

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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## Guns, aggressiveness ignite shootings in neighborhoods

BY BEN DECK AND BRADY CALHOUN  
Cox NC Publications

A proliferation of guns and aggressiveness has resulted in a rash of shootings in Edenton in recent weeks, according to Chowan County Clerk of Court Mike McArthur.

"You've got a whole host of shooters waiting to shoot or be shot," McArthur said. "It's a real sad situation we've got right now."

The most recent shooting came last Monday, when two

Edenton men were hit within 50 feet of a track meet at John A. Holmes High School.

"When the first shot was fired people just thought it was the starting pistol for the track meet," said Glenda Jakubowski, school-community relations coordinator for the Edenton-Chowan school system.

After the second shot was fired, however, officials moved students into the field house, Jakubowski said. The track meet was called off.

The day after the shooting

teachers and counselors were told to watch for signs of stress among the student body. Attendance was normal last Tuesday and no students requested a counselor during the day, Jakubowski said.

School officials also beefed up security by locking the student parking lot gate and sending the School Resource Officer on more rounds.

None of the recent shootings involved students, but each happened near the school. The earlier shootings all happened near the intersection of North

Oakum and East Albemarle streets, two blocks from the school.

The violence involves a group of Edenton men who suffer from "tough-man syndrome," McArthur said. Each of the seven has a prior history of criminal arrests.

McArthur, who is familiar with court testimony in several cases involving the men, said he does not believe the shooters have a clear reason for their actions.

"There's not a clear cause or clear issue" behind the shoot-

ings, McArthur said.

Edenton police also say they are unaware of any particular reason for the violence. Police Chief Greg Bonner said he has spoken with the men involved about the ramifications of their actions, but they have not heeded his calls for restraint.

Police have charged Derrick Harrell of 33 Davis Place, Edenton, in connection with the shooting last Monday. He faces two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and one count of discharging a weapon toward occupied

property.

Kenyotta Coston, 24, and his 19-year-old brother, Dwight Coston, were hit by gunfire - Dwight in the calf of his left leg and Kenyotta in his lower back.

Police said the shooting is connected to three prior incidents:

• On March 10, Leroy Leary was shot at as he drove his gray Ford Explorer on Oakum Street near Albemarle Street. Skylar Holley, 18, of 203 E. Albemarle St., Edenton and

