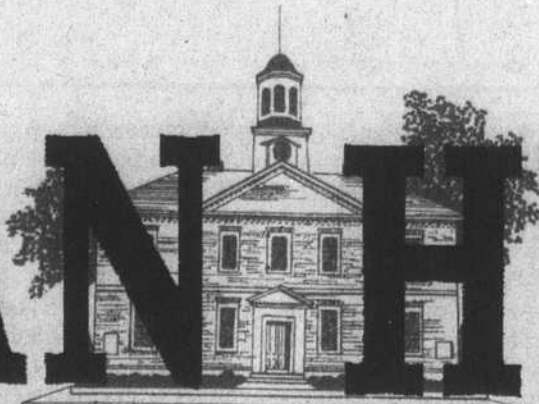


# THE CHOWAN HERALD

Wednesday, April 7, 2004



Vol. LXXI, No. 14

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

Single Copies 50¢

## Commissioners look at expansion

BY EARLINE WHITE  
Staff Writer

At the Commissioner's meeting on Monday, April 5, the topic of Edenton's expansion echoed through every presentation. Elizabeth Bryant with the Planning and Inspections report informed the Board of the three-proposed subdivisions that will be erected on Macedonia Road, Morris Lane, and Tip Toe Road respectively. Commissioner Ralph Cole gave a brief talk on the North Carolina's Northeast Tourism Conference that he attended in March. He returned with figures about North Carolina; \$32.8 million are brought to NC daily through the tourism industry, making NC the 6th largest tourist state in the country. He also reported that Hwy. 17 out of Chesapeake is 30% complete, with the final date being set for 2006.

Every growing area is con-

See EXPANSION Page 3-A



Staff photo by Earline White

Chowan County Commission chair Louis Belfield, right, presents Willie Boone a plaque in recognition of his assistance during the storm debris cleanup after Hurricane Isabel. Boone supervised the monitoring of the cleanup contractors, as required by FEMA, during the recovery.

## Navy to halt some activities related to OLF

BY BETH HALL  
Cox NC Publications

RALEIGH - The Navy, in a letter to the federal court, has agreed to hold off on some land acquiring and construction activities at a proposed outlying landing field (OLF) in Washington County.

The letter stated the Navy would not take any condemnation actions against landowners, award any construction contracts or make new offers to landowners, who were not contacted before March 30.

"This is definitely a step in the right direction," said Kiran Mehta, a Kennedy Covington attorney who represents anti-OLF plaintiffs. "The Navy should be commended."

"To an extent, this is a positive response," said Brian Roth, Plymouth mayor, a vocal opponent of the Navy's efforts to build an OLF on 33,000 acres in Washington and Beaufort counties, next to the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.

Plaintiffs in two lawsuits against the Navy's plans asked for an injunction to halt Navy activity on the OLF project until the lawsuit was settled. The hearing for the injunction was held last Tuesday in Eastern N.C. federal court before Judge Terrence Boyle.

After several hours of remarks on both sides, Boyle said at the hearing "it will take some time to digest the material." He urged the Navy to keep "the status quo" and

suggested he would issue a temporary restraining order, if necessary, to limit Navy activity while he considered whether or not to issue an injunction.

The plaintiff in one lawsuit is a coalition of conservation groups, and the plaintiffs in the other lawsuit are the two counties involved.

Roth said he saw the Navy's letter, filed Friday, as an acknowledgement of Boyle's comments at the injunction hearing.

However, the letter agreement made an exception for one controversial activity - continued negotiation with landowners the Navy already has contacted. Roth said he understood that there were 15 landowners in the core area, part of the OLF's phase one, with whom the Navy could continue to negotiate, before the injunction decision is handed down.

"I don't think that's in keeping with the judge's intent," the mayor said.

An injunction would create a "standstill so that the record could be brought current" and "halt further development" until there is a full hearing on the lawsuits, explained Boyle at the hearing.

"I hope the Navy respects folks who say they don't want to talk to them during this period," commented Mehta.

