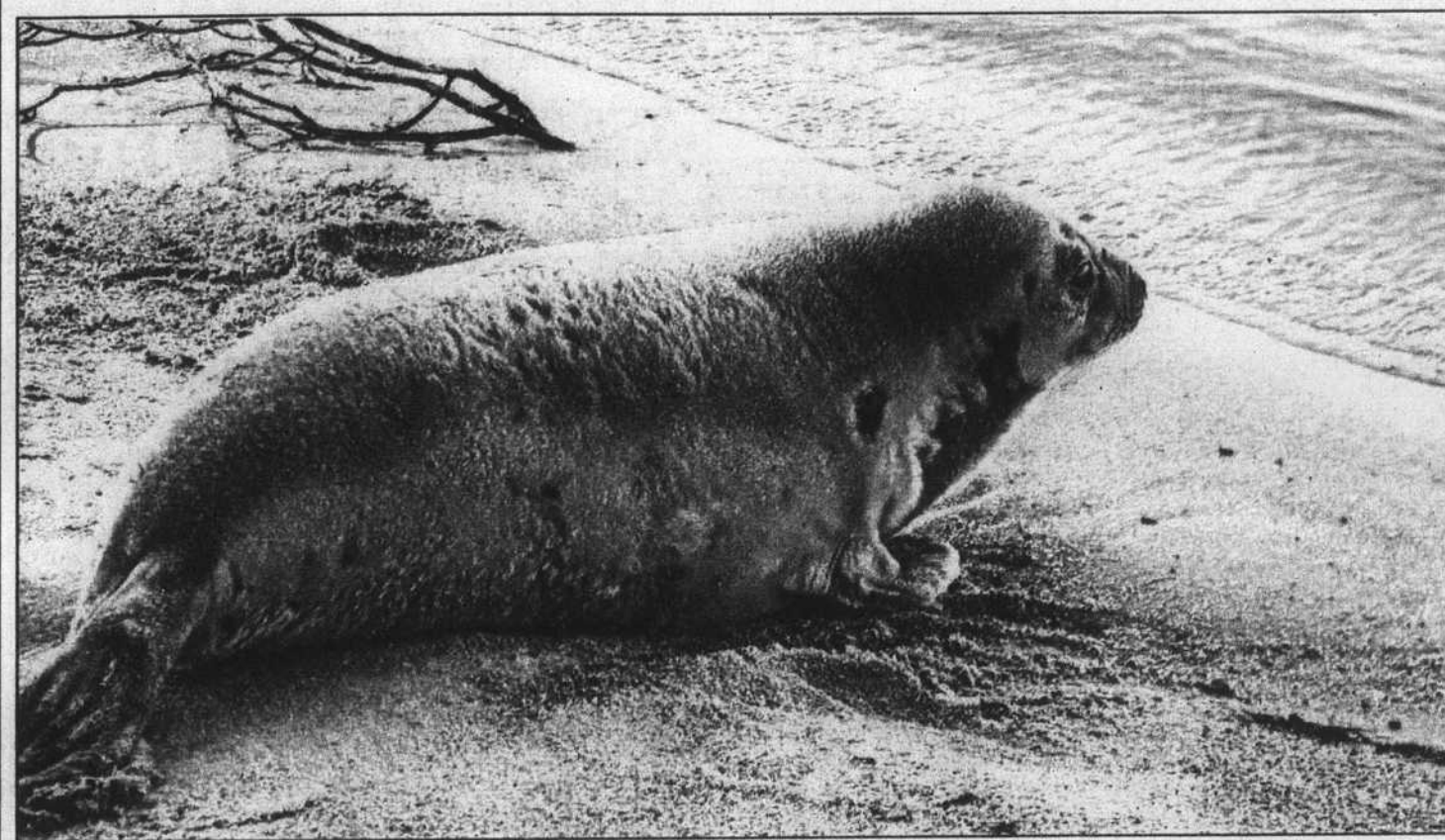
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Nixon's marks anniversary
Feb. 14 ... 16-A



CMS wrestlers brings home
tournament medals... 7-B

Father Roch helps others
experience God's love... 5-B



A Chowan County couple watched this seal on the beach from their home on the Albemarle

Seal is spotted on sound in county

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
Staff Writer

A Chowan County couple were enjoying a lazy Saturday morning when his wife walked to the window and spotted a seal laying on the beach in front of their home.

