

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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## Astute officer nabs pair Charged with felonies, pair released on unsecured bond

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

A head's-up recognition by an Edenton police officer led to an Oct. 13 pair of drug arrests of men sitting outside a town hotel.

Officer Derrick Knox, who joined the force in early July, spotted two men sitting inside a Pontiac Grand Prix last Thursday night, according to police Chief Greg Bonner. Knox saw the driver pass a beer to a backseat passenger, Bonner said. Knox approached the car in the Hampton Inn parking lot and searched the vehicle, finding marijuana and cocaine inside.

"It was apparent that marijuana was being smoked inside the vehicle," the chief added.

The driver of the car, Christopher Steven Schiffer, 19, of 107 W. Carteret St., Edenton, was charged with felony possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, and was cited for underage consumption of alcohol. He was placed under a \$3,000 unsecured bond.

John Roy Tyree, 21, of 8485 Newland Road, Creswell, was charged with felony possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was also placed under a \$3,000 unsecured bond.

Both men were expected to make their first appearance in a Chowan County courtroom Tuesday, Bonner said.

Earlier that night, Knox cited Erwin Gerrod Gilliam, of 110 Paradise Spur Road, Edenton, on drug charges. Knox spotted Gilliam sitting in a vehicle outside of Tyler Run Apartments, formerly known as Edenton Manor Apartments. After approaching the vehicle, Knox searched Gilliam and found marijuana in his sock, Bonner said.

On Oct. 12, Knox charged

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## Teacher turnover rate exceeds state norm

Eight Chowan educators retired in 2004/2005 academic year

BY EARLINE WHITE  
The Chowan Herald

Thirty four of the 199 teachers in the Edenton-Chowan school system called it quits last year, according to the annual teacher turnover survey and the 2004-2005 System Level Teacher Turnover Report released October 5. That places Edenton-Chowan schools 21st

in the percentage of teacher turnover. The state's rate (for all 115 school districts) for 2004-2005 was 12.95, up slightly from last year's figure of 12.37. "There are a lot of reasons



Maddox

people leave (teaching)," Michelle Maddox, Director of Human Resources said to the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education. "I think, though the numbers seem high, that this is a fairly positive reflection on our schools. Our turnover rate was 17.09 percent for this year, largely due to the increasing number of retirees we have within the system, especially at

the high school level. And that is a trend that will continue over the next few years. But overall, we should be proud of the number of teachers and classified people (we retain and attract)."

Of the 34 employees who left teaching in Chowan, 8 of those employees retired, 2 had proba-

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Albemarle Area Teacher Turnover	
Edenton-Chowan schools—34 of 199 teachers or 17.09%	
Elizabeth City-Pasquotank public schools—110 of 456 teachers or 24.12%	
Perquimans County schools—17 of 150 teachers or 11.33%	
Currituck County schools—20 of 326 teachers or 6.13%	
Camden County schools—5 of 116 teachers or 4.31%	
NC schools 12,398 of 95,709 teachers or 12.95%	
—Information provided by NCDPI	

## Historic gem meets cyber age



Photo by Mary Kay Coyle from www.cupolahouse.org

This photograph of the front of the Cupola House, flanked by flowers from the garden in full bloom, is among those that can be found on the new website.

## Volunteers build website for Cupola House

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
The Chowan Herald

One of Edenton's best-known and most loved historic sites now has its very own website, www.cupolahouse.org. The site contains considerable information on

everything from the history of the house to photos and descriptions of the flowers in its lovely gardens.

Cupola House Association member Bob Quinn provided the writing and layout contained on the site. Paul Stallings provided the techni-

cal know-how to create the site and photographs were taken by Mary Kay Coyle.

According to Quinn, efforts to develop the site got underway this spring.

"It was fun doing it," he

See CUPOLA Page A2

## Chowan economy survived closings

Officials foresee continued growth in near future

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

Although a series of plant closings slowed the local economy in the 1980s and '90s, Edenton and Chowan County rebounded nicely over the past decade, officials said last week.

In the mid-'90s, the Edenton Cotton Mill, Pelikan, and Fisher Nut joined the exodus of factories leaving Chowan County, North Carolina, and the U.S. But the town and county recovered, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton and Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Richard Bunch told the Town Council during the board's Oct. 11 meeting.

"That could have been devastating economically to this community," Knighton said.

Over the past 20 years, she added, Chowan Crossing shopping center arrived, businesses bloomed on N.C. Highway 32 North, and the Cotton Mill Village arose, essentially avoiding the economic collapse other towns in the state experienced.

And more growth is on the way, Knighton and Bunch predicted.

"I think you're going to see the population number increase significantly over the next five, 10 years," Knighton said during the presentation to council.

Other numbers were revealed showing how Edenton and Chowan's economies have improved over the years:

• In 1985, Chowan's tax base was \$276 million. It has grown

to \$820 million now, though some of that increase is due to inflation, Knighton said. Still, a near-completed revaluation of property in the town and county could boost that figure near the \$1 billion mark, she added.

• Per capita income has risen from \$10,127 in '85 to \$24,000 this year.

• Building permits rose from



Knighton

192 in '95 to 231 three years ago. "We've seen tremendous increase just from 2002," Knighton added.

• The number of females designated as head-of-household dropped by 22 percent from '90 to 2000. "That is a very positive sign," the town manager said.

One boost to the local economy, Bunch said, is the development at the industrial park near Northeastern Regional Airport in recent year. There are 13 buildings in use at the site, Bunch added.

Councilman Willis Privott applauded the current and former leaders who helped the town and county avoid pro-

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The Affair at Brownrigg Mill

## OLF foes meet in Plymouth

Group asks legislators to take stand

BY TYLER ARCHIE  
The (Williamston) Enterprise

PLYMOUTH, NC — In Hood Richardson's perfect world, Sen. Elizabeth Dole would have publicly rebuffed Virginia Sen. John Warner at the NO-OLF rally yesterday for his urging the Navy to hurry towards construction of the outlying landing field project.

But she has not sided with NO-OLF in opposition to the project, and in the absence of her and other state leaders' support, the Beaufort County commissioner said he would

like Dole to receive the first copy of this article.

"We were not allowed to be heard at (last Tuesday's meeting with Navy officials in Hyde County)," said Richardson, speaking to at least 50 concerned citizens and a handful of reporters on the steps of the Washington County Courthouse. "Our leaders held money and greed above our citizens' welfare."

Opponents of the OLF, representing Washington, Beaufort, Hyde, Bertie, Perqui-

See OLF On Page A2



Tyler Archie photo

Kathleen Taylor, a NO-OLF member from Beaufort County, speaks during rally.

## Council considers ways to curb 'move-offs'

Residents move away without paying bills

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

Seeking to stop losing dollars to electric customers who skip paying their final bills, the Edenton Town Council is considering a hike in utility deposits.

But Councilman Jerry Parks hopes other options are ex-

hausted before the town doubles deposits to \$400. Parks' request to delay a vote was granted by the board's Utilities Committee during an Oct. 11 council meeting.

"I do realize we have a problem that needs to be addressed," Parks said, noting that the town could be losing thousands of dollars per month through such non-payments.

He also noted that some residents are "less fortunate" than

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Thursday, Oct. 20  
Elizabeth City Race  
6:00pm

Friday, Oct. 21  
Edenton Raceway  
7:30pm

INTERNATIONAL  
Race Weekend  
2005



Saturday, Oct. 22  
Edenton Raceway  
2:00pm

Sunday, Oct. 23  
Edenton Raceway  
2:00pm

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