

THE CHOWAN HERALD

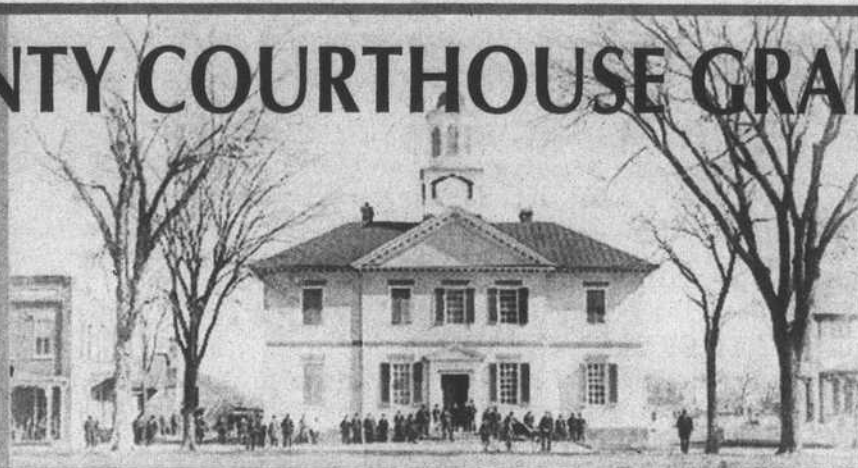
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Wednesday, October 6, 2004

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CHOWAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE GRAND RE-OPENING

- Historic Special Edition
- Grand Re-Opening Gala set for this weekend
- Dignitaries to visit for ceremonies



- Courthouse among key Colonial sites
- Courthouse Green - Celebration central
- A walk through history, a day in court

Sign-up for voters is ending

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Chowan County residents will join state and national voters heading to the polls for the Nov. 2 general elections.

But they'll have to register to cast ballots by 5 p.m. Friday, when voter registration ends. Registration is being done at the Chowan County Board of Elections office at 108 E. King St. in Edenton. One-stop, "no excuse" voting begins at 8 a.m. on Oct. 14. Those ballots are also available at the elections office in Edenton. One-stop voting ends Oct. 30, a Saturday, at 1 p.m., elections director Rennie Harrington said.

Requests for absentee ballots can be made through Oct. 26. Those ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on Nov. 1.

Locally, four Chowan County Board of Commissioners seats will be up for grabs. Three incumbents are seeking re-election to the county board, while long-time Commissioner George Jones is retiring. Republican Bill Gardner Jr. and Democrat Dossey Pruden are vying to replace Jones for the board's District 2 post.

District 1 Commissioner Harry Lee Winslow is being challenged by Libertarian John Sams. District 3 Commissioner Ralph Cole is facing challenger George Bradham. Jerry Downum is seeking to retain his at-large seat against Libertarian challenger Robin Sams.

In addition, state legislature, gubernatorial, congressional,

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Aces' scoring splurge downs Bears, 26-21.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

BY BOB MONTGOMERY
Cox NC Publications

They played for more than peanuts, and there were no losers Saturday at the 29th annual Peanut Festival held during both rain and shine at Hicks Field in Edenton.

White Oak High School Band took top honors as the best overall band — with the highest vote totals — while Manteo High School grabbed second and Gates County High third among the 11 bands that participated in the annual "Battle of the Bands" competition, sponsored by the Edenton-Chowan Band Parents Association since the first event in the fall of 1976.

At least \$8,000 and perhaps as much as \$10,000 was raised by the association, and a crowd estimated between 2,000 to 3,000 was present throughout the same day the Chowan County Regional Fair was being held.

Perquimans High School Band grabbed top honors in the parade competition, while Northeastern High garnered second place.

The Marvin Shaw showmanship award went to Perquimans High School for best overall performance.

"We had a pretty good turnout being as hot as it is," said Lois Byrum, vice-president of the band association. "We had a light shower, but we prevailed. The clouds split around us all day long."

