

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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## DSS plans 'outpost' in county

### Goal to offer better service outside Edenton

In an effort to assist clients of Social Services that live in the northern part of the county, Social Services is going to outpost some workers on a monthly basis who can conduct limited services. That announcement was made Monday by DSS Director Ben Rose.

A worker from both the Medicaid program and the Food Stamp program will be on hand every third Monday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Northern Chowan Community Center. These workers will be able to provide limited services to clients that reside in the northern part of the county, hopefully limiting their trips into Edenton.

"We especially want to be able to help those elderly and disabled in the northern part, since travel to Edenton can be a burden on some," said Rose, in making the announcement.

Existing clients that live in the northern part of the county and want to utilize the services of these workers should call a week prior to the third Monday to schedule appointments. Existing clients can also drop off information or paperwork at the site without an appointment. If a citizen who lives in the northern end wishes to inquire and or apply for Medicaid or Food Stamps, they can also do so without an appointment.

"We encourage citizens to use the outpost as best they can," says Rose. "While we will only have two workers up there, they will have access to their state network as well as the internet to help the citizens as best they can." Social Services does state that complete eligibility work can only be done in the home office but that these tools will help workers process as much as possible at the outpost and perhaps help clients avoid a trip in town.

The outpost will begin in November, with Nov. 21 being the third Monday of the month. Hours will be from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Northern Chowan Community Center.

## Stokes memorial is dedicated

### In recognition for service to veterans

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

The late George Washington Stokes was the force behind the Chowan County Veteran's Memorial, and the former U.S. Navy master chief received his own memorial on Veteran's

Day last week. "He left Chowan County, this community, his community, better than he found it," Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland said of Stokes.

"George put a lot of work into this (memorial)," Ron Green, Edward G. Bond Post 40 American Legion commander said just prior to unveiling — along with Stokes' family members — a stone plaque honoring Stokes.

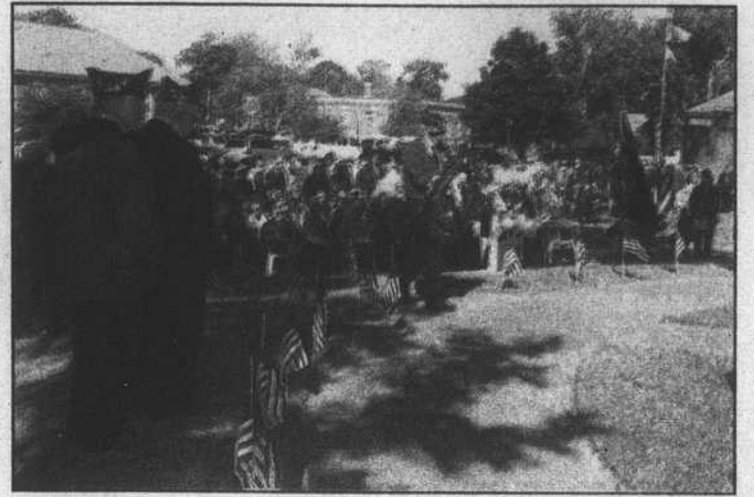
Roughly 200 people were on hand for the event, the 15th

annual ceremony held at the memorial established by Stokes and other veterans. Keynote speaker Tim Dannelley said Chowan has a history of supporting the nation's armed services.

"The people of Chowan County have long been known for their commitment to ... serve in the U.S. military," he said. "What you're doing here today is a worthy thing."

During his remarks, Dan-

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Staff photo by Sean Jackson

The laying of wreaths is carried out during the annual Veterans Day ceremony held in Edenton Friday morning.

## Pembroke Hall: Plans on hold

### Proposal would have placed up to four new structures on historic property; owners have 30 days to file written appeal

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
The Chowan Herald

A request from the owners of historic Pembroke Hall to allow construction of four new dwellings on the property received a thumbs down from the Edenton Preservation Commission Monday afternoon. A standing room only crowd waited more than four hours to hear the decision.

Elizabeth Bryant, planning director for Edenton and Chowan County, said that the manner in which the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness was submitted made it an "all or nothing" situation in which the commission had to either approve all of the requested construction, or none of it. She said that she thought some portions of the request might have been approved, with modifications, had they been submitted individually.

Attorney Tom Johnson, from the Ward and Smith law firm, attended the hearing with owners Jerry and Sharon Smith, and spoke at the hearing. He said Tuesday morning that he had found the commission's decision "confusing". Johnson said that his clients had not yet decided what their next course of action would be. That decision, he said, would not be made until they receive an official declaration of the commission's decision in the mail.

"We need to take some time to digest this before deciding what our next step will be," Johnson said.