"When she told me what she had seen my initial response was 'yeah, right,'" he says. But, upon his wife's insistence he went and took a look. Sure enough, right there on the edge of the Albemarle Sound lay a sea lion.

"We have been getting lots

of reports of sightings," says Kathy Rawls, Marine Biologist for the North Carolina Marine Fisheries in Elizabeth City. "We have had reports of Manatees being seen in the Roanoke River." Rawls says that these sightings are highly unusual, but that recent environmental

changes have had a lot to do with the sightings.

"Waters in these areas that are not normally salty are salty now," she says. High winds and seas, lack of rainfall, and shifts in the winds

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Town looks at budget cuts

State grab of funds cause for concern

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
Staff Writer

For the second time Governor Mike Easley is withholding reimbursements from counties and municipalities. Easley plan is to hold \$64 million in inventory tax reimbursement, \$9.6 million from liquor sales, and \$6 million for other reimbursements.

The governor's decision will cost Edenton \$153,669 or 5.5 percent of this 2001-2002 budget. "It's not fair that the State is doing this to us," says Edenton City Manager, Anne-Marie Knighton. "Where can I cut, what services can we reduce to make up for nearly \$154 thousand?"

"The Fire Chief was waiting for me Friday morning when I got to work," Knighton says. "He had gotten the memo I had sent about freezing all capital

outlay purchases, but he was still concerned." According to the city manager the chief wanted to proceed in the purchase of ten new pagers, that are in the budget, for the volunteer firemen. The old ones are wearing out and are ready to be replaced.

"Of course I said ok, but it irked me to no end that the State is grabbing our money to deal with their revenue short-falls."

Knighton says she is contemplating delaying the purchase of two new police cars. "I am going to meet with the Police Chief, Public Works Director and the Garage Supervisor to assess the impact of a delay on the police fleet."

She added that tentative plans being looked at include cutting by 5 percent allocations from the town to the Edenton Historical Commission, the Chowan Arts Council, the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce and Albemarle Hopeline.

Chowan County's is suffering a double whammy with the

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Chowan continues efforts to work on resolving OLF issue

Public meeting is held here to inform on issue

(Editor's Note: To share your views on the OLF site issue, e-mail Sen. Jesse Helms, jessehelms@helms.senate.gov; Sen. John Edwards, senator@edwards.senate.gov; or Rep. Walter Jones at congress@jones@mail.house.gov)

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
Staff Writer

About 200 people met with county and city leaders in Swain Auditorium last Tuesday evening to discuss the Navy's proposed Outlying Landing Fields.

Edenton Mayor Roland Vaughan welcomed everyone and introduced Peter Rascoe,

Special Projects Director for Chowan County. County Manager Cliff Copeland reviewed the meeting's agenda and City Manager, Anne-Marie Knighton followed up with the actions taken so far by citizens.

Peter Rascoe presented a power point presentation on the OLF issue. "The Navy's plan is to use the proposed site for practice landings on air craft carriers," Rascoe says.

According to Rascoe the Navy has phased out the TomCat, so the planes that will be using the site will be the F/A 18 and E/F Super Hornet.

"Fentress Field in Oceana is not capable of handling these touch and go landings, so they are looking for another site," Rascoe said.

Rascoe says the Navy has contracted with a private company to develop requirements and assess the environmental impact of the landing fields in the targeted counties, of which

there are six. The EIS will be issued in March.

All but two of the counties being considered by the Navy will be holding individual public hearings. Washington and Bertie counties will hold a joint meeting.

On January 2nd of this year Rascoe received a letter of intent notifying him of the Navy's intentions.

"These are regional issues," says County Manager Cliff Copeland. Copeland went on to inform the audience of the meetings that had been held so far with the leadership of the counties targeted. "We are in the process of investigating the use of in-house staff and expertise," Copeland said referring to the collective efforts. "We need to identify the money resources and the use of people already on staff, but we must be prepared to look outside as

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Leaders visit DC, talk with legislators

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
Staff Writer

Representatives from five counties were in Washington DC this past Thursday to meet with senators, congressmen, and the Under Secretary of the Navy, Dan Holiday. Holiday will be making the recommendation for the location of the Hornets and OLF site to the Secretary of the Navy.

"Although it was a very long day, I think it was well worth the time," says Edenton City Manager, Anne-Marie Knighton in memo to the Mayor and Town Council. "Our legislators and their staff know our objections to the OLF." Unfortunately she feels they came away feeling more concerned that one of the sites in the Northeast is probably

going to be chosen.

