

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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## Industry grant received

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

The Northeast Economic Development Foundation has received a \$121,250 grant to certify potential industrial sites, and Rick Watson believes it will help push development along.

Watson, president and CEO of the Edenton-based Northeast Partnership, said Tuesday that the grant — handed down by the Golden LEAF Foundation — is "one of the most important grants that the northeast region (of North Carolina) receives."

Six sites will be affected by the grant. A 100-acre site is located adjacent to Northeast Regional Airport, just south of Edenton. The grant will help with costs for certification of the park.

Specifically, Watson said, the monies will be used for environmental testing. Often, he said, a client is eager to develop a site and land is not properly tested for environmental compatibility — especially since environmental regulations have stiffened in recent years.

"This (grant) enables us to get through a first phase (of development) and know that the site is genuinely useable," Watson said, "so the client will not be disappointed."

The Partnership has already certified eight to 10 sites in the past couple of years, Watson added.

The Golden LEAF Foundation is equally pleased to be able to help create jobs in the northeast.

"Job creation is a high priority for the Golden LEAF Board of Directors," Valeria Lee, Golden LEAF president, said in a June 28 press release. The board, Lee said, recog-

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## Splish Splash



Photo for The Chowan Herald by Bud Weagly

Rain puddles provided a fun place to play during the July 4th festivities on the Edenton waterfront. Sponsored by the Chowan-Edenton Optimist Club, the event featured lots for kids to do include pony rides and rides aboard the Optimist Club train. A spectacular fireworks display topped off the day's events.

## School board moves to alter current rules

BY EARLINE WHITE  
Staff Writer

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education met Monday, June 28 to discuss the renovation update, financial report and the high school alternative program.

Dr. Allan Smith reported on the new alternatives to long-term and short-term suspension and second chance alternative to replace the current programs. The revision was prompted by the need to reduce the number of students out of school. "The current program operates during school hours but does not meet the needs. The revision will move toward those who need help, not just behavioral problems," Smith said.

Under the alternative to long-term suspension, students will report to class at 2 p.m. until 5:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday. A possible three credits per semester may be earned while under the supervision of an assistant or

two teachers, depending on the time. Teachers (1 English and 1 Math) will work each day and change groups of students around 4:30 or will work 2 days per week. This program is aimed toward those students assigned long-term suspension (more than 10 school days) who are not a threat to the safety of others. There were 8 students in the 2003-2004 school year who fell under this program.

Second chance alternative is for students who have not been successful during the regular school day due to a combination of reasons; primarily students who are repeating 9th grade. These students will report to third period as usual and stay at school until 5:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday and on Friday until 3 p.m. A total of four credits may be earned during the semester. Twenty-two freshmen did not go into the 10th grade in the 2003-2004 school year.

The alternative to short-

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## Roads Program to be discussed on July 12

North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Division Engineer Don Conner and Division staff members will meet with the Chowan County Board of Commissioners in the Chowan County Courthouse in Edenton Monday, July 12, at 9 a.m., to discuss the county's 2004-2005 Secondary Roads Improvement Program.

A copy of the proposed Secondary Improvement Program, together with a map, is posted in the Chowan County Courthouse in Edenton.

All interested persons are invited to attend the meeting.

## Chowan hits bottom in number of Hispanic voters

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

Chowan County is tied for the bottom in North Carolina among counties with Hispan-

ics registered to vote.

Just one of the county's 8,735 registered voters is Hispanic — less than one-tenth of one percent. The 2000 Census counted 219 Hispanics in

Chowan, or 1.5 percent of the total population. Hispanics account for about 4.5 percent of the state population.

Voting may not be a high priority issue for newly arrived

Hispanics and Latinos, Maria Garcia, executive director of the Northeastern Community Development Corporation, said Monday.

"Right now we're trying to meet their other basic needs," said Garcia, whose agency works closely with Hispanics and Latinos, "such as housing ... They're just trying to earn some money and get decent housing ... We haven't gotten to that point yet" of urging Hispanics to register to vote.

Garcia, one of 266 Hispanics on Pasquotank County's voter rolls, wasn't surprised that

Chowan has just one registered Hispanic. Many of her agency's clients aren't yet eligible to vote.

"A lot of the clients I deal with don't even have Social Security numbers," she said.

Johnnie McLean, deputy director of the state Board of Elections, said a potential voter must first be a United States citizen.

"Some (Hispanics) may not have citizenship status," she said.

Axel Lluch, director of Hispanic affairs for the state of North Carolina, said the voter

registration process could itself be to blame for the fact that so few Hispanics are identified on voter rolls.

"In the past," Lluch said Friday, "the board of elections did not have a box (on registration forms) to classify (a voter) as Hispanic."

Ricardo Velasquez, president of the Hispanic Democrats of North Carolina, pointed out that there are both multigenerational Hispanics and Latinos who are native to the U.S., and first-generation

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Staff photo by Sean Jackson

## Shell Station closes its doors

A popular full-service gas station closed its doors June 29, yellow tape wrapped around its pumps, its windows darkened for the near future. The Edenton Shell Service station, located at the intersection of North Broad Street and Virginia Road, closed last Tuesday, town officials said last week. Sources have said the Winston-Salem-based owner of the property increased rent costs, forcing station owner Tommy Forehand to shut down his business. Forehand could not be reached for comment Tuesday. The station's closing leaves just one full-service gas station in Edenton, Bridge Turn Exxon, located at the intersection of West Queen and South Broad streets. Bridge Turn owner Ed Taylor said Tuesday that the case was much different 40 years ago. "At one time," said Taylor, who has been in the service station business for 43 years, "there were seven of them" in Edenton.

## Habitat meeting July 14 at Council Chambers

Chowan County residents are being urged to attend a meeting the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources has planned to gather public input on a series of recommendations for the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan — a plan to protect important coastal fish habitats.

Proposed steps include: improved enforcement of environmental rules, larger buffers and setbacks along waterways, and comprehensive state plans to direct beach re-nourishment projects and marina construction.

The meeting will take place Wednesday, July 14, at 7 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, 500 South Broad St., downtown Edenton. Everyone is welcome.

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