

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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The *Chowan Herald* will be closed Thursday, Nov. 25, to allow our staff to spend the holiday with their families and friends. We will reopen on Friday during our regular business hours, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Deadline for all news items, photos and ads will be noon on Friday, Nov. 26.



The annual Christmas Candelight Tour will be held Dec. 10-11 this year.

## Candlelight Tour tickets on sale

Tickets for this year's Christmas Candelight Tour are available now by calling the Robin Sams Gallery, (252) 482-1075, Edenton Visitors Center, (252) 482-2637 or Chowan Arts Council, (252) 482-8005.

Tickets are \$25; groups of 20 or more persons, \$20 per ticket.

## Aces fall, 16-13



Edenton closes out season with 12-1 mark with loss to East Duplin in 2nd round of state 2-A playoffs. Complete coverage on B-1

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Chowan Regional Hospital's newest addition

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## Official says OLF e-mails reflect tampering

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

With evidence surfacing that politics may have played in a role in the Navy's decision to put a jet airfield in rural Washington County, opponents are pushing their cause harder than ever.

In U.S. District Court in Raleigh on Monday, lawyers for the opponents filed a motion for the court to permanently bar the Navy from building its airfield until the Navy complies with federal environmental laws.

Attorneys with the Southern Environmental Law Center also disclosed that the Navy turned over emails and memos as part of the lawsuit's discovery process. Those correspondences illustrate the behind-the-scenes maneuvering that brought the proposed 30,000-acre airfield within striking distance of Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife refuge, Plymouth Mayor Brian Roth said



The Navy's F-18 Super Hornets are at the heart of an ongoing legal dispute between the military and Washington County residents over a proposed Outlying Landing Field.

Tuesday.

Roth and other opponents have long alleged that political pressure guided the airfield to Washington County, and a portion of Beaufort County.

"What this (SELIC) filing does," Roth said, "is put into print everything that the (airfield opponents) ... have known all along."

In August 2002 the Navy recommended dividing the 10 new Super Hornet squadrons among Cherry Point Marine Air Station in Havelock and Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, Va.

The Washington County airfield site was selected for its location between the two bases, Navy officials have said. Some Southeastern Virginia residents applauded the decision, saying it would decrease the jet noise they had decried for years.

In a January 2000 letter, the Navy wrote that "(s)ingle site basing will result in significant cost savings ... and improve the quality of life and quality of service of our aircrews and maintenance personnel."

Roth and others have persisted that that factor was purposefully overlooked by Navy officials who made the final decision. Roth said the "decision-makers" were under "tremendous pressure" to appease politicians who favored splitting the squadrons, which opponents say brought with it the airfield to Washington County.

One email, included in the motion seeking a court ruling without a trial, names politicians and Navy officials. The email, written by Navy Cmdr. David Sienicki, states: "(Assistant Secretary of the Navy Hansford) Johnson was a

strong advocate for an OLF during the (draft environmental impact study). Considering that the NC delegation has indicated that it would be improper to site an OLF in NC without an offsetting positive economic impact—i.e., at least two squadrons at MCAS Cherry Point—Mr. Johnson believes that a split siting option placing two squadrons at Cherry Point is necessary ... I also understand that Sen. (John) Warner (of Virginia), Sen. (Elizabeth) Dole (of North Carolina) and Mr. Johnson are beginning a dialogue to discuss the Super Hornet basing and they are attempting to derive a political win/win for VA and NC."

Opponents have said the win-win came at a price to northeast North Carolina. Roth is just glad their allegations of political skulduggery now has support.

"The evidence of how this

See OLF On Page 5-A

## Area teens face charges after weekend vandalism spree

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

Two teens were arrested over the weekend after an alleged vandalism spree that, among other things, included burning a boat.

In a press release, Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill said Central communications in Edenton received a call at 9:45 p.m. on Saturday. The caller reported a fire at Wharf Landing near the Chowan River Bridge.

"The fire was quickly extinguished by the (Edenton) Fire Department," Spruill stated.

The boat had an estimated value of \$75,000, Spruill added.

"It appeared that someone had started the boat and ran it into the dock," Spruill stated. "Upon the boat hitting the dock, it jumped over the bulkhead and landing on the dock. At some point, the boat caught fire and was destroyed."

Charged were Joshua Allen Waterfield, 16, of Roper, and Thomas Howard Baggett, also 16, of Edenton. Both subjects were arrested on five counts of felonious larceny with a number of other charges pending grand jury indictments, Spruill stated. Both youths are



Two area teens were arrested following a weekend of vandalism that included burning a boat at Wharf Landing.

being held in the Chowan County Detention Facility under a \$25,000 bond.

In addition, Spruill stated, investigators determined that a second boat had been broken into. Items including a marine radio were stolen from the second boat and thrown into the water. An office and condo were also broken into and ransacked, "with all the windows broken out," Spruill said.

A forklift at that site was also found underwater in the marina, the sheriff said.

"The individuals used an-

See TEENS On Page 3-A

## Report Card results are released

BY EARLINE WHITE  
Staff Writer

North Carolina's annual school report cards proved satisfactory for Chowan County Schools again this year. From the numbers, the Edenton-Chowan District is in line with most in the state, in some areas even surpassing them.

