

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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## Excitement builds for area environmental learning project

BY GLENDA JAKUBOWSKI  
Edenton-Chowan Schools

No amount of frosty weather, gooey muck or squiggly critters dulled the enthusiasm of teachers and students from Chowan, Gates, Perquimans and Bertie counties recently at the inaugural meeting of participants in the Bennett's Millpond Environmental Learning Project.

The five high school teachers and 10 students will meet at least twice a month at the millpond to collect soil and water samples, catalogue critters, measure dissolved oxygen levels at various places in the pond, and collect weather data such as temperature, wind direction and speed, humidity, among other things. Their equipment ranges from precision scientific probes interfacing with Palm Pilots to such low-tech devices as pickle barrels and hoes. They spent a recent chilly Tuesday decked out in waders and warm coats as they dipped, scooped and netted



Holmes High School junior Kendall Birkhead examines the biological treasures yielded by Bennett's Millpond.

samples from the pond to study later in the warmth of the Albemarle Learning Center.

"The whole idea is to get the students to develop projects for extensive research and eventual presentation at a symposium in May," said Colleen Karl, Northeast Outreach Coordinator for the North Carolina State University Science House. The Science House works in partnership with K-12 teachers to emphasize the use of hands-on learning activities in mathematics and science. Through school demonstration programs, student science camps, teacher workshops and innovative laboratory training and support projects, The Science House annually reaches over 200 teachers and 20,000 students in 60 North Carolina counties. The Albemarle Learning Center is the site for the eastern satellite of the NC Science House.

The Millpond Project is

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Diana Jones-Wilson

## Jones-Wilson to be King speaker

### Celebration set Monday

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King Day Celebration will be held on Monday, Jan. 20, at Swain Auditorium at noon. Diana Jones-Wilson will be the guest speaker.

"Ms. Jones-Wilson, a native

of Chowan County, is a dynamic motivator," said Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton, a member of the celebration's planning committee. "She currently serves as President of Faith Partnership Inc., a private nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote research

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Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill, left, congratulates Deputy Buddy Bunch, who has just received his Advanced Professional Law Enforcement Certificate.

## Bunch achieves advanced status

Sheriff Fred Spruill presented Deputy Sheriff William (Buddy) C. Bunch of the Chowan County Sheriff's Office his Advanced Professional Law Enforcement Certificate awarded by the North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission on Jan. 6.

The award of each Professional Certificate is based on a formula combining formal education, law enforcement training, and experience as a full time law enforcement officer. Deputy Sheriff Bunch has been with the Sheriff's Office for ten years and is a patrol deputy and the Counties K-9 officer.

The North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission was established in September 1983.

The purpose of the Sheriff's Commission is to upgrade the capabilities, competence, and proficiency of Sheriff's Office personnel through programs, standards, and procedures involving employment, career development, and retention of the Sheriff's Office personnel. The North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission currently maintains certification files on over 16,000 Deputy Sheriff's, Detention Officers, and Telecommunicator through out our state.

The purpose of the Advanced Professional Law Enforcement Certificate is to recognize the level of competence of Sheriff's Office employee's, to foster increased interest in

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## DSS to sustain cutbacks

The Chowan County Department of Social Services has announced that the Day Care Subsidy Program they administer has been frozen and in some places is being cut.

Chowan DSS administers the Federal Day Care Program along with the Smart Start program. These programs provide day care assistance to clients who qualify. Most clients are either in the Work First Program or are employed.

"The Day Care Program for Chowan County has exploded over the past two years, and we have seen a threefold increase in demand," says Ben Rose, director. According to Rose, the allocation for the program has remained constant at \$855,784. However, he says that both the DSS caseload and the cost of providing these services have increased.

"We now have higher rates to our center due to the star system, which rewards centers who meet certain levels of care," says Sandy Willard, program coordinator. "The rate increases have now reduced the number of people we can serve and impacted our budget, even though the new rating system helps to provide a higher quality of care to our citizens."

The department is taking the following steps to avoid massive cuts in service:

- A freeze on new day care expenditures
- A cut in service to low priority categories, such as foster care and special needs
- A request for reallocation of state funds that may be

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## Swearing-in ceremony held

Chowan County Clerk of Superior Court Mike McArthur (far right) presides over the swearing-in of local magistrates during a recent ceremony held at the Chowan County Courthouse. Taking the oath of office are (from left) Carlton Jackson, Jim Badger, and Dennis Halloran. (Staff photo by Bud Weagly)

## Foundation fundraiser set

The Chowan Regional Health Care Foundation is sponsoring its first "Las Vegas Night" fundraiser on Friday, Feb. 7, from 7 p.m. until midnight at the National Guard Armory in Edenton to benefit charitable projects directed at improving the health status of residents served by the medical community of Chowan County.

"We have tremendous interest in the event and expect the event to sell out quickly. Space is limited, so we encourage everyone interested to get their tickets early and not miss out," said Helena Szczesny, executive director of the foundation.

Marty McArthur, event chairperson and her committee have been working hard to coordinate the many activities

to ensure a successful night. According to McArthur, "We have sent the invitations out for the event, but may have missed some people. Those interested individuals may contact Helena Szczesny directly at the Foundation office at telephone 482-6440 for tickets. We have put together a fun

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**ROCKY HOCK**  
Grand Ole Opry Show

at ROCKY HOCK PLAYHOUSE, Sun. January 19th (3 pm only)  
Fri. January 17th and Sat. January 18th show (SOLD OUT!)  
\$10.00 per person Call 482-2131 or 221-4875