A parade kicked off Peanut Festival events Saturday morning in downtown Edenton. Vendors set up around



Contributed photo by Lois Byrum/Edenton-Chowan Band Parents

A piccolo player and a couple of bass drummers make some sweet music during the annual Edenton Peanut Festival "Battle of the Bands" Saturday afternoon. They are members of the Northside High School Band from Jacksonville, NC. Northside won third place honors in the Class AAA division.

the football stadium throughout the day, and witnessed a steady crowd of band families and fans.

It was a very warm and muggy day, but intervals of clouds and a steady breeze kept it bearable, participants said. Skies darkened and a brief shower erupted during a mid-afternoon performance by

White Oak High School, and caused several umbrellas to pop up in the stadium, but minutes later the sun was back out and umbrellas put away.

"It's fun," said James Dunlap of Jacksonville, a bus driver for White Oak High School, who covered his head with a program during the brief downpour.

"It's been a great day for the family," said vendor Anne Hare of Tyner, whose husband, daughter and two granddaughters helped sell peanuts and peanut brittle under a weather tarp. "The bands have been excellent."

Hare said the Peanut Festi-

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County initiates cell phone petition

From staff reports

Chowan County government is initiating a petition drive for improved cell phone service in our community and is urging citizens to sign up.

Nancy Morgan, administrative assistant to County Manager Clif Copeland, told the Chowan Herald Monday that circumstances experienced during and after Hurricane Isabel last year made it obvious something needed to be done, and that the county has been working to address the issue ever since.

"During the response and recovery following Hurricane Isabel," Morgan said, "county employees and citizens realized the limited cell phone service provided to Chowan County, especially in the sectors of the county north and south of Edenton, was not only a matter of the inconvenience previously experienced, but a public safety issue as well."

Morgan added that the problem hasn't gone away over the past year even as the community has recovered in other ways. "Public safety providers continue to experience the lack of service when communicating from the northern end of the county and from the

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Town faces decision on uses for waterfront land

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A pair of Pembroke Circle landowners have applied for a federal buyout program, leaving the town to decide what to do with the waterfront properties.

The Edenton Town Council will hold a public hearing on the issue at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 12, seeking input on whether or not residents prefer an open, public space at the storm-damaged site.

Lots 113 and 115 in Pembroke Circle were flooded by Hurricane Isabel last September. Their owners have applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency buyout dollars.

The grant program would allow the town to acquire the

properties through deeds, once they have been bought and cleared out, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said Friday. FEMA pays 75 percent of those costs, the agency's Web site states.

"Staff thinks the property would be an ideal addition to the town's greenway plan," Knighton said, "wonderful open space, right on the water."

But not everyone agrees. "Some neighbors have expressed concerns," Knighton said. "(They) don't want a public park in the neighborhood ... Not all neighbors are opposed, but most are."

The opponents' main concerns are increased traffic and people fishing, Knighton added. The town is researching ways to address those con-

cerns, she said. For example, the town could prohibit parking on the property and in the street.

In order to rebuild or repair such flood-damaged homes in Edenton, Knighton said, the structures would have to be brought into compliance with the town's flood ordinance.

"Replacement structures would have to be elevated 10 feet," above sea level, the town manager said.

The Barker House, at the end of South Broad Street, is currently being raised six feet to the required 10-feet-above-sea-level height.

The town would have to promise, through covenants, never to build or pave portions of the property, Knighton said.



Chowan Herald file photo

The Cupola House will be featured on the first edition of the Our State Magazine's new program airing on North Carolina PBS stations. The show airs tonight (Wednesday) at 8 p.m.

Cupola House part of PBS show that airs tomorrow

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

One of downtown Edenton's most historic homes will breeze through homes across

the Tar Heel state this month, thanks to a nod from public television.

The Cupola House, a pale-

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LOBSTERS ARE COMING!
Kiwaniis Club Lobster Sale October 16th \$15.00 ea. Cooked or Raw