D. F. Walker received recognition as a School of Distinction for the second consecutive year. This means that more than 80% of students were performing at grade level. All four schools in the district achieved their expected growth. Chowan Middle School, for the third year, was recognized as a School of Distinction. John A. Holmes High School was designated a School of Progress; meaning 60% of students were performing proficiently. White Oak Elementary does not receive an official summary on the NC School Report Cards due to lack of State testing within those grade levels.

The primary areas in which our youth are struggling continue to be reading and math. Students with limited English proficiency and those with disabilities, performed considerably lower on the End of Grade Tests than others in the states.

Teacher turnover rate is exactly that of the state average

See RESULTS On Page 5-A

## Council considers funding nonprofit

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

The Edenton Town Council must decide if funding the proposed new Boys & Girls Club would then open "a can of worms" that the panel just may not want to open.

During its committee meeting held on Monday night, council did forward the club's request for \$25,200 over three years to its Dec. 14 regular meeting.

Councilman Steve Biggs questioned if the funding would set a precedent other non-profit groups would expect council to follow in the future.

"I think it's great that the Boys & Girls Club is coming," Biggs, council's liaison to the town-county recreation advisory board. "(But) I personally think we'll be opening a can of worms we'll never be able to close."

Council ceased funding the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department during the 2003-04 fiscal year. Chowan County now assumes financial control of the recreation department, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said Tuesday.

Biggs said other non-profits groups that work with children — such as the Chowan-Edenton Optimist Club —

could be inclined to approach council with similar funding requests in the future.

"(Personally), I still think the pie is only so big," he said of the town's ability to approve a limited amount of funding requests.

Biggs was not alone in his concern about the request.

Finance Committee Chairman Jerry Parks said governing bodies "shouldn't do what the public will do for themselves."

"This is seed money," Parks said of the annual \$8,300 request that would end after the 2006-07 fiscal year.

Mayor Roland Vaughan said the club would provide sociological and educational benefits to local youths.

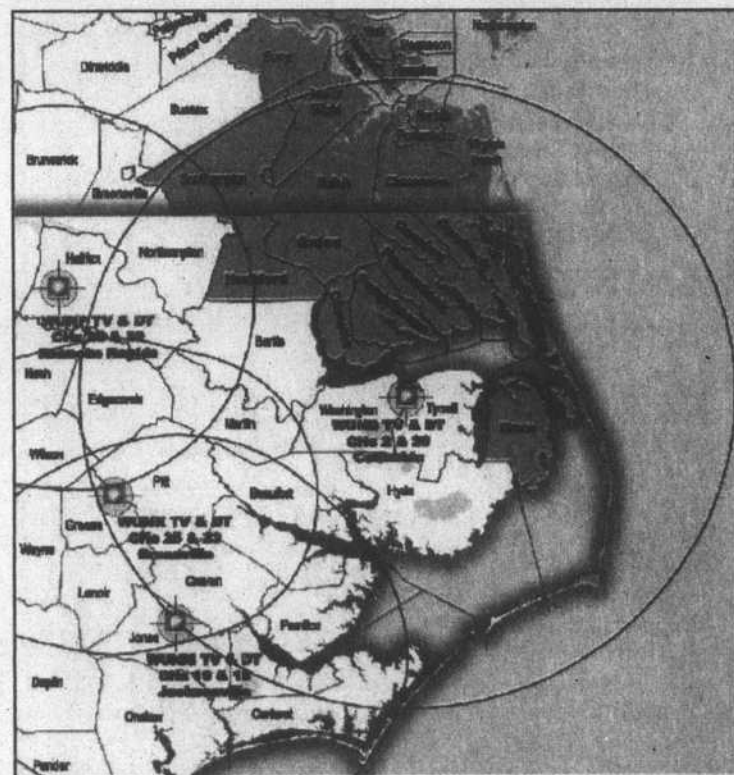
"The question is," Vaughan added, "is it a good expense to the taxpayers?"

Biggs and other councilors also said the recreation department already offers after-school services to children. But those services are limited, due to staff and spending restraints, Biggs said.

Councilors also wanted assurance that the club wouldn't duplicate athletic programs already offered by the recreation department.

The clubs "are flexible,"

See COUNCIL On Page 3-A



This map shows (in red) areas where satellite subscribers would be able to view North Carolina PBS programming, if a proposal currently before the FCC wins approval.

## Commissioners back PBS viewing proposal

BY EARLINE WHITE  
Staff Writer

In an effort to bring North Carolina PBS programming to Edenton satellite subscribers, the Chowan County Commissioners have joined their counterparts in surrounding counties in backing a petition filed by WUND-TV. That petition, now in the hands of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) along with letters of support from the pub-

lic, seeks to relocate the UNC-TV signal to northeastern North Carolina. This proposal/petition would allow satellite viewers in nine counties to access PBS aired from the WUND station licensed to the city of Columbia.

The proposal aims to have Edenton replace Columbia as 'city of license'. This change is essentially one in name only; the towers and broadcasting

See PROPOSAL On Page 5-A