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Fair, Peanut Festival this week

Playworld Amusements has midway this year

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Managing Editor

The 57th annual Chowan County Regional Fair got underway last night incorporating old dates with a new midway. This year's fair, as assistant manager John Chilcoat explained, is being held during "its original time of year" - Sept. 28th through Oct. 2nd. "This week has always been the most successful and has also produced the best fairs," Chilcoat said. "The change could be made this year because a midway was found that could play those dates."

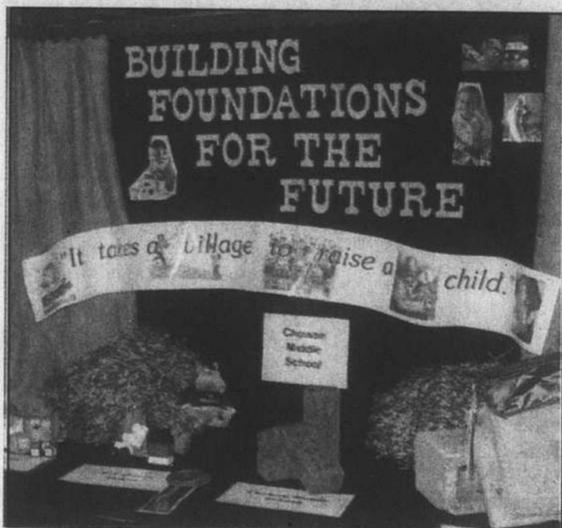
That midway, Playworld Amusements, according to Chilcoat, was established in

1985 and "has become one of the finest companies operating today. The customer is always their number one priority."

Midway entertainment is scheduled to include the Victoria Circus which features "The Sensational Murcias Highwire" and "The Victory Riders Motorcycle Globe of Death". Chilcoat said that returning acts would include the Marionette Star Theater, "a puppet show that delighted adults as well as youngsters last year."

Those visiting the fair on Wednesday will have the opportunity to enjoy a special treat as Buffalo Barfield's

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Chowan Herald file photo

Educational exhibits are a key component of the annual Chowan County Regional Fair which opened last night at the American Legion Fairgrounds.

Alleged drug dealer facing felony charges

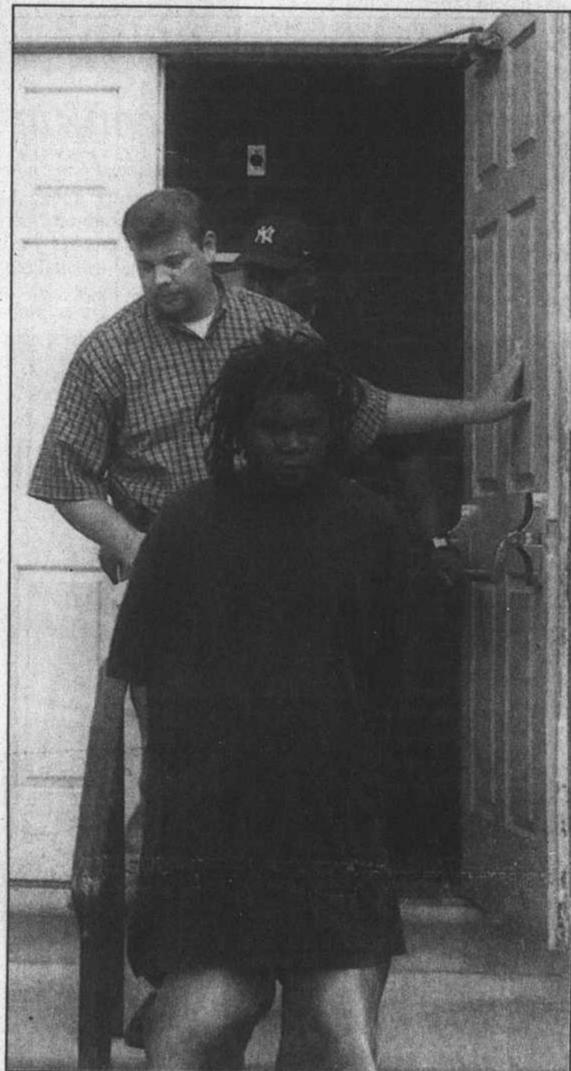


Photo by Bud Weagly for The Chowan Herald

Jesse Holley is accompanied by a local law enforcement officer on his way to the magistrate's office Monday morning. Holley is facing felony charges for alleged drug and firearms possession.

From staff reports

Monday morning at 11 a.m. officers from the Edenton Police Department, the Chowan County Sheriff's Office, and North Carolina Probation and Parole carried out a legal search of an Edenton residence, 314 West Church Street. At that time, Jesse Anton Holley, 23, was arrested on felony charges for trafficking in cocaine and firearm by felon.

The warrants stemmed from a search warrant on his

home at 314 West Church Street, Edenton, on Sept. 9 where officers recovered three ounces of crack cocaine and an M-11 sub-machine gun.

The Edenton police have contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of federal charges.

Det. Aaron Davidson and Det. Dwight Rawlins of the Edenton Police Dept. were the lead investigators.

