

Fish

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He continued, "It does look like a piranha with all those teeth, but piranha can't survive in our waters. Once the weather turns cold, piranha would quickly die. They're a tropical species, needing warm water year round."

Apparently, it's the row of upper and lower teeth that causes people to confuse the pacu with the piranha. However, the pacu's teeth appear more human-like, straight across with most distinguishable tips. On the other hand, the teeth of a piranha are pointed on the ends, making them appear more along the lines of teeth found in sharks.

Confirmed sources revealed that the fish Farmer reeled in last week on the Chowan River was indeed a pacu. Because of its shape, eyes and red underbelly — not to mention its teeth — a pacu is often confused with a piranha.

A member of the Characidae family, the Piaractus Brachyomus (pacu, for short) is indigenous to the tropics — South America, Amazon Basin and Orinoco Basin. Most likely, this particular species of fish caught by local anglers were once housed in a private aquarium, as referred to by Worrell.

The red-belly pacu is a powerful swimmer. It's considered an omnivore and will feed on a variety of things. It will consume large pellets, cichlid, vegetables, plants, nuts, insects and small fish.

Catches of pacu have been reported among anglers in 16 states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas and Virginia. The previous reported catch in North Carolina was in an Iredell County lake in 1991.

The earliest recorded catch of a pacu in a non-indigenous environment was in the Town Lake of Austin, Texas in 1980. The state of Texas has reported the most catches (8).



Local farmer Bill Monds was the first to stop a cotton boll during the 2003 growing season. The first blossoms here were spotted July 7. (Photo courtesy of Mike Williams)

1st cotton bloom spotted

BY MIKE WILLIAMS
County Extension Director

Local farmer Bill Monds found the first reported cotton boll for the 2003 growing season. Blossoms were first spotted July 7 which is about 2 weeks later than first blooms reported in previous years. This is a result of the prolonged periods of cloudy, rainy and cool weather this area experienced during April, May and part of June.

Most of the Chowan County

cotton crop is in the ground by May 15, but this was not the case this year. Even cotton planted on time fell behind because of the adverse weather conditions. This can impact final yields because the bloom period is reduced. Blossoms that appear from now until August 20 have the potential to make a mature cotton boll but there are many things that can interfere with this process. Developing bolls can drop or be damaged by drought, extended periods of cloudiness or rain and various types of insect dam-

age. Cotton blooming now will have a 5 to 6 week bloom period but much of this year's cotton crop will be limited to only 3 to 4 weeks of bloom period due to the weather and late planting. The potential for good yields is still there but conditions during this time need to be very favorable for plant growth for all blooms to develop into mature cotton bolls.

Blossoms occurring after August 20 are usually damaged or killed by frost before they can mature.

Chamber of Commerce honored with state award

The Edenton - Chowan Chamber of Commerce was honored with a 2003 Employment Security Commission (ESC) Employer Award June 25 during an evening reception at the North Carolina State University Club.

ESC Chairman Harry E. Payne Jr. presented the award to Richard Bunch, executive director, one of 82 employers receiving an award for exceptional contribution to the North Carolina economy, through new business, business expansion, business innovation, community involvement, and partnership with the ESC and its local workforce development associates.

"The employers that we honor this year have made a positive economic impact on their communities, either through job creation, business expansion or work force development," said Payne. More importantly, they offered hope and renewal during a time when North Carolina experienced one of the most debilitating recessions in decades."

The award winners and their guests were extended greetings from the North Carolina General Assembly by the Hon. Martin L. Nesbitt Jr. (House of Representatives,

District 114, Buncombe County) and the Hon. Connie K. Wilson (House of Representatives, District 104, Mecklenburg County). Other members of the General Assembly were also in attendance to extend their personal congratulations to this outstanding array of employers.

The ESC Employer Awards were first given in 1987. Local

and regional ESC management staffs, together with local Job Service Committee leadership, select the award winners. Currently, there is a Job Service Employer Committee (JSEC) in each of North Carolina's 100 counties.



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Money

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the store level is sent to the police station where a follow-up investigation is done to determine the origin of the bill(s).

One recent investigation has resulted in the arrest of 39-year-old James Monroe White of 118 West Freemason Street, Edenton. White was charged with misdemeanor common law uttering for possession of a one hundred-dollar counterfeit bill and placed under \$500 unsecured bond. White was arrested for allegedly trying to pass the bill at Super Ten in Edenton on June 16. The cashier identified the bill as a fake and quickly called police. White claims that he received

the bill from an individual who found an envelope of seven or eight one-hundred-dollar bills on the North side of Edenton. The individual is currently being investigated.

Bonner also states that there are several ways businesses can detect counterfeit bills.

"Most of the bills look phony," Bonner says. "Many of them have the same serial numbers and they will not have a security strip."

Most of the bills confiscated have been manufactured through a computer process. If it is proven that a person manufactured counterfeit bills he or she will be charged with a felony. For additional information or to report known counterfeit activity, call the Edenton Police Department at 482-5144.

Session

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cal UPS office. He asked Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton what could be done to force the property owner to take responsibility for making sure the area is mowed regularly.

Knighton said that she and her staff were keeping a close eye on the situation, and were contacting those property owners where there was a problem.

Stallings also inquired about the tall grass he had observed around the site of the former IGA grocery store. Knighton said the new owners of that property had been notified and had already had the grass mowed. She added that she believed they have hired someone to take care of that responsibility on a regular basis in

the future.

"They were extremely cooperative," she said.

The Council also acted on several other matters Tuesday night. Based on a positive recommendation from the Public Works Committee, the Council agreed to award a bid to Twin States Equipment, Inc. for purchase of a street sweeper. Council also agreed to award a bid to Virginia Public Works Equipment Company for purchase of a Vector Jet Vac.

Council members also adopted a resolution fixing Aug. 12 as the state of a public hearing for proposed EIC annexation. The hearing will be held the same evening as the next monthly Council meeting.

To stay informed about upcoming events, read the Herald weekly

Expo

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ag plots at the Albemarle Learning Center where a viewing of asparagus, specialty melons, tomatoes (resistant to tomato spotted wilt virus), sunflowers, kenaf and summer forages will take place.

A sponsored meal will be provided for all attendees. To RSVP (by July 21st) or get more information call 482-6585.

Read the Herald weekly and stay informed about upcoming events

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write answers here and turn them in to
The Chowan Herald - 421 S. Broad Street

LAST WEEKS TRIVIA Q AND A!

Q. Who was originally cast as Indiana Jones but had a prior commitment to a television series?
A. Tom Sellic (The show was Magnum, P.I.)
MARSHALL BUNN OF EDENTON

Taylor's MOVIE THEATER

RULES:

- The name with the correct answer that is drawn will receive two tickets to the movie of their choice.
- Employees or family members of Taylor's Movie Theater or The Chowan Herald are ineligible to win.
- One winner per week.
- One winner per household per month.
- The winners are decided on a first come basis. First correct answer submitted wins.
- Winners name will be submitted in The Chowan Herald along with the answer. Winners may pick up prize voucher from the Chowan Herald.

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