

Titanic focus of library exhibit 1-B

Hunter Safety teams in regional competition . 12-A

Chaplains perform valuable service for patients..... 8-A



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Edenton welcomes guest artists

Edenton will be alive with art on the weekend of March 22 as The Chowan Arts Council hosts three talented artists from around the state — Kim Robertson of Wilmington, Carol Owen of Pittsboro, and Grace Cathey of Waynesville.

The Arts Council will present the unique works of Robertson and Owen in an exhibit at the CAC Gallery beginning March 22. The CAC's executive director, Sue Clark, says, "I was drawn to the fresh use of traditional materials and the innovative combination of mediums employed by both of these artists. The images and treatments of both artists inspired me personally and I wanted to be able to share their work with people in the northeastern part of the state."

Kim Robertson works with photographs, transferring them with a chemical process onto handmade paper. The images are then watercolored, re-photographed, and further altered achieving remarkably evocative results. Carol Owen will exhibit her "Spirit Houses" based on the Thai tradition of constructing family shrines to ward off evil. The small houses are multi-media constructions often including old photographs, letters, handmade papers, and other ephemera. The Chowan Arts Council will host an opening reception



Nature inspires the art of Grace Cathey

for these remarkable women March 22 at 5:30 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public. "We are hoping for a wonderful turnout to welcome these special guests."

Edenton is expecting another treat with the visit of metal artist Grace Cathey of Waynesville. She will be here with an array of sculpture in a garden show on Saturday, March 23. On display will be swallowtail butterflies, dragonflies, praying mantises, frogs, turtles, trellises, teapots, tables, lamps, and much more.

Grace Cathey is a former painter, printmaker, and weaver that transitioned into metal. Her work has won numerous awards and was a solo exhibitor for the Museum of Natural Science in Raleigh. She researches her animals, trying to be as correct as possible. She draws them first, then places them on the metal, and cuts them with an air plasma cutter. The figures are then burnished with an oxyacetylene torch. The outdoor exhibit featuring garden art and sculpture

See ARTISTS On Page 4-A



Carol Owens will exhibit her 'Spirit Houses'

Nixon Regional Principal of Year

Edenton-Chowan Schools' top administrator for 2001-02 can add another honor to her list of accomplishments: White Oak School principal Mary Nixon has been named the Northeast Region Wachovia Principal of the Year.

"Mrs. Nixon exemplifies the kind of principal anyone could wish for," said Edenton-Chowan Schools superintendent Allan T. Smith. "I'm glad to see the selection committee recognized what we in Chowan County have known for years. Mary's dedication to the students, parents and her fellow educators is without parallel."

Nixon credits White Oak staff and parents for her success as a principal.

"I have been blessed throughout many years in education to be surrounded by supportive staff and parents," Nixon said. "I am honored that our school's accomplishments are being recognized through the Principal of the Year program."

The Wachovia program recognizes public school principals throughout North Carolina. Candidates are judged on many criteria including the demonstrated ability to improve achievement of all students from various back-



Mary Nixon

grounds and capability levels.

Nixon competed with administrators from 17 other counties in the northeast region in such areas as school-community relations, educational philosophy and practices, improving student achievement and facilitating professional growth of her staff, among other things.

As a regional winner, Nixon receives \$2,000 for her personal use and \$2,000 for the use of her school. The Wachovia Principal of the Year for the state is chosen from the six regional winners. To select the Principal of the Year, the state selection team visits the schools of each of the regional finalists in March. The state winner is announced in May.

Permanent marker now rests at Providence burial site

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
Staff Writer

A community came together Wednesday, Feb. 27 for the unveiling and dedication of a permanent historical marker at Providence Cemetery. It was a long-awaited moment as District Court Judge J. C. Cole honored those from the past that rest in peace at Providence. He also honored those who in more recent years had struggled and sacrificed to bring the community of Chowan County together for a momentous occasion.

Commissioner Louis Belfield opened the ceremony, saying, "This is a very significant event for Edenton, North Carolina. As Edentonians and residents of Chowan County we are proud to stand at the site of the cemetery which is the final resting place of many free blacks, slaves, and former slaves. They are the famous and the ordinary who struggled and triumphed to make this one of the nation's greatest



County Commissioner James Taylor waits his turn to speak at the ceremony where a permanent marker at Providence was unveiled. (Helen Outland photo)

towns."

Belfield offered thanks to those committees and organizations saying, "We are encouraged and inspired by your courage and willingness to serve, your visionary planning, your perseverance, and your unity of purpose in seeing the important task accomplished. Be proud of your work, for you have added to the legacy of our town and in doing so Edenton has proved that a town can be progressive while at the same time preserving, honoring, and celebrating its past."

Norman Brinkley of Kadesh A.M.E. Zion Church led those gathered in the Pledge of Allegiance before introducing keynote speaker for the dedication the Honorable J. C. Cole, District Court Judge of the 1st District. "It is extremely important that we all respect our history and our traditions," began Judge Cole. "It is important to preserve our history and our traditions. We are a nation of communities, a complex network of environment, people,

relationships, and traditions that are shaping our daily lives and defining who we are."

Judge Cole went on to remind those present that their contributions help to shape the world and praised those who had dedicated themselves to the cause of preserving Providence Cemetery and its place in the defining moment of history. "This is a wonderful recognition of a community coming together to understand the past, and creating a future for children to understand the contributions of African Americans to Edenton, Chowan, and the whole Albemarle area."

Although many of the African Americans to whom tribute was paid are long dead, Judge Cole reminded everyone that there are those significant in the shaping of Edenton and the country's history and are deserving of honor as well. "Edenton you should be proud of yourself," added Judge Cole. "This recognition of a history

See MARKER On Page 4-A

Wright is recognized for volunteer spirit

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
Staff Writer

Peggy Wright was recently honored as Volunteer of the Year for her selfless contribution of time and efforts to the Barker House. The chairman of the Edenton Historical Commission and Director of the Department of Social Services, Ben Rose, presented Wright a plaque of recognition and appreciation.

"Peggy is a leading example of what comm. Service and volunteerism is about for the Edenton Historical Commission," said Rose.

Wright has served the



Chairman Ben Rose congratulates Peggy Wright

Barker House for a long time and spent as many as three weekends a month donating her time.

"Peggy has been at it longer than Penelope," says Bev Kirchmier, executive director for the Barker House. "Peggy started out as a paid tour guide. After she retired from that, then she went on as a paid volunteer for weekends."

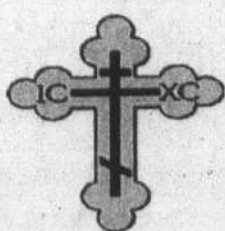
Wright has worked as a tour guide for the site for 10 and one-half years. Her knowledge of the Barker House is extensive. "If there is a problem Peggy will be here in ten minutes," says Kirchmier. "She is a terrific asset."



Honored for service

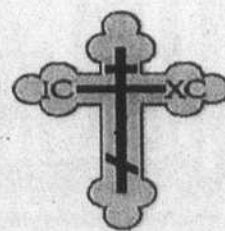
John Cutter, executive director of the Chowan Regional Health Care Foundation, recognizes outgoing board members Anne Parrish, left, and Thelma Smith.

at the
Barker House
refreshments



Orthodox Church Seminar

7:30 P.M., Mon. - Tues. - Wed. - Thurs., March 18-19-20-21, Free to Public



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