Holley was placed in the Chowan County Jail under a \$160,000 secured bond.



Chowan Herald file photo

The Peanut Festival kicks off this Saturday with a fantastic parade in downtown Edenton

'Battle of Bands' a key draw

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

The 29th annual Peanut Festival will take place October 2 at John A. Holmes High School. The Peanut Festival is sponsored by the Edenton Band Parents Association

See PEANUT On Page 3-A

Indictment returned in murder

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A Chowan County Grand Jury handed down a true bill of indictment against William Joseph Moore on Sept. 7, charging Moore with first-degree murder in the Aug. 17 slaying of Edenton resident Pam Virzi.

The indictment will send Moore's case directly to superior court. The next court session in Chowan begins Nov. 1.

Moore is being held in Central Prison in Raleigh without bond, awaiting trial.

Head Start works to reopen

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

The Head Start program, recently shut down by lack of funds, is showing signs of life and is hoping to be back in place by 2005.

The Head Start program is funded by federal monies and serves ten counties including Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrell, and Washington. Head Start provides preschool children of low-income families with programs to meet their emotional, social, nutritional, and psychological needs.

However, due to growing population, the Chowan Coun-

ty Head Start has not been operational this year. Prior to this year, the program was housed at the old D. F. Walker campus, now owned by COA. The EIC was given notice last year that COA needed the space to build a parking lot. Parents were informed of this move and were asked to make plans accordingly.

The organization's plan was to move the modular from Walker to White Oak school. Because of new state codes, moving and renovating the current modular would be more expensive than initially thought.

The EIC has purchased property on Hwy. 32 North, and continue to seek funds to move and

renovate the modular unit to the new site. Meanwhile, 20 of the 60 children previously served by the Head Start program are being taught at the White Oak school. But the ever-growing number of students will push out even those 20 by the end of this year. So, when 2005 rolls around the students will once again be displaced.

"We have applied for grant and filed applications to get this situation corrected," said Doris James, Head Start Director. "Hopefully by January 2005 we will be serving the children of Chowan County in one building. Unfortunately, we

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City can't see the lights

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

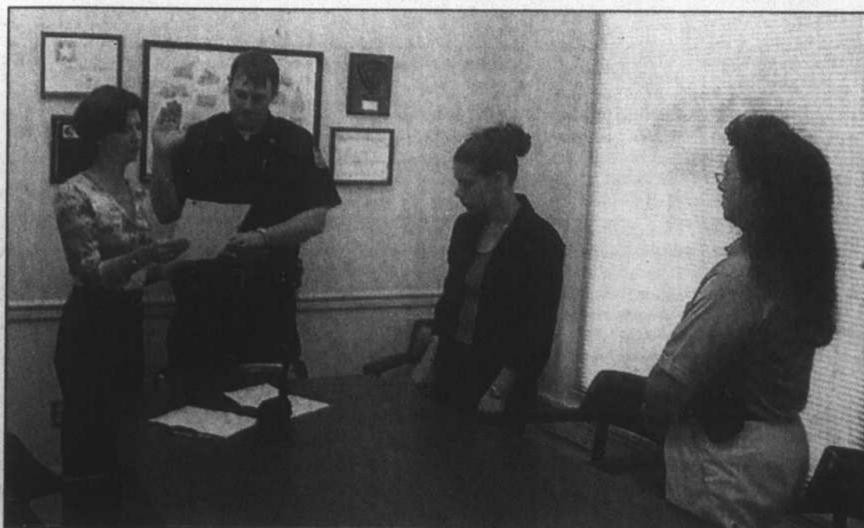
Twinkling Christmas lights make anything and everywhere seem magical. During the holiday season white lights are strung on every tree and wreaths hung on every door. However historic Edenton's sidewalks will not be lined with twinkling trees this year to the dismay of many of its citizens.

"The existing electrical system is at least 30 years old," explained Bill Potts, Line Supervisor for the Town of Edenton. "The breakers and the wiring are not suitable to handle the load of Christmas lights on the trees. Plus, it's the wrong kind of tree to be putting lights on. The trees are too big. For it to look nice you'd have to put up a whole bunch

of lights on each tree. And you know what happens-one light goes out and the whole line goes dark. We tried to put lights downtown once before. It took over three hours to put them up. Then we had to stay downtown for the next seven days. The strain on the system kept tripping the breaker. Every time a breaker trips, it weakens for the next trip. The system we use now was put in years ago for incandescent lights. We can't put the Christmas lights up for fear of overloading the system," Potts said.

The lights that would adorn the trees would have to be hooked up to the current street light system. Streetlights provide the only outlet source available downtown. Placing lights in the trees would be a

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Staff photo by Sean Jackson

Swearing-in of officers held

At left, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton swears in new Edenton police officers Craig Davenport and Nicole Gardner at Town Hall on Sept. 8. On hand for the swearing-in was Det. Sgt. Rhonda Copeland, far right. Davenport and Gardner bring the department to a 16-officer total, more officers than the town has ever had, Copeland said.

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'Jurassic Art' comes of age at Chowan fair