

THE SEASON'S GREETINGS CHOWAN HERALD

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Single Copies 50¢

"I need a pool"

Find out what local youngsters asked Santa for in Letters to Santa, Page C1



Local athletes excel at the next level...

Look at me now

in Sports, Page B1



Cooper to rule on Watson's dual roles

From Staff Reports

State attorney general Roy Cooper has been asked to rule on whether Rick Watson's move to join a Roanoke Rapids entertainment project could result in a conflict of interest.

Watson, president and CEO of the Edenton-based economic development



Watson

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Blackout blamed on storm

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Rain and wind are being blamed for a Dec. 15 power outage that left hundreds of Edenton residents in the dark.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said a circuit serving the Mexico Road area was out for roughly an hour-and-a-half on the night of Dec. 15.

"An insulator blew," Knighton said last week. "We think it was probably damaged during Hurricane Isabel, and over time, rain-water caused further damage, and it finally blew last night."

Steady rain and wind blew through the region on the night of the outage.

Knighton said a resident on Mexico Road called to report "hearing a loud boom."

"That (call) helped our line crews pin-point the problem," she added.

ATV safety



Local law enforcement officers and Chowan DSS Director Ben Rose will be part of a regional committee formed to help implement a new law regulating the use of ATVs by children under eight.

Photo from atvnation.com

New ATV laws lack grip

Farmers, hunters exempt from new regulations

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Chowan County officials want to ensure that local children stay safe — and within the law — when riding all-terrain vehicles.

The state General Assembly passed a new law in August that forbids children younger than 8 to ride ATVs. That law went into effect Dec. 1.

According to Chowan Social Services Director Ben Rose, the county's Child Fatality Task Force is "looking at ways in Chowan County to help spread the word and help enforce the new laws so as to keep kids safe."

A regional committee has also formed to help implement the new law, Rose said. Rose and Chowan County Sheriff's Office deputies will serve on

that committee.

Lawmakers set the new age requirements after the number of youths under 16 who died in ATV-related accidents in North Carolina peaked at 14 in 2004. Five children died in ATV accidents in 1999.

In addition to the new age restriction, youths ages 8 to 15 are restricted to driving ATVs

See ATV On Page A2



Photo by Sean Jackson

The Northern Chowan Community Center was erected as a multi-purpose center for Chowan Middle School students as well as a facility for county residents. According to a new recreation master plan, more buildings like this are needed to meet the county's growing needs.

New recreation plan presented to town

ECU study also finds that upgrades needed to meet ADA requirements

BY JORDAN EURE
Contributing Writer

Walking trails, a bowling alley, and a new county swimming pool are just a few of the improvements to Chowan County's recreation facilities suggested through a study performed by students from East Carolina University.

The Comprehensive Plan, created by the students for a Recreation and Leisure Studies class offered at ECU by Dr. Robert C. Wendling, was presented to the Edenton Town Council on Monday, Dec. 12 at the historic Chowan County Courthouse. The Recreation and Park Plan looked at Chowan County's Cultural and Natural Resources, residents' demand for new facilities, and the conditions of current recreation services to create funding and development recommendations for better and more adequate recreation opportunities for residents of Chowan.

The study began with an analysis of the demographics of Chowan County's residents, an evaluation of the accessibility and overall condition of current facilities, and information gathered through surveys and public meetings to help

identify recreational needs. The Recreation Advisory Board, with input from public meetings, recognized that the main barriers to participating in recreation facilities are travel distance/time and overcrowded facilities. Residents also expressed a need for multi-purpose fields, a swimming pool, outdoor basketball and tennis courts, boardwalks and hiking trails, canoeing/kayaking access, and a new recreation center in town.

An evaluation of Chowan County's current recreation facilities indicated that seven out of the total eleven locations need to be improved to meet proper American with Disