

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

Vol. LXIX, No. 28

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

Single Copies 50¢

**These graduates aren't just 'clowning around' ... 1-C**

**July 4th celebrated in Downtown Edenton.... 1-B, 2-B**

**Chowan Herald Night focuses on literacy.... 8-A**

## Thomas dies in plane crash near private airfield

Perley Andrew Thomas, 71, whose family founded the High-Point based Thomas Built Buses, Inc., died in a plane crash Wednesday afternoon near his private airfield in Chowan County.

Thomas and William Scott Archibell, 34, of 410 Mohave Trail, Edenton, were killed when a Kit Fox single-engine plane owned and flown by Thomas crashed shortly after takeoff, Sheriff Fred Spruill said. The plane crashed and burst into flames in a wooded area about 100 yards from the end of the runway.

Witnesses to the crash said the plane's engines sounded like it was sputtering and not reaching full power during takeoff. One witness, who asked not to be identified, said the men were taking the plane on a test flight and intended to fly only a short distance before landing in a

field adjacent to the airstrip. Archibell was the mechanic who worked on the home-built, experimental airplane for Thomas, the witness said.

The woods where the plane went down are across Locust Grove Road from the airstrip, a site where Thomas also maintained a residence, Spruill said. Locust Grove Road is a private dirt road off Drummonds Point Road in eastern Chowan County.

Local authorities were notified of the crash at 4 p.m., and the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Administration have also been notified, Spruill said. No further information about the crash was available from the agencies Wednesday.

Thomas' family operated

See CRASH On Page 6-A

## Patriot's service to country recalled

The fourth of July in northeastern North Caro-

patriotic colors, fireworks, respect for American sacri-

In Edenton, the Daughters of the American Revolution

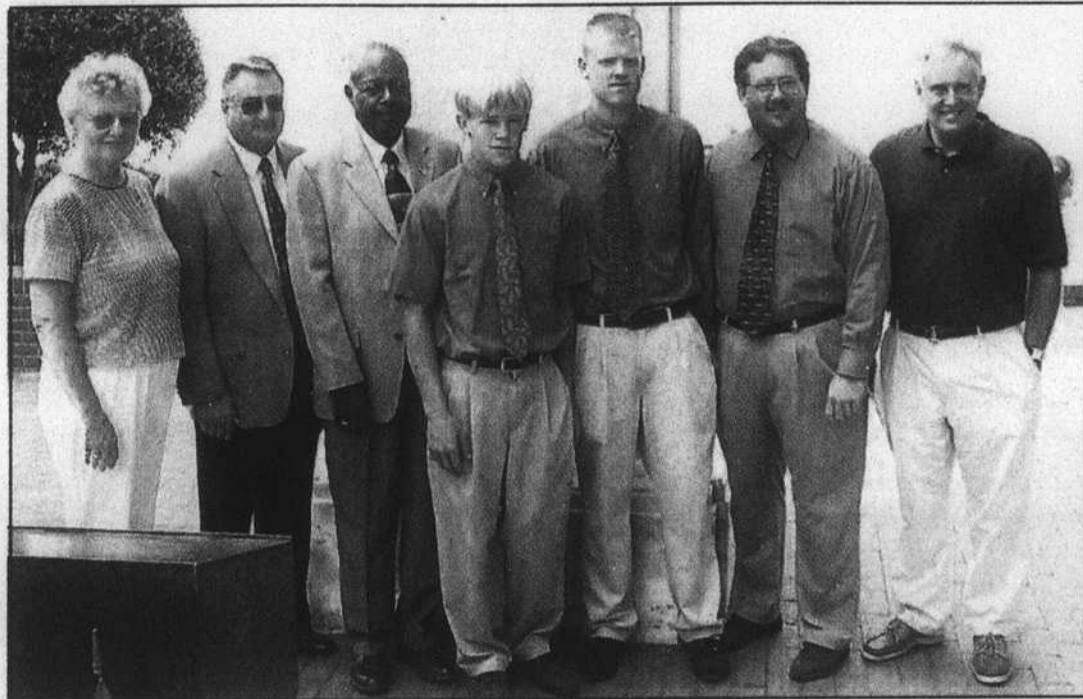
Thursday to honor the work and memory of Joseph Hewes. They and about 100 onlookers stood at Hewes' memorial on the historic courthouse green for the event.

DAR members explained that Hewes was a patriot, and a former Edenton resident who signed the Declaration of Independence on behalf of the people of North Carolina. He was also instrumental in the building of St. Paul's Church, the Chowan County Courthouse and Edenton College.

"I just feel like this is really sacred ground here," said Daughters of the American Revolution speaker Beth Taylor.

Christopher Bean recited the Declaration of Independence. Then Reverend Ashby Browder of Faith Baptist Church left the crowd with another important statement from Thomas Jefferson.

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," he said.



Beth Taylor of the DAR joined the Browders, County Commissioner Louis Belfield and the Hon. Chris Bean in taking part in a tribute to the patriotism of Joseph Hewes, a local man who signed the Declaration of Independence. (Chowan Herald photo by Bud Weagly)

lina was a sizzling mix of

fices and lots of fun.

braved 90 degree heat early



This map shows the estimated 65 dB DNL sound curve of the proposed OLF. The Navy wants to build their touch and go practice at one of these sites. These sound lozenges were calculated using the acoustical characteristics for the older model F-18. The newer F-18s that will be practicing day and night are reportedly much louder. Flight paths from NAS Oceana are not shown.

