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All eyes on Mill Village for this year's tour

Cotton Mill among revitalized structures on display for Candlelight

BY REBECCA BUNCH
The Chowan Herald

Curious eyes from around town and around the country will be fixed on Edenton's Mill Village, restored Cotton Mill condominiums and other sites during the Christmas Candlelight Tour Friday and Saturday from 4 - 8 p.m.

Ann Perry, Edenton Cotton Mill Condo Tour Coordinator, says that couldn't be more appropriate. The Mill Village, she says, "represents this com-

The Edenton Christmas Parade will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday

munity's commitment to historical preservation in a very tangible way."

In addition to Mill Village

houses and condos, there are several other fine private homes on Gale and Moseley Streets that will be open for the tour.

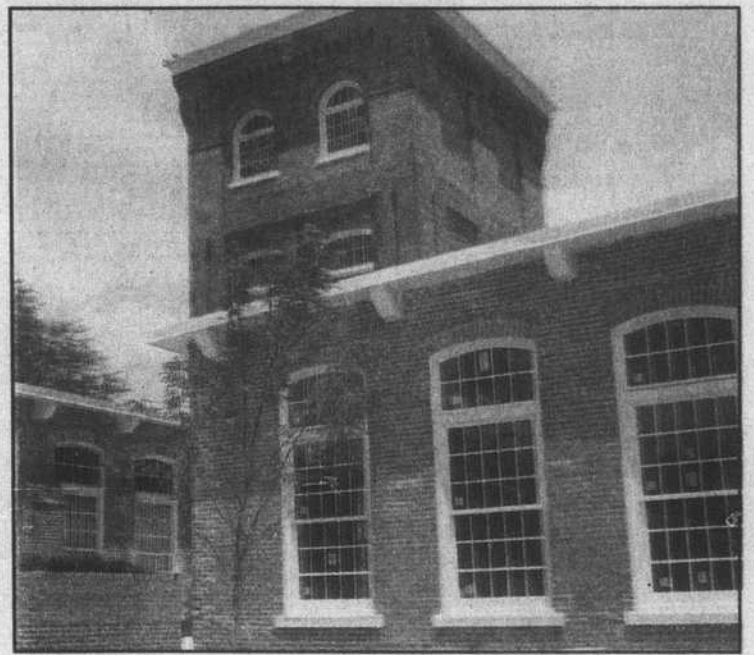
Tourgoers will also have the opportunity to join local residents in celebrating the holiday season beginning with Caroling on the Green Friday night at 6 p.m. Held on the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse Green, the event will feature local choirs and musical groups singing Christmas favorites. Citizens gathered on

the Green will be invited to join in.

Then, on Saturday morning, the annual Christmas parade will get underway at 11 a.m. The parade, featuring Old Saint Nick himself, is sponsored by the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce and the Chowan Ruritans.

Tour tickets are \$25 each. Children age 12 and under will be admitted free of charge. There is also a special rate of

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The restored Edenton Cotton Mill is a highlight of tour

County tax revaluation "accurate"

Only two corrections needed to date

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Despite the hundreds of calls from concerned property owners about the 2006 revaluation, few recalculations have been necessary, according to Chowan County Tax Administrator Linda Hendricks.

"One hundred ninety individuals have set up appointments for their 386 parcels," Hendricks told the Chowan County Board of Commissioners Monday night. "But considering that there are 12,000 parcels in Chowan County, the percentage is not bad. The fact is that the revaluation is accurate; market and sale prices are skyrocketing."

Of the 129 hearings held November 30 through Dec. 2, only 2 corrections were needed, 41 rechecks have been implemented and 86 had no changes, Hendricks said. Thus far the tax department has hearings scheduled through December 13 in the Panel Room of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse.

"The number of calls concerning the revaluation have slowed down, but I invite anyone with any questions to contact me," Hendricks said.

The revaluation is mandated

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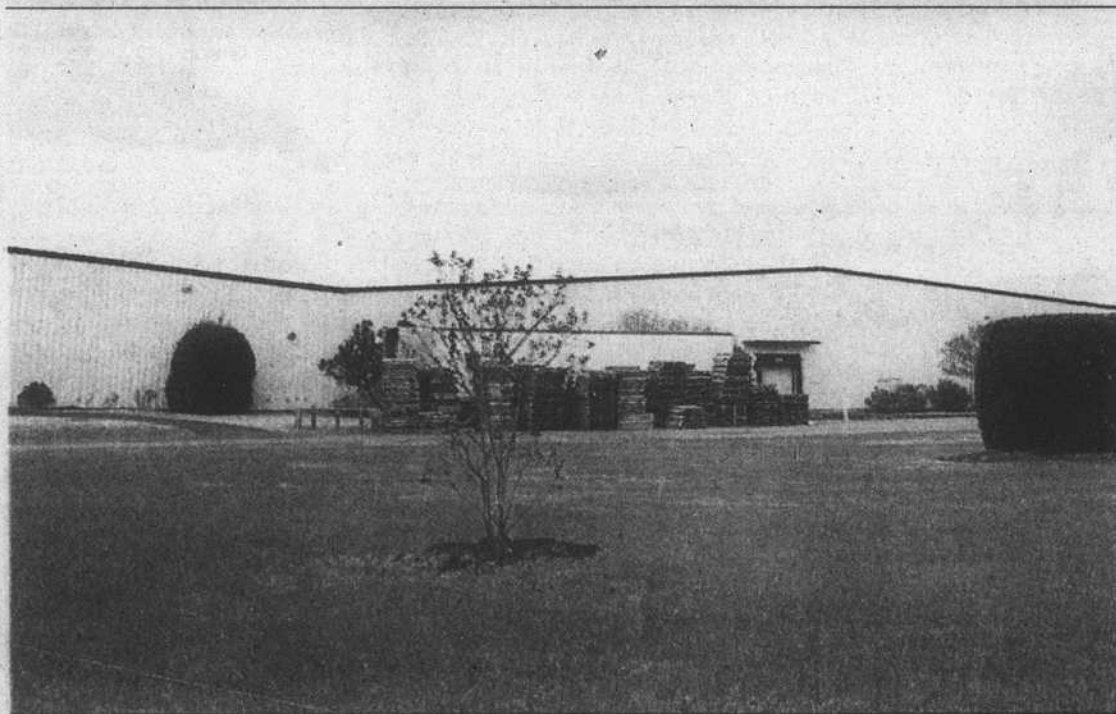
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"Dog Days" are Done

