

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

Vol. LXXI, No. 37

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Single Copies 50¢

## Plans move forward to bring Boys/Girls Club here

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

Chet Emerson really knows trouble. He was in plenty of it as a kid. Now he wants to share his turning - a - life - around knowledge with Chowan County youths.

Emerson, executive director of Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeast Virginia, bluntly relayed the sordid events of his childhood to a group of business and civic leaders at Chowan Golf & Country Club last week. His alcoholic father died when he was six. His alcoholic mother turned to prostitution to support her eight children when Emerson was nine. Before his 10th birthday he ran away from home to ease her burden, settling on thievery to feed himself.

"I was a very bitter young man," he told the crowd of about 100 gathered for the proposed Edenton club's appreciation dinner.

By the age of 17, he'd spent



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

Chet Emerson, at left, executive director of Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeast Virginia, chats with Eric Gilliam, center, unit director of the Boys & Girls Club in Elizabeth City, and Deont'ae Williams, a part-time staffer with the Elizabeth City club, prior to Emerson's speech at the Chowan Golf & Country Club last week. Emerson has helped Edenton and Chowan officials bring one of the youth clubs to Edenton.

six years in youth halls. Then he crossed paths with the Boys & Girls Club in St. Paul, Minn., his hometown. One man helped steer him toward change and success.

"He knew there was magic in every person," Emerson said of his mentor.

Such mentors can change wayward lives for Chowan and Edenton youths, he added. Just ask Deont'ae Williams. The Newland teen is a freshman at Elizabeth City State University. He joined the organization when he was six. It kept him out of trouble. It gave him focus, discipline and the social skills needed in adult life, Williams said shortly before Emerson's speech.

"It kept me away from things in the neighborhood I didn't need to be around, things I didn't need to see," the 2004 Pasquotank County High School graduate said.

"I had coaches who were willing to teach me things and guide me," he said.

Eric Gilliam sees such success stories every day. The unit director of the Boys & Girls Club in Elizabeth City, Gilliam's mission is to keep kids safe and busy during after-school hours, when trouble often lurks.

"We love what we do," Gilliam said. "It's not just a 9-to-5 job."

The local club would be one of nearly 4,000 nationwide, Emerson said. The organization reaches nearly 3 million kids. Former members include baseball star Alex Rodriguez and Oscar-winning actor Denzel Washington. Both A-Rod and Washington appeared in a video Emerson played last Thursday night. Secretary of State Colin Powell also praised the club's programs in the 12-minute video.

"We need more mentors," Powell said. "We need more places like this."

Such was also the sentiment

See CLUB On Page 3-A

## City puts dogs on short leash

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

Owners of dogs labeled vicious will have to take steps to keep them in line with a new ordinance adopted by the Edenton Town Council last week.

During its Sept. 14 meeting, council adopted stringent guidelines that owners of vicious dogs must follow in order to keep such pets. In addition, council decided to ban vicious breeds from being kept in town by potential future owners.

"We have identified about seven residents where these dogs are kept now," Knighton said Tuesday. "We notified them prior to ordinance being adopted of proposal and now have notified them of new rules."

The breeds identified as "potentially dangerous" are: pit bull, chow chow, rottweiler, Staffordshire terrier. The town has "banned any of these species to be kept in town," Knighton said.

"We grandfathered, with strict rules, those dogs that are already here," she added.

The rules include: dog must be registered with the town,

See COUNCIL On Page 3-A

## IT'S FAIR TIME AGAIN



Chowan Herald file photo

Fun rides, educational exhibits, pageants, talent shows and musical entertainment will all be part of the annual Chowan County Regional Fair which opens at the American Legion Fairgrounds in Edenton Sept. 28 and continues through Oct. 2. Tickets are \$10 at the gate. Gates open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 5 p.m.; Thursday at 3:30 p.m. and Saturday at 1 p.m.



Chowan Herald file photo



Photo courtesy of Edenton Police Department

Cash, drugs and guns were seized at the home of Jessie Anton "Tink" Holley during a raid conducted Sept. 9. According to Edenton police, Holley eluded arrest by jumping out a window at his home earlier this month.

## Edenton PD seeking alleged drug dealer

BY EARLINE WHITE  
Staff Writer

Edenton police are looking for an alleged drug dealer who eluded arrest by jumping out a window during a raid on his East Albemarle Street home earlier this month.