At the hearing, the plaintiffs questioned the OLF's impact on wildlife at the refuge and argued that the Navy has not completed thorough studies on the OLF's environmental impact.

## Corrections officers are charged with vandalism

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

A pair of correctional officers with a Hertford County federal prison were arrested recently for going on an alleged vandalism spree in Edenton.

Benjamin Albert Smithwick, 26, of 216 Elm Grove Road, Colerain, and Dale Joel Tann Jr., 25, of 409 Cofield Road, Ahoskie, were arrested March 24. Both were charged with injury to real property and injury to personal property. Smithwick and Tann, both employed at Rivers Cor-

rectional Institution in Winton, are believed to have used a slingshot loaded with steel balls to damage businesses and vehicles in Edenton and Chowan County.

Edenton police were tipped about the vandals. Law enforcement pursued the men after the late-afternoon spree, with the Gates County Sheriff's Department finally stopping the pair, police Chief Greg Bonner said.

They are scheduled to appear in a Chowan County courtroom April 27.

Neither Smithwick nor Tann offered any plausible ex-

planation for their alleged actions, Bonner said.

"They had no particular reason why they were doing it," Bonner said. "It's the kind of thing you would expect of a teenager... They had a total disregard for the properties of others, no doubt about that."

Windows of businesses and vehicles were damaged during the late-day spree. Targeted Edenton businesses included Hobbs Implement Company, Edenton Tractor, Rochelle Cleaners, and John A. Holmes High School. Cars were tar-

See CHARGED Page 3-A



Tanner Bloom



Hawkins Gagnon

## Students selected

Two John A. Holmes High School students received news last week of their selection to attend the Governor's School of North Carolina.

Rising seniors Tanner Bloom and Hawkins Gagnon will attend the school from June 13 until July 24. Gagnon will attend Governor's School East, at Meredith College in Raleigh where he will study natural science. Bloom will attend Governor's School West, at Salem College in Winston-Salem where she will study English. They will join 800 other Governor's School selectees from around the state.

The Governor's School of North Carolina is the oldest statewide summer residential program for academically or intellectually gifted high school students in the nation. The program is open to rising seniors.

"These students are exemplary of hard work and good

See STUDENTS On 3-A



Staff photo by Earline White

Workers make repairs to the roof of the Northeast Partnership building on the Edenton waterfront. After a nearly seven month relocation to Williamston caused by heavy damage to the building from Hurricane Isabel, the staff of the Partnership returned to occupy the building in late March while restoration continued.

## Partnership back on waterfront

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

Rick Watson likes Williamston, but he's loving being back in Edenton.

Watson, executive director of the Northeast Partnership,

and his colleagues were driven out of their Edenton offices by Hurricane Isabel in September. The state-funded economic development team relocated to Williamston while their storm-battered building on West Water Street was repaired.

"We were thrilled that we were able to use the telecenter in Martin County," Watson said Tuesday, "but we are delighted to be back in this facility."

After a nearly seven-month absence, they returned to

Edenton in the last week of March, hooking up computers and phones, working from card tables. Over the past weekend the furniture arrived. By Monday, operations were at 99 per-

See BACK On Page 3-A

## 64 Teams, 63 Games, and 3 Winners?

The Chowan Herald along with local businesses sponsored the first ever *Road To Prediction* contest where readers picked the winners in the NCAA Tournament. The reader with the most correct answers was to be the winner and recipient of the \$100 grand prize.

However, there was a three-way tie. The following winners will split the prize money: Lawrence Tibbetts, Allison Tibbetts, and Wayne Procter.

### INSIDE THIS WEEK

Dapper named Steamers GM.....1-D



Amateur artists take painting class.....1-C

Early College saves money.....3-C

Red Apple Rewards program starts.....5-A

**WATERFRONT PARK, EDENTON on SATURDAY, APRIL 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM - 1 PM**

**EASTER CELEBRATION**

- EGG HUNT
- FACE PAINTING
- OPTIMIST CLUB TRAIN RIDES
- CAKE WALK
- GAMES WITH PRIZES
- ENTERTAINMENT
- Open to the public

The story of Easter