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Family farm tradition still going strong in Chowan County

BY ANGELA PEREZ
Staff Writer

North Carolina's produce season peaks in July. Nowhere is this more evident than in northeastern North Carolina. As you travel through the area, you will see any number of local farmers markets and roadside produce stands displaying bins filled with fresh cantaloupes, cucumbers, sweet corn, watermelons, tomatoes, squash and beans. Although it is true that many of this year's crops have been or will be planted late due to an overly rainy and cool spring, there is an abundance of summer fruits



West Small and brother Leonard Small Jr. examine their crop at Va. Fork Produce Company. (Angela Perez photo)

and vegetables.

In Chowan County, local farmers supply most of these farmers markets and roadside produce stands, guaranteeing fresher, better tasting produce. While it is true that each year there are fewer and fewer farms, Chowan County's economy still relies heavily on agriculture as one of its biggest industries in a population estimated at 14,492. In addition to produce, Chowan County is a large producer of peanuts and cotton, some soybeans and corn, and a small amount of tobacco and small

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Sandy Point development plans outlined

The Fund for Sandy Point North Carolina, LLC (a North Carolina limited liability company and the wholly owned subsidiary of The Fund for New Urbanism, LLC), has announced that it has contracted for acquisition of 927 acres in Chowan County. The property, which abuts the north shore of the Albemarle Sound, is eight miles east of the historic Town of Edenton. State Route 32 and the three-mile-long Albemarle Sound Bridge intersect the site, known locally as Sandy Point.

The Fund for New Urbanism is a real estate development company that was organized in 2002 by principals of the architectural and land planning firm of Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company (DPZ) in Miami, FL, and a group of development

and financial professionals. The mission of the fund is the development of real estate projects exemplifying New Urban practice in communities seeking alternatives to suburban sprawl, and to that end, it draws on DPZ's experience in designing over 200 New Urban communities worldwide. Moreover, rather than reach out to landowners directly, the fund has sought the counsel of local municipal officials and development consultants, a strategy intended to lead the fund into markets where planning officials and the leading development professionals demonstrate the desire and capacity for smart growth.

The project announced today, Sandy Point, was intro-

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Collin Small and Marjie Hollowell of Edenton discuss the fresh fruits of summer at Wilbur R. Bunch's Produce Stand #2. (Staff photo by Angela Perez)

Bunch Produce opens 2nd stand

BY ANGELA PEREZ
Staff Writer

Just over four weeks ago, the Wilbur R. Bunch Produce Stand #2 opened up for business. Continuing a long-standing family tradition of selling quality produce, Keith Bunch followed in his father's footsteps and opened the family's second produce stand. The first stand is a well-known Chowan County staple in

Rocky Hock. The brand new open air, wooden building is located on 32 South, Yeopim Road, about two miles from downtown Edenton going towards the Albemarle Sound Bridge. Keith says that business is doing well with a small but steadily growing clientele. Keith's father, Wilbur, comments with a laugh, "He's doing better

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Edenton officer, PD focus of suit

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL
Staff Writer

Former Chowan County resident Tristan Spencer has filed a lawsuit against the Edenton Police Department and police officer, Denise

Wilder, claiming they did not protect him from an attack during an arrest three years ago.

Spencer alleges that Officer Wilder, who still works for the

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Commissioners okay Williamson Memorial plans

Planned site located on the Green

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL
Staff Writer

The Chowan County Commissioners approved plans for a Hugh Williamson Memorial to be placed on the courthouse green during their Monday morning meeting. Williamson, an Edenton native, was a signer of the United States Constitution. According to Judge Boyle, who presented the Hugh Williamson Memorial Committee's proposal, the monument would add to Edenton's historic value since



This sketch shows the proposed design for a Hugh Williamson Memorial, which would be located on the Courthouse Green in Edenton.

Edenton is the only county in North Carolina to have both a Declaration of Independence signer and a Constitution signer. The white granite monument will be placed near the Joseph Hewes Memorial. The Committee's next step is to obtain funding to complete the project.

Holladay Island was approved for purchase through the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. The property appraised at \$11,600 is 216 acres of undeveloped land and is located a little over a mile from the Cannon's Ferry Riverwalk area. According to Consultant Peter Rascoe, the island will be used for recreational purposes such as camping and will be an excellent place for nature education studies. Rascoe further

noted that the purchase would prevent the land from being developed into a commercial area.

The Commissioners also passed the resolution that the Register of Deeds Office will no longer accept deeds transferring real property unless taxes are certified paid by the tax administrator. This provision basically ensures that any estate's attorney guarantees that taxes and fees will be paid.

Other business during the meeting included Julian Miller's appointment to the Workforce Development Board and the town manager's report. The County Commissioners have scheduled a public hearing on 6:00 p.m. August 8 rd regarding the Community Development Block Grant.



Filing for re-election

Councilman Jimmy E. Stallings, Councilman for the First Ward in Edenton, was the first to file for re-election on opening day of the filing period. Looking on as Councilman Stallings signs the necessary form are Director of Elections Rebecca Lowe, Mrs. Stallings, daughters Jennifer and Amy, and Clerk of Superior Court Mike McArthur. Others who have filed for re-election are Mayor Roland Vaughan, Councilman at Large Steve Biggs, and Ward Two Councilman Samuel B. Dixon. Filing ends at noon Aug. 1.

Herald receives top state honor

Former Staff Writer, Helen Outland, along with Production Manager Deborah Collins and Publisher, David Crawley recently accepted a special First Place recognition award presented to *The Chowan Herald* by The American Legion Department of North Carolina.

Edenton Post 40 Commander, Ron Green presented the award at Tuesday night's meeting.

The prestigious award is given annually to News Media that excels in coverage of news and information regarding efforts, programs and activities carried out by the American Legion.

The impressive first place winning entry was compiled and submitted by Horace Toppin, Post 40 Historian.

The award is given based on entries submitted by local Posts within the communities



Former Chowan Herald Staff Writer Helen Kerr Outland (far right), along with Production Manager Debbie Collins (left) and Publisher David Crawley (second from left) accept a special First Place recognition award presented to the newspaper by American Legion Post 40 Commander Ron Green. Outland also received individual recognition.

served and is awarded according to the plaque "for contributions to the public understand-

ing of the goals and objectives of the American Legion." Outland also received special

recognition as the primary contributor to the collection of

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