Those steps could include either resubmitting the pro-



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

Pembroke Hall owner Jerry Smith, left, gestures as he answers a question during a Preservation Commission hearing Monday afternoon. Looking on are (l-r) Smith's attorney, Tom Johnson; Charles Busby, attorney for the town of Edenton; Judge Chris Bean; and Realtor John Dowd.

posal as a bundle of separate applications with the modifications suggested at Monday's hearing or filing a notice of appeal with the local Board of Adjustments. According to Bryant, the Board of Adjustments would consider only whether the commission was justified in its denial of the requested Certificate of Appropriateness, not the merits of the proposed construction itself.

The plan put before the commission would have allowed construction of one home on the Granville Street side of the property plus a carriage house and two additional residences behind Pembroke Hall. Suggestions made at the hearing included removing a proposed cupola from the roof of the carriage house and making it a 1 1/2 story,

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## Watson defends role with Partons, Partnership

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

The president of an Edenton-based economic development agency defended his role with that group — and with his future employer — on Tuesday.

Watson, president and CEO of North Carolina's Northeast Economic Development Partnership Inc. has been credited with helping lure The Randy Parton Theater to Eastern North Carolina. Watson also recently announced he would leave the post to join Parton, the brother of Dolly Parton, in 2007 to help run the \$129 million entertainment complex in Roanoke Rapids.

Parton said Tuesday he still has plans to stretch his project over numerous counties in eastern North Carolina. And Watson is expected — though he's yet to sign a contract with the Partons — to oversee the marketing and growth of that theater district.

"I'm happy Rick is going to be our business partner," Parton said during an interview at the Partnership Tuesday.

Watson said he's handled the business end of the project, so the Partons "won't get bogged down in it" and can focus on shows and programs.

"What we're doing now is what we always do," Watson said of his and other Partnership officials' roles in getting the theater project underway.

A ground-breaking ceremony was held in Roanoke Rapids on Nov. 11, with the Parton family and Grand Ole Opry entertainers on hand for the celebration. Last week, the state Department of Commerce announced it was holding onto the \$500,000 grant earmarked for the project until the details are ironed out. State Rep. Lucy T. Allen, D-Franklin, introduced the bill that included the \$500,000 in state funding on April 25.

Watson said he does not stand to gain personally by that funding, which would be used for the district's marketing and development.

"The Partons and myself will not be part of that expenditure," Watson said of the grant.

Watson said Tuesday that Randy Parton and his wife Deb approached him roughly eight weeks ago about working for them. Watson also told The Chowan Herald that he would not sign a contract with Moonlight until a later date. He also said he would not receive any money from the Partons while he was still employed by the Partnership.

Watson has been identified as a private contractor; according to a recent report. Watson agrees.

"I understand business," he said, adding that he's never considered himself a state employee, nor an economic developer.

And he said taking public money for his own private gain is not in his best interest.

"I'm financially comfortable," Watson said. "Why in the world would I gamble on two, three, four, \$500,000?"

He said he'd already told Partnership officials he planned to retirement prior to being approached by the Partons.

"I think I've taken the Partnership as far as I can take it," he said. "I think it's time for new blood."



Watson

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Born to ride...  
motorcyclists gather at Rocky Hock

## Allegations are leveled against Edenton doctor

### Reynolds says facts of case 'distorted'

BY EARLINE WHITE  
The Chowan Herald

A local physician, Dr. Joel Crist "Cris" Reynolds, is currently under investigation by the North Carolina Medical Board for alleged misconduct.

A hearing is planned by the board on Feb. 15 in Raleigh.

Charges under investigation by the board include: allegedly prescribing medications for his personal use; prescribing medications for a patient "with whom he had a significant emotional relationship," failure to keep complete medical records, and unprofessional conduct including a DWI arrest on Sept. 14, 2003 to which he pleaded guilty later that fall.

In response to the allegations, Dr. Reynolds told The Chowan Herald Monday that "there is a big difference between charges and facts. It is being

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## Farm-City Banquet Nov. 22

This year's Farm-City Banquet will be held at American Legion Post 40 in Edenton Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. Keynote speaker will be Dr. David Jordan, an NCSU Peanut Specialist.

Dr. Jordan will speak on the relationship and contrast between peanut production in the United States and developing countries.

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7:30PM All Seats - \$10.00 at Swain Auditorium 200 E. Church St. Edenton, NC  
**Rocky Hock Opry** FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18TH AND 19TH, 2005  
 Tickets available at: BYRUM TRUE VALUE HARDWARE & CRAFT SHOP Downtown Edenton 252-482-2131 ACoustic COFFEE Downtown Edenton 252-482-7465 NIXON'S FAMILY RESTAURANT 327 River Rd. Edenton, NC 252-221-2244  
 Tickets also available at door. See Ad On Page C-2