

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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Tuning up for Peanut fest — C1

## Tax rates could dip in 2006

Rise in values to drive drop in rate

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

With a rise in land values in Edenton and Chowan County, officials are forecasting a drop in the property-tax rates next year.

A near-completed tax revaluation indicates that fair-market real estate values should rise anywhere from 15 to 75 percent for homes in Edenton. Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland expects the same to be true for homes, farmland, and timber tracts out in the county.

"The tax rate will definitely be cut," Copeland said Friday of the current ad valorem rate of 78 cents per \$100 of property value in Chowan.

Officials don't appear to be taking the approach Pitt County took in 2004, when property values increased due to a state-mandated revaluation, but the tax rate went uncut. Local officials seem poised to make a tax-rate cut next year.

But with the final schedule — and subsequent list — of value increases not completed, Copeland said it would be difficult to predict exactly how much the tax rate would drop. Essentially, he added, any rise in a home's value should be mirrored by any cut in the overall tax rate. However, the county manager said, some homeowners could see an increase in their property tax payments, while others could be billed less, while still others

See RATES On Page A2

## Chowan Regional Fair underway...



Workers stabilize the ferris wheel in preparation for the 58th annual Chowan County Regional Fair, which opened yesterday.

Staff photo by Earline White

## Fun for the ages

Fair officials predict 20,000 fairgoers from around the region during the five day event

BY EARLINE WHITE  
The Chowan Herald

Each year at summer's end, the neon blazing from the American Legion midway greets the early evening autumn dusk. People from Ahoskie to Virginia gather their sense of adventure (and their Dramamine) to ride on the most terrifying rides to come to the area. This year's 58th annual Chowan County Regional Fair to be held September 27 through October 1, guarantees to be "The Fair with Squeal Appeal".

The highly successful amusement company, Play-



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

Trina Whelien, at right, sits next to her husband Doug Whelien Sunday afternoon tagging preserves entered in the Chowan County Regional Fair's "preserves, jams & conserves" bracket of the canning division in the exhibitor's contest.

world Amusements, has been scheduled again this year to bring rides, games, food and fun for the young and young at heart. Improvements in the midway itself include a new sound system, more lights in the parking lot and new transformers to handle the load.

New acts featured this year will include a horse show titled "Horses, Horses, Horses", a comedy show "Barnyard Express", a magic act by Taylor Michaels, Sterling Riggs an Elvis Impersonator and a Hispanic Festival complete with a Mariachi band.

See FAIR On Page A2

## Council paves way for growth

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

After months of wrangling over how to maintain control of a proposed commercial site in northern Edenton, the Town Council granted the property owner Monday night a permit to start the development process.

With council's unanimous vote to approve his request for a conditional use permit, Lloyd Griffin Jr. can now begin work on his property that borders Whitemon Lane and N.C. Highway 32.

Edenton Mayor Roland Vaughan admitted that the property had been through a lengthy process — including previous rezoning approvals — in seeking council's consent for the permit that would allow for subdivided lots.

Griffin's son, Lloyd Griffin III, has said that no decision has been made regarding specific businesses that would come to the property, roughly 60 acres.

It was that fact that puzzled Jim Farr, a veteran developer who lives in Edenton.

"What is it supposed to be when it's finished?" Farr said of the site, which includes 13 lots, 11 of which were covered under the permit issued to the



Lloyd Griffin III

Griffins Monday.

Vaughan said council and the town planning board would review potential businesses — most likely retail stores and restaurants — as developers bought lots from the Griffins and began the construction process.

"The phase you're talking about," Vaughan told Farr, "is going to be the next one for us."

During a Sept. 13 meeting, councilors had expressed concerns about stormwater drainage and how the Griffins would phase in curb and gutter, and sidewalks for the proposed development.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton unveiled recommendations by the state Department of Transportation regarding drainage and infrastructure, as well as the Grif-

See PERMIT On Page A2

## Been hot enough for ya'? Relief is on the way

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
The Chowan Herald

Those who've been longing for a touch of cooler weather to help ease the heat and humidity we've experienced in recent months will finally get their wish this week. Cooler temperatures are on the way.

At presstime Tuesday, overnight temperatures were scheduled to dip into the high 50s courtesy of a brief cold front coming our way. A more sustained cold front, due to arrive Thursday, is expected to keep daytime temperatures in the 80s with mild nighttime temperatures in the 60s through the weekend.

For some, it won't come a moment too soon. Higher tem-



Chowan Herald file photo

Louis Griffin shows off his unique method of coping with hot, humid weather.

peratures this summer and into the early fall, coupled with lower rainfall, have combined to make this one of the most miserable times, weather-wise, in recent memory, according to

See HEAT On Page A2

### INSIDE

- Calendar ..... C2
- Church ..... C5
- Classifieds ..... D1-4
- Editorials ..... A8
- Obituaries ..... C6
- Society ..... C3
- Sports ..... B1-4

On Page C1 ...

A Peanut Festival tradition...

## Cotton Mill Reunion: 'It's good to be back home again'

Former Mill Village residents share memories, hugs, and tears during first reunion in 20 years

BY EARLINE WHITE  
The Chowan Herald

It had been 20 years since most of the family had seen each other. But they came together with hugs and kisses on Saturday, all 350 of them, for the first ever Cotton Mill Village Kids reunion held at Leon Nixon's Catering.

They came from all over the country; Oklahoma, Florida, and up and down the East

Coast. Others like Elizabeth Rogerson Wright, better known as "Mrs. Sissy", (who was born, raised and lived in the same house in the mill village for the past 60 years) still reside in Edenton, never leaving their roots far behind. Yet they all came together to honor those families who established a way of life that they themselves carried on in spirit.

Elbridge Smith, Sr. was among those giving hugs to

people he hadn't seen in years. His parents, Robert Smith and Mary "Lois" lived on Church Street in the village and worked at the mill; he setting cards, she running spools. Elbridge himself worked in the mill when he was old enough. For 39 years, Elbridge worked from one end of the mill to the other in every department finally ending up in maintenance.

"I remember Sunday afternoons," Smith said about his childhood in the mill village. "We'd play baseball on the diamond and pitch horseshoes on

See REUNION On Page A8



Rev. E. C. Alexander was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his service to God, country and community at the Edenton Cotton Mill Village Kids Reunion this past Saturday.

STAFF PHOTO BY EARLINE WHITE

11:00 - 2:00  
4:00 - 6:00

**CHOWAN SHRINE CLUB**  
**ANNUAL FISH FRY FUND RAISER**  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

Masonic Lodge 7  
215 E. Water Street  
Eat In or Take Out