Police raided the home of Jessie Anton "Tink" Holley, 22, of 203 E. Albemarle St. on Sept. 9. After obtaining a search warrant on the day of the raid, police were able to seize 62 grams of cocaine, a small amount of marijuana as well as paraphernalia and scales used for measuring drugs.

Police approached Holley at the home where he proceeded to run into the house, upstairs into the bedroom and lock the door. Officers forced open the door as Holley jumped headfirst out of the window. Holley fell 20-25 feet to the ground. Once he hit the ground, he fled on foot North on Oakum Street. Police were unable to apprehend him at the time.

Police recovered a semi-automatic machine gun and a .22 caliber rifle at the site.

Because the amount of co-

See DEALER On Page 3-A

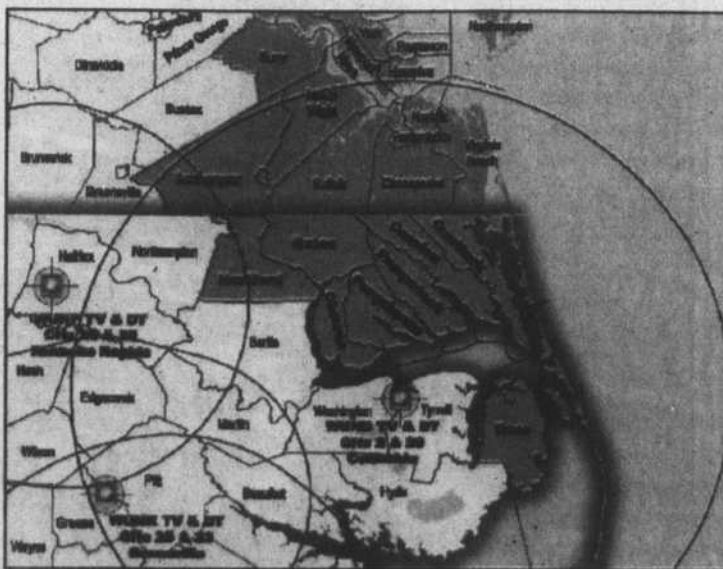
## UNC-TV wants Edenton as 'city of license' for station

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Managing Editor

Frustrated satellite TV subscribers who haven't been able to watch their favorite North Carolina PBS programs may get some relief in the future, thanks to a new proposal being pushed by UNC-TV.

The proposal, in the form of a petition now before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) would allow satellite viewers in Chowan, Gates, Hertford, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck and Dare counties access to the station.

As the FCC prepares to consider the petition, which would add Edenton as a city of license for UNC-TV, while re-



Satellite TV subscribers in northeastern North Carolina may be able to receive programming from the UNC-TV (PBS) station if the FCC agrees to make Edenton a "city of license".

moving Columbia, NC from that designation. Tom Howe, director and general manager for the station, is appealing to Chowan County residents to support the plan.

Howe said making the change would allow UNC into a direct marketing area (DMA) designated by the FCC which covers Virginia and parts of North Carolina, including Edenton. The rule would then allow satellite subscribers, who currently are only able to receive a signal that incorporates the Virginia PBS station to also receive the North Carolina PBS signal. Columbia is part of a direct marketing area that only covers North Carolina, and thus would not help UNC qualify to broadcast to

satellite recipients who live in northeastern North Carolina.

Howe pointed out that by only receiving the Virginia PBS programming, viewers in North Carolina are missing out on programs geared specifically to a Tarheel audience, such as *North Carolina Now*, *Legislative Week in Review*, *North Carolina Weekend* and *North Carolina People*.

Howe said he believes the change would have "an extremely positive impact" and urged those who support it to write letters relating to the petition now before the FCC. The letters, which must reach UNC-TV by Sept. 25, may be e-mailed to [thowe@uncvtv.org](mailto:thowe@uncvtv.org). For more information, call (919) 549-7000.

### INSIDE

- Calendar ..... A2
- Church ..... C5
- Classifieds ..... D1-4
- Editorials ..... A6
- Football Forecast .. B3
- Learning ..... C3
- Obituaries ..... C7
- Society ..... C2
- Sports ..... B1-4

On Page A8 . . .

**Barker House fundraiser is planned**