"The politics of the situation are such that a powerful ranking member of the Armed Services Committee is getting tremendous heat from his constituents in Virginia to get rid of the noise," Knighton added.

Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland and City Manager Anne-Marie Knighton joined seven officials from Hyde, Bertie, and Perquimans counties for the trip. The pair presented a copy of the Certified Resolution from the Edenton Town Council opposing the location of an outlying landing field for the FA-18 in Perquimans, Bertie, Washington, or Hyde counties.

The contingency, joined by retired four Star Air Force General George Stringer, a Perquimans native, met with

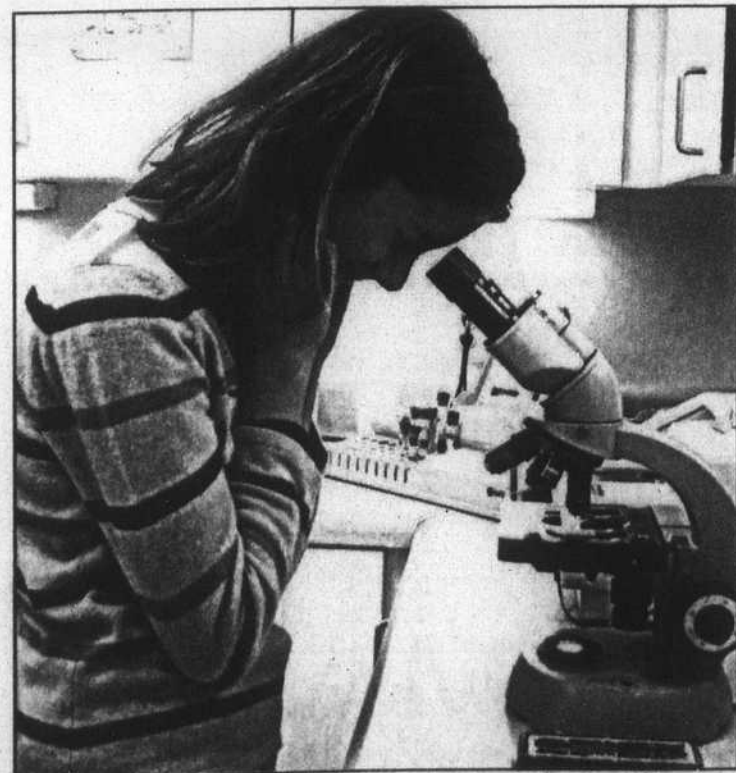
Senator John Edwards, Senator Jesse Helms, Eva Clayton, and Walter B. Jones.

The area leaders were able to spend Edward's "Tarheel Thursday" meeting in the Russell Senate Office Building. With the senate in session Edwards spent only 15 minutes with the contingency pledging to review the EIS due out sometime in March.

From there the leaders went on to meet with Senator Helms. Former Congressman George Shultz from Pennsylvania, who owns property at Albemarle Plantation, joined the team there. "We also met with NY Manhattan Congresswoman Carol Maloney," say Knighton. "She and a number of her family members own property at

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Chowan kids Job Shadow



Chowan Middle School student Jamie Winslow examines a puppy's skin cells under a microscope during Job Shadow Day. Jamie spent the day with veterinarians at Chowan Animal Hospital.

Participating in 2002 Job Shadow Day activities took one Edenton-Chowan Schools student on a wild goose chase last Monday - but now she knows a bit more about working for the county animal shelter.

Learning about potential careers is the point of Job Shadow Day, now in its fifth year nationwide. About 36 Chowan Middle School students teamed up with representatives from 27 area employers to spend the day observing—and participating—in the day-to-day activities of business.

The students and their mentors met at Nixon's Catering for a hearty breakfast before starting their workdays.

"Some of you will come away from your experiences today thinking, 'this is what I want to do,'" said Sheila Evans, Director of Instruction for Edenton-Chowan Schools, welcoming the participants. "Some of you will see what's

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Chowan-Perquimans Relay Co-Chair Paula Evans speaks during kickoff

Joint Relay for Life kickoff is held

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

Cancer is a disease that touches everyone at some point in life. If you've been fortunate

enough not to have experienced the disease, chances are you've had a family member, friend or co-worker who has. And the medical research that continues to help save many

lives takes money. Relay for Life is one way that people can help raise that money.

Last Tuesday evening those

See RELAY On Page 4-A