

THE CHOWAN HERALD

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Airport Appreciation Day set here on Saturday

BY MARGE SOPER
Contributing Writer

Airport Appreciation Day is fast becoming a growing annual event. The effect of 9/11 put a damper on many activities surrounding flying activities. Military presence with static displays of their aircraft is not to be had at this and many other air shows.

However, the Edenton Chamber of Commerce, the Airport Commission and the hard work of George Cipra, Airport Manager, have put together a great a fun day for all ages.

This is an event you won't want to miss and you surely will want to bring the kids and grandkids along to see the Ultra Lights both on display and flying. Ultra Light groups from Martin County, Bertie County, Currituck, Elizabeth City, the local boys and even Ultra Lights from Virginia are planning to attend with their planes. Watch for the Candy Drop! East Coast Helicopter Service will be there with a static display.

For children ages 7-17 there will be airplane rides given by the EAA Chapter of Young Eagles from Elizabeth City. The group hopes to attain one million children having flown with Young Eagle groups from all over the country by December of 2003 in honor of First Flight. Radio-controlled planes

will be performing aerobatic maneuvers for all to watch and delight in viewing.

The Edenton Morning Rotary Club (soon to be known as the Edenton Bay Rotary Club) along with RBC Liberty provide Kids ID for those who may have missed the one given in April. The Kids ID will provide fingerprints, hair sample and photo of a child along with height and weight in a protected case for a parent to keep safely tucked away should the need to find their child ever arise.

A replica of a plane called the Gatling will also be on display; the original was built in 1893.

Now, while this is all going on the Optimist Club will be there with a concession stand and plenty of food for the hungry. Boy Scouts will also be there and planning to work towards their Merit Badges. D.A.R.E. will be in attendance and question and answers for curious parents will be available. Also, for those who may not have tried the unique glasses that give you the effect of driving drunk without being in that state, is a must. Try walking a straight line wearing those glasses!

The Disaster Relief group will be there and share with the public information regarding Hurricanes and what to do and not to do if faced with the

possibility of an upcoming hurricane. North Carolina Wild Life will be there too and hopefully with their Jet Ski.

The Albemarle Republican Women's Club is going to have a Bake Sale and Lemonade Stand for those who enjoy home baked goods but find it too hot to bake.

Crafts in the form of hand painted furniture, glassware and pottery by the local artist, Barbara Cipra will be on display for sale. Also hand-crafted sterling silver jewelry by Janet will be available for sale. Good Taste of South Broad Street in Edenton has planned to have some of their great fudge and Edenton Tee shirts for sale.

Should you want to take a ride to First Flight and the Wright Memorial in Kitty Hawk, there will be buses provided to take you back and forth. What better time to see this famous shrine to the first aviators!

All this will take place on Saturday, June 1st at Edenton Regional Airport off Sound Side Drive onto Airport Road. All are hoping for the sun to shine so that the events may take place as planned. Wet weather is not conducive to the flying parts of the day! If you have a question about the events call 482-4664 for information.

There is fun for all at this event so plan to attend.



The Chowan County Interfaith Disaster and Relief Effort, Inc. will host an exhibit on hurricane awareness as part of this weekend's Airport Appreciation Day which will take place Saturday at the Northeast Regional Airport in Edenton. (Chowan Herald file photo)

Hurricane Awareness focus of Airport Day exhibition

BY ANGELA PEREZ
Staff Writer

As most coastal residents know, the beginning of summer also marks the beginning of the Atlantic coast hurricane season. This year the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting a 55% possi-

bility for an above-normal season. This outlook calls for 11-15 tropical storms, with 6-9 becoming hurricanes, and 2-4 becoming major hurricanes. Although it is difficult to confidently predict the number of hurricanes that may occur this season, particularly at this early stage, the NOAA encourages all coastal communities

and near-coastal communities to maintain hurricane preparedness efforts.

As part of an effort to focus local attention on hurricane threats, the Chowan County Interfaith Disaster and Relief Effort, Inc. (CCIDRE), in conjunction with "Airport Day" at

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Town Council denies permit

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Managing Editor

The Edenton Town Council last Monday night rejected a request from the A.R. Cheson Construction Company for a conditional use permit. The permit was being sought for the purpose of establishing a self-storage facility on Coke Avenue.

