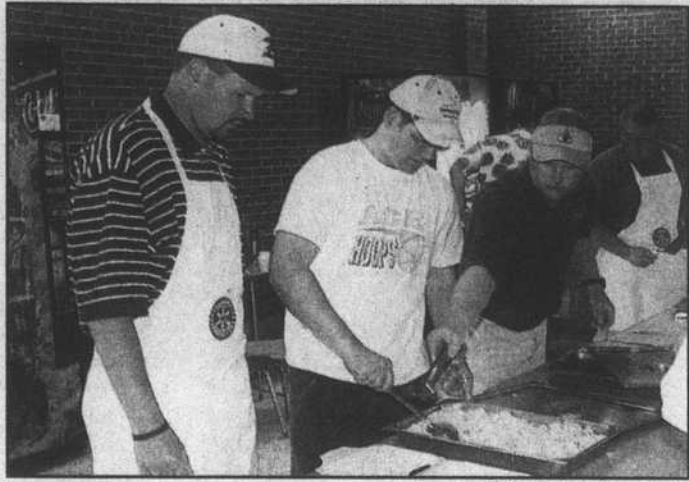


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Staff photo by Sean Jackson

Bob Turner, Jim Cranford, Miles Coxe, and others help prepare the Rotarian Pancake Breakfast on Saturday.

Pilgrimage a big hit with visitors

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

There were 23 stops, including the state's oldest wood-frame house still used as a home, and one of the nation's oldest courthouses still being used.

And the weekend's biennial Pilgrimage of Edenton and Chowan County drew hundreds of visitors.

"It was a happy pilgrimage," Mary Lou Baldi, pilgrimage

co-chairwoman, said Tuesday. "(Visitors) just loved it."

However, Saturday's predicted rain showers — which didn't arrive until the late afternoon — dimmed numbers for that day for the event sponsored by the Edenton Woman's Club.

"Normally," Baldi said, "Saturday would have been busier."

On Friday, a busload of visitors from Sacramento, Calif. pulled into town. The

group, on a tour with Sacramento-based Sports Leisure Vacations, rolled up to Sycamore after lunch. Nestled amongst trees with the Albemarle Sound at its heels, the home was built in 1718 and is believed to be the oldest frame house in North Carolina still being used as a private residence, said tour guide India Benoit, a former owner of Sycamore. The house is currently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Abramovic of Pennsylvania.

At the front steps, the 30-plus

visitors were greeted by Jeannine Keeley.

"We're happy to have you here," Keeley told the group.

Inside, Benoit unveiled some of the home's history, including the fact it has been moved 10 miles from its original site at White's old field.

"This is beautiful," Carolyn Winters, of Woodland, Calif., said as she entered the home's dining room which provided

See VISITORS On Page 2-A

Hospital recognized nationally

Have you ever studied and agonized over a big test for high school or college and then wondered - does making good grades in school really pay off? Do they matter? And for those who have received major awards and recognitions for those good grades, you are more likely to shout out, "Of course!"

And while the high school and college report cards for the individual staff members of Chowan Hospital (CH) can't be placed on public display, the overall report card for patient satisfaction at the facility for 2004 is ready and available for all the world to see.

From Florida to Phoenix and from Nags Head to North Dakota, hospitals nationwide have had their patient satisfaction scores tallied up, and Chowan Hospital emerged a clear winner among small hospitals. The Jackson Organization, survey research consultants in Columbia, MD, recently announced the winners of the 2004 Client Awards. Chowan Hospital received one of the highest ratings in the United States among small hospitals with less than 100 beds. Chowan Hospital was ranked number two in the nation for Outpatient Patient Satisfaction.

"This is an incredible achievement for our staff,"

See HOSPITAL On Page 2-A



Sackrisson

Beautiful Day...



Staff photo by Earline White

Student athletes, parents, community members and student volunteers came out in full force to support the Special Olympics athletes yesterday at the annual games held at John A. Holmes.

Four face drug-related charges

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Edenton police netted four drug suspects in a string of arrests earlier this month.

According to Police Chief Greg Bonner, the arrests began at a raid of a North Oakum Street home on April 14. Acting on information from a tipster, police raided the residences of two suspects.

"All together," Bonner said Tuesday, "police were able to seize six bags of marijuana," or roughly 102 grams of the drug, he added.

Arrested were: Shakira Davis, 22, of 1212 N. Oakum St., Edenton, and Napoleon

Levonna Moore, 29, also of 1212 N. Oakum St.

Davis was charged with felony possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, and manufacturing marijuana. She was confined at Albemarle District Jail in lieu of a \$15,000 secured bond. She made her first court appearance April 19.

Moore was charged with felony possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, maintaining a dwelling for the storage of a controlled substance, and manufacturing marijuana. He was jailed at the Chowan County Detention Facility in lieu of a \$16,000 secured bond.