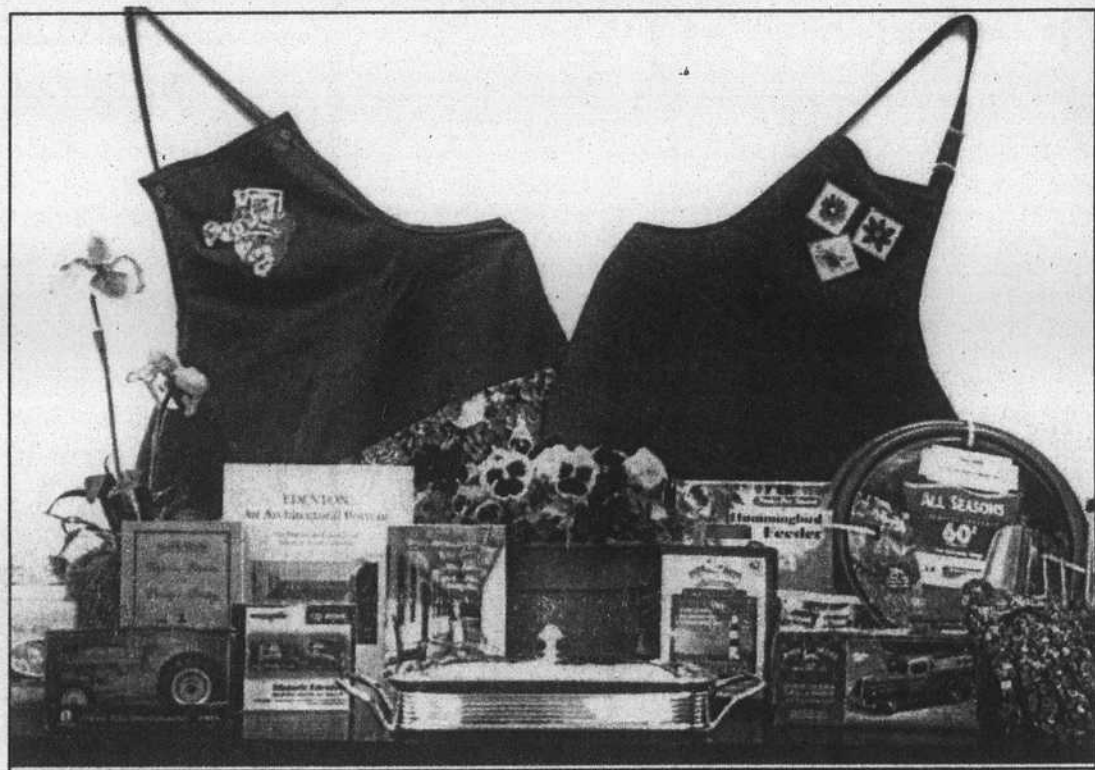
See SHOOTINGS Page 5-A

## 'Community, Culture & Cornbread' takes place this Saturday at ALC

BY GINGER MORELOCK  
Folklorist  
Albemarle Learning Center

The title "Community, Culture & Cornbread" has sparked much interest in the region. Albemarle Learning Center has taken the task of creating an event that connects history, culture, agriculture and our community to a single item: corn. Corn, which is native to North Carolina, crosses many cultural boundaries and has a significant meaning to every person, whether it be a favorite corn recipe that's handed down from generation to generation or memories of planting corn on the family farm.

This Saturday, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., visitors can learn how corn was prepared and processed by Native Americans, make Settler games from corn, watch corn being planted with horse-drawn implements, identify modern corn byproducts, and learn what the future has in store for corn. In addition, there will be historic and modern recipe tastings available at



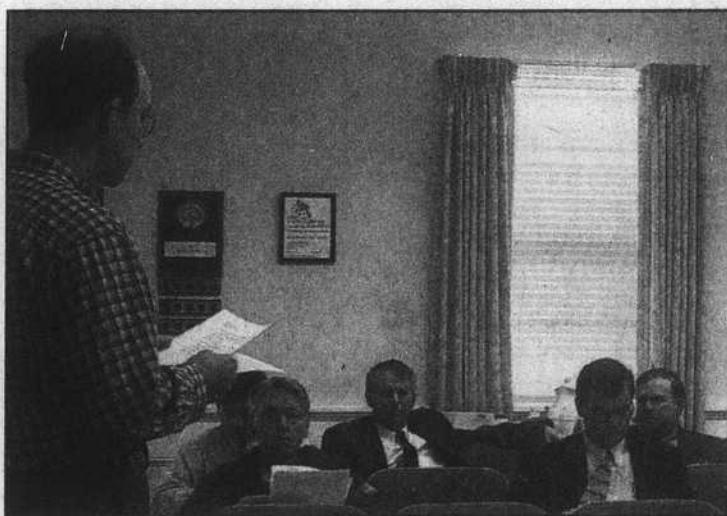
Items ranging from hanging baskets to gardening items and books on subjects of local interest have been donated for the Albemarle Learning Center's Community Raffle to be held Saturday during its heritage celebration. (Photo courtesy of Ginger Morelock)

some of the educational booths. Visitors will also have the opportunity to help plant corn in the Community Corn Patch.

There will be many other activities and demonstrations happening throughout the day as well. Many regional master

crafters will be demonstrating and selling some of their

See CORNBREAD On 5-A



Ben Hobbs, Chairman of the OLF Steering Committee discusses upcoming plans with members. (Outland)

## OLF committee considers strategy

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND  
Staff Writer

Since the announcement by the Navy of landing site in January, the seven counties directly affected, and those affected indirectly, have tried to make clear to Washington and the Navy their opposition to a landing field. Non of which are based on an anti-military attitude. In a Thursday meeting of the OLF Steering Committee discussion centered on several other issues too.

Their concerns for Navy's

decision has everything to do with fair. But, fairness is not the only issue. The apparent deaf ear of their representatives in Washington and lack of acknowledgement of their concerns is another.