Local jobs to go to El Salvador



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

The George C. Moore building will soon house just 40 employees working under contract with the U.S. military. Those jobs will be the only ones not moving overseas as its corporate office, The Moore Company of Rhode Island, announced plans late last week to relocate its operation to El Salvador. The decision will result in the layoff of 200 employees locally.

Textile woes hit home

200 employees of George C. Moore Co. will fall victim to a prevalent theme in industry

BY REBECCA BUNCH
The Chowan Herald

Two hundred local elastics manufacturing jobs are being eliminated at the George C. Moore Company in Edenton and being moved overseas to El Salvador. The transition is expected to take place over the next 16 to 18 months, according to company official Peter Moore of Rhode Island, where The Moore Company is headquartered. Moore described the decision as "very difficult" but said it was a necessary one.

"This is a sad day for our employees and for my family," said Moore, whose grandfather started the company. "This is a day countless U.S. textile companies have faced

over the past 15 years and will continue to face in the future. We have tried many things to continue to operate here in Edenton and we appreciate the hard work our employees have done to meet the enormous challenges of the ever-changing global business environment. The reality is, we need to have close proximity to our customers and regrettably, it is not here in North Carolina."

Moore, who lived in Edenton in the early 1980s, said the action was inevitable given the passage in August of the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) by the U.S. Congress. The agreement, he noted, "allows apparel manufacturers in the CAFTA region to purchase apparel

components within the member countries, and receive duty-free treatment of goods within the United States."

Some of George C. Moore's biggest customers manufacture their garments in the CAFTA region, Peter Moore said. "They are now free to purchase their components within the CAFTA region and they are now asking their suppliers to begin manufacturing their respective products within the region. Consequently The Moore Company has agreed to move the manufacturing of these particular products to El Salvador."

Moore noted that approximately 40 employees would

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Area food stamp numbers rising

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

The federally-funded Food Stamp program is at the highest level it has been in 13 years, Ben Rose, Director of Social Services (DSS) told the Chowan County Commissioners at their December meeting held Monday night.

"The recent spike is due to a lot of factors, including the new federally-mandated outreach efforts, the SNAP program, which gives automatic eligibility, the increase in seasonal work as well as the general flexible guidelines for the large number of working poor in Chowan County," said Rose.

"The Food Stamp caseload is at the highest level I've ever seen," said Rose whose 13-year history with the department has seen an evolution of the program itself.

The Food Stamp program provides a basic need, Rose explained. "The program is not like that of the welfare

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Special session helps relieve crowding at jail

Plans for a 16-bed addition to Chowan County jail are in works

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

In an effort to reduce overcrowding in Chowan County's jail and trim a backlog of pending court cases, a special Superior Court session was held Nov. 28 in Edenton.

And County Manager Cliff Copeland said the session helped ease the overflow of inmates housed in Chowan — at least for now. He hopes judicial officials will continue to ease the overcrowding at the Chowan County Detention Facility in Edenton. Court officials said Monday that the 22-bed jail has been housing roughly 50 inmates, most awaiting trial.

Monday night, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution asking the state to restore the Pre-Trial Release Program. That program formerly allowed non-violent offenders to avoid incarceration while awaiting trial. In recent years, incarceration regulations have stiffened, while arrests for such

offenses as driving while impaired have increased.

Copeland said Tuesday that Chowan is not immune from the state and national trend of overcrowding in jails.

"We'd much rather spend the money (to house inmates) on education," he said.

The county typically budgets between \$50,000 and \$60,000 annually, Copeland said.

"This year we're already close to budget," he added, "and will exceed it."

However, plans are in the works to build a 16-bed expansion to the jail, the county manager said. Officials are planning to review an architect's plans for the proposed expansion. But the expansion would only be a four to five-year fix to overcrowding.

"That (expansion) would take the immediate load off of us," Copeland said. "Down the road, we're going to have to look at other alternatives,

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Pair arrested on drug trafficking charges

From Staff Reports

A Tyner man and a Hertford man were arrested in November on drug-trafficking charges stemming from a year-long probe conducted by the Perquimans County and Chowan County sheriff's departments and the state Bureau of Investigation.

According to a press release, Shawn Christopher Elliott, of Tyner, was arrested Nov. 2 on federal charges of distributing crack cocaine. Marqchello Jordan, of Hertford, was arrested Nov. 3 on a similar charge, the release stated.

Both Elliott and Jordan were referred to as "two local major drug traffickers" in the release. Both men were

taken before a federal magistrate in Pitt County and are expected to remain in custody until their trials, the release stated.

"The arrest of these two individuals will make a major dent in the drug trafficking in Chowan and the surrounding counties," Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill said in the release.

According to Chowan County court records, Jordan is also awaiting a court appearance on charges of felony kidnapping and assault on a female, a misdemeanor. A court appearance on those charges originally set for Nov. 28 was rescheduled until the Feb. 6 Superior Court session in Chowan.

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