## OLF action group forms here

BY MARILYN LANGE  
Special Correspondent

Last Tuesday homeowners and business people of Chowan, Perquimans, Bertie, and Washington counties met in Edenton to discuss the Navy's proposed Outlying Landing Field, (OLF). Cliff Copeland provided an update on the actions of county leaders in the Albemarle region which are directly affected by the proposed bases. Those attending the meeting shared perspectives on the impact the OLF would have on our economy, our natural ecosystem and our social and cultural climate. The consensus was that noise from the 24 hour operations by the Navy's F-18 jets using these practice runways would significantly degrade the quality of life in the area and profoundly injure the slowly growing economy of

the entire Albemarle region.

As evidence to the economic threat, Mike Swearingen of United Country/Swearingen Realty cited the denial of a mortgage loan. This \$250,000 transaction failed as a direct result of the possibility that an OLF site will be constructed here.

A map with the locations of the proposed sites was on display. The lozenge shapes showed the Navy's estimate of the dB60 sound limit. It was pointed out that these estimates, already covering a seven by fourteen mile area, were calculated using data from the older version of the F-18, and that the aircraft that will be using this practice field, the Super Hornet, are reported as being twice as loud.

Kathy Myers of Bertie County offered her view that the Navy's proposed

OLF was a response to the active opposition of Virginia Beach residents to the noise of the jets based at Oceana and Fentress fields. Locating practice fields in northeastern North Carolina would deflect this opposition. Another group member noted that Virginia would continue to have the jobs and economic benefits and the only thing we would get is air and noise pollution.

The group discussed strategies for increasing public awareness of the OLF threat and set up the Albemarle Community Action Network, a web based e-mail communication network to strengthen that effort. If you are concerned about this threat, would like to be kept informed or learn what you can do, the action group's e-mail address is: NO\_OLF@mchsi.com. Or call 252-482-2983

## Tickets are now available

On July 19 a van will leave Edenton United Methodist Church for the Raleigh Entertainment and Sports Arena for an outstanding weekend of Christian fellowship. For two days men from all over North Carolina will gather to rally for Christ. The program, Promise Keepers, Men of Integrity, is dedicated to igniting and uniting men to be passionate followers of Jesus Christ. Some of the speakers for the rally are Michael Silva, Larry Jackson, Crawford Loritts, and Joseph Stowell.

There are only six ticket packages left for this trip. The package includes transportation, motel, and registration to the Promise Keepers. For details, contact the church at 482-3269.



Linda Todd, right, Assistant Manager of the Employment Security Commission presents the Employer of the Year award to Chowan Hospital representative, Debbie Swicegood, (left). She is Director of Human Resources.

## Hospital earns award

RALEIGH - Chowan Hospital was honored with a 2002 Employment Security Commission (ESC) Employer Award June 26 during an evening reception at the North Carolina State University Faculty Club.

Chowan Hospital was one of 81 employers receiving an award for exceptional contri-

but ion to the North Carolina economy through new business, business expansion and partnership with the ESC.

The ESC Employer Awards, first given in 1987, are sponsored by the ESC and the State Job Service Employer Committee (JSEC), one of North Carolina's largest employer association.

## Community Inclusion Forum to be sponsored by Partnership

TYNER - Wendy Jewett, executive director of the Chowan/Gates/Perquimans Partnership for Children, announced today that "Putting the Pieces Together: A Community Inclusion Forum," will be held at White Oak Elementary School on Sandy Ridge Road in Edenton on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Childcare will be provided. People who would like to register should call Gail King at 221-3030 prior to Aug. 1.

"This Forum will provide an opportunity to share information about issues relative to serving young specially-abled children and their families," Jewett explained. "Parents of children with special needs are invited to attend this event, where staff from community agencies and advocacy groups will be present to provide information on their services and how they can be accessed," con-

tinued Jewett.

Representatives from public school preschool programs, Head Start, early childhood intervention programs, the health and hospital fields, mental health professionals, early childhood educators, and people from the faith community have been invited to participate. (Early childhood educators who attend will receive three Contact Credit Hours.) Sally Sloop, Family Support Specialist, from the North Carolina Partnership for Children (herself the parent of a special needs child) will give the keynote address.

"Planning for this Forum has been a collaborative effort in the truest sense of the word," said Jewett, "as parents, educators, and representatives from community agencies in all three counties are taking part in bringing it to fruition." The committee is co-chaired by

Ms. Jewett, Catina Byrum, parent of a special needs child in Chowan County, and Nann Ambrose (Hertford), a Preschool Teacher of developmentally delayed children at White Oak School.

Other members of the Forum Planning Committee include: Theresa Carter and Janet Respass (Chowan DSS), Anna Copeland, Sandra Jordan-Leigh, Carolyn Privott, and Laurie Valentine (Albemarle Mental Health Center) Cheny Coston (Perquimans County Childcare Center), Elizabeth Dail (Chowan County), Mary Douglass (Albemarle Childcare Resource and Referral), Sid Eley (Perquimans Chamber of Commerce), Lori Heginbotham (Edenton United Methodist Church), Juanita and William Hurdle, Hattie and Thomas Sharpe, and Vivian

See FORUM On Page 8-A

EDENTON-CHOWAN RECREATION DEPARTMENT SPONSORS

**11 & 12 YEAR OLD TARHEEL DISTRICT 7 LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STAR TOURNAMENT!**

**JULY 15<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup> • 6:00 PM FISHER FIELD**