The steering committee and the voters they represent say there is nothing fair about locating the planes, and revenue, in one community and the touch and go landing strip in another community. One gets the noise and one gets the

See STRATEGY On Page 5-A

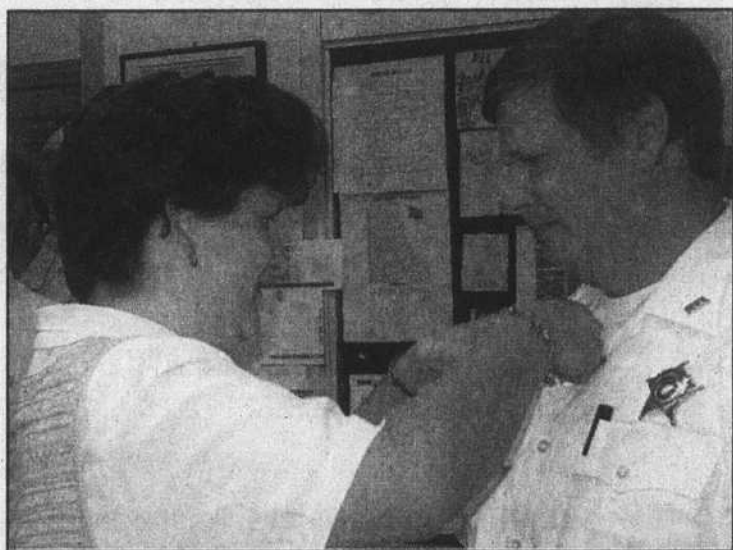
## CAC 25th celebration

The Chowan Arts Council invites the public to share an enchanting evening in celebration of its 25 years of creativity.

On May 18, at 6 p.m. at the Edenton waterfront, the CAC will hold its 25th Birthday Party. Under a lighted tent and amid an artistic setting partygoers will enjoy the exotic music of David DiGuseppi of Chapel Hill and have a "taste of the town" from Edenton restaurants.

The CAC is also holding a "Great Fake Cake Competition". Individual artists, students, and organizations are encouraged to enter two- or three-dimensional cakes created from any type of material. Cakes will be displayed in Edenton businesses the week of the party.

Birthday Party tickets are \$20 per person and are available at the Chowan Arts Council and at selected businesses on Broad Street in Edenton.



Kim Jackson proudly pins a medal on her husband Frankie's uniform. Jackson was awarded the medal as part of the Advanced Telecommunicator Certificate given by the North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission. Jackson is a 15 year veteran of 911. (Outland Photo)

## Telecommunicators receive recognition

Governor Michael F. Easley has proclaimed April 14-20 "Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week" in North Carolina.

Chowan Central Communications E-9-1-1 dispatchers handle hundreds of 9-1-1 and emergency calls each month

See 911 On Page 5-A

## 'Celebration' bus receives warm reception from county

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Editor

About 100 local residents gathered on the Courthouse Green Friday morning at 8 a.m. to welcome the American Cancer Society's "Celebration on the Hill" bus to town.

Chowan was one of only five North Carolina counties selected for a visit by the bus. Local residents were invited to sign their names on the bus in support of increased funding for cancer research.

Music was provided by the Albemarle Sounds. The John A. Holmes High School DREAM TEAM, which organized the visit, greeted those present.

Guest speaker was John Mansfield of Chowan County. Mansfield told of his successful fight against leukemia. "This bus can be more than a vehicle," he said. "It can be a vehicle for change."

Dignitaries including Rep. Bill Culpepper attended.



Joyce Hopkins (pink jacket) signs the Relay for Life tour bus Friday morning. Joyce is a secretary of Chowan County EMS and has just had her last radiation treatment for cancer. Joseph Craddock EMTD with EMS (center) signs the bus in honor of his mother, Sarah, who lost her battle with cervical cancer in October of last year. He also signs his wife's grandfather's name, Burling Warren, who died of prostate cancer last year. Hazelene Miller, EMTD with EMS (far end) signs in memory of a beloved aunt who died of cancer in 2001. (Photo by Helen Kerr Outland)

COMMUNITY CULTURE & CORNBREAD

FREE ADMISSION!

TRADITIONAL CRAFTS, AGRICULTURE, MUSIC, DANCE, HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY! Community Raffle Drawing at 3:30 PM.

ALBEMARLE LEARNING CENTER Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

BBQ (Pork or Chicken) Plates Served From 11AM - 4PM \$6.00 per plate EAT IN OR TAKE OUT!