Although the request had been approved by the local Planning Board, Council rejected the proposal after hearing an evaluation of the site prepared by Police Chief Greg Bonner. That report was not presented to the Planning Board prior to its vote.

In his report, Chief Bonner

says that he believes "the location suggested poses an adverse affect on public safety." He notes that Coke Avenue "is the main thoroughfare that connects at each end to our major highways (17 North Business and 32 South). Nearly all of the traffic entering and leaving Edenton uses one of the two major highways."

"There is a tremendous amount of traffic (including large trucks and tractor trailers traveling Coke Avenue for deliveries and repair," he added.

The chief's report goes on to say that "Building self-con-

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Chowan serviceman is lucky survivor

BY ANGELA PEREZ
Staff Writer

Last Thursday, U.S. Army Captain Michael Ray Williams, originally from Edenton and a graduate of John A. Holmes High School, and his pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Mike Mittlebeeler, both of A Company 3rd of the 101st Division, were shot down in their Apache attack helicopter in western Iraq by hostile fire according to U.S. military statements.

This attack marks one of the first military aircraft to be downed by ground fire in two months since the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime.

While taking part in the bombing of a terrorist training camp 95 miles north of Baghdad, the helicopter was attacked by Iraqi forces which knocked out the Apache's



Capt. Michael Williams

weapons system and hit the helicopter. The helicopter made a crash landing, smashing into the ground and rolling over. As it rolled, Iraqi forces fired upon the helicopter. As they tried to escape, Williams stated that he fired back with his pistol. Almost immediately after the crash, another

Apache helicopter from the 101st Division flew in and destroyed the enemy forces, securing the crash site and saving both of the stranded men. Neither of the two crew members had to be hospitalized. Williams escaped with only minor injuries.

Captain Williams' mother, Georgia Rice, a resident of Edenton, says, "I just thank God for protecting Michael and that those ground forces were there to save them. Michael's wife called me first with the bad news that they had been hit and then with the good news that he was okay. I just cried and cried. When they asked me why I was crying, I said that it was because he was safe. I was just so happy that he was safe." Rice spoke with her son via telephone soon after his accident. She said that he told her that he

was sure that God was watching over him during the attack. Says Rice, "Michael was in good spirits and laughing. He sounded like his old self. Just like my 'Dennis-the-Menace.' That's what I used to call him. He said that he needs to get back into a plane. He doesn't want to come home until it is all over with."

Flying is Michael's great passion. After graduating from John A. Holmes High School in 1987, he went immediately into the Army. After serving in Desert Storm, Williams decided that he wanted to become both a commissioned officer and a pilot. He entered the Green to Gold ROTC program at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Kentucky and received a degree in political science. Will-

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EHC donates funds for restoration

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Managing Editor

Possibly the most famous photograph of Edenton shows a set of Revolutionary War cannons facing the waterfront, with the Barker House overlooking the water. Now, the Edenton Historical Commission is leading a long-term preservation effort to make sure those cannons continue to stand watch over the waterfront for years to come.

In keeping with their mission, Chairman Ben Rose and Vice-Chairman Peter Rascoe announced that the EHC has donated \$1,000 toward the cost of restoring and preserving them.

Chairman Rose explained, "Recently the Edenton Historical Commission was able to have a professional cannon pathologist examine the condition of the existing 19th century cast iron cannon tubes that exist in the town. Since a number of the cannon tubes



Edenton Historical Commission Chairman Ben Rose, left, and Vice-Chairman Peter Rascoe, are leading an effort to have have Edenton's cannons restored. (Staff photo by Bud Weagly)

are often photographed and published in nationwide media as images of our town, the commission feels their long-term preservation is imperative."

"A day's time on the part of a staff historian and cannon

pathologist from the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Va was recently donated to the commission for this examination," he continued. "Observed, of course, was continuing rust of all of these cast iron pieces (seven are

owned by the Town of Edenton, and one privately). "At least two tubes are on display in vertical positions anchored in the ground, which can cause 'iron rot'. The smallest, a Brit-

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Elizabeth Bryant

Bryant new head of planning dept.

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL
Staff Writer

Elizabeth Bryant was hired as the new Director of Planning and Inspections of Edenton and Chowan County. Bryant started her new posi-

tion on May 22.

"I'm excited to be in Edenton," says Bryant. "I've already been captured by the town's beauty. Everyone has been extremely welcoming. I

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