Holley

Moore

The arrest was made by police Det. Dwight Rawlins.

On April 20, acting on a tip from state Probation and Parole Officer Richard Winebarger, at approximately 2:30 p.m., police arrested Skyler Holley, 21, of 203 E. Albemarle St.

See CHARGES On 3-A

Judge Boyle awaits confirmation hearing

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

A building controversy in the nation's capital that could bring gridlock in Congress centers on President Bush's nomination for an Edenton man's appointment to a federal appellate court judgeship in Richmond, Va.

Terrence W. Boyle, a current federal judge for the Eastern District Court in North Carolina, was first tapped for the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals by former President George H.W. Bush in May of 1991.

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to discuss the judicial appointees Thursday. Both Republican and Democratic senators have waged a public war regarding President George W. Bush's 10 nominees — which includes the 59-year-old Boyle — and threats of filibusters have escalated in recent months.

A Boyle family member said Tuesday that Terrence Boyle would likely decline comment for this story. He did not return a message seeking comment for this story by press time. Traditionally, judges are discouraged from discussing their political views.

The 18-member Judiciary Committee has 10 GOP members, and eight Democrats. House members have also weighed in on Boyle's nomination. U.S. Rep. Mel Watt, D-N.C., has said Boyle is unfit for the lifetime post due to Boyle's standing on civil rights issues.

Conversely, Boyle has been championed by environmental groups for his rulings on the U.S. Navy's plans to bring an airfield in Washington and Beaufort counties. Boyle has slapped

an injunction on the Navy, barring the government from buying land for the 30,000-acre airfield until it's plan is proved to

not adversely affect the area, which includes a national habitat for thousands of migrating waterfowl.

Derb Carter, an attorney with the Southern

Environmental Law Center in Raleigh, said Tuesday that Boyle has presided over three of his cases "over the years."

"Based on that," said Carter, whose agency is one of several environmental groups representing airfield opponents, "I've found him to be a smart and thorough and fair judge, who gives all sides a fair hearing."

Carter admitted that environmental cases can be complex.

"As a judge," Carter added, "I've found (Boyle) is willing to take the time to understand ... the complex legal issues that arise in environmental cases."

Carter could not say how, should Boyle leave his North Carolina bench for a seat on the Richmond panel, the case against the Navy would fair in the future without Boyle presiding over it.

"It's hard to make any prediction how this case may evolve," Carter said.

He did say he was "certain" Boyle would not sit on any 3-member appellate court panel

See DEBATE On Page 2-A



Boyle

INSIDE

- Calendar C2
- Church C4
- Classifieds D1-4
- Editorials A8
- Learning C7-8
- Obituaries C6
- Society C3
- Sports B1-4

On Page B1 . . .

Green flag drops on Cycle Speedway season

Council favors increase in occupancy tax

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

The Edenton Town Council stamped its approval Monday night to a resolution asking Chowan County to seek state aid in boosting the local occupancy tax rate.

Such a move would require the state General Assembly to pass a bill approving the increase in the town and county's current hotel-room tax rate to 4 percent, with the ability to seek a maximum of 6 percent in the future. The current occupancy tax rate is 3 percent.

"Others in the area are that high," Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Parks said Monday of other area governments that have levied the 6-percent hotel tax.

The resolution was forwarded to the county Board of County Commissioners, who are expected to discuss the matter at their Monday meeting.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said local hoteliers and innkeepers approve of the increase. The Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Development Authority have also backed the tax increase.

The occupancy tax dollars cur-

rently fund the TDA. That department would use the additional dollars to further promote Edenton and Chowan to potential tourists via the Internet, Knighton said. Traditionally, the TDA hasn't budgeted monies for Internet-based advertising, the town manager added.

Councilman Willis Privott expressed hesitation in getting state approval to levy a 6-percent occupancy tax in the future. He said holding the line at the proposed 4-percent rate — and seeking future increases through the same state-approval process —

would be more fair to taxpayers.

"I don't think that sends out a good message to the innkeepers," said Privott, who added that granting local officials the future ability to raise the tax without going to state lawmakers for approval gave him an "ill feeling."

"I would rather see us go back and use the process we're using right now," seeking lawmakers' approval, Privott said. "It's worked well so far."

Privott also said he approved of raising the rate to 4 percent. "I'm all for the 1-percent," increase, he said.

He also said the TDA has done

fine work in promoting tourism in the town and county.

"They're doing a good job," he said.

At Parks' suggestion, the council added a paragraph in the resolution stipulating that the current rate would be capped at 4 percent, but could be increased to 6 percent in the future. Council unanimously adopted the resolution.

There are five bed-and-breakfast inns in Edenton and Chowan, in addition to four motels. The local occupancy tax has been set at 3 percent since 1989, Knighton said.

Sunday, May 1 starting at 3pm in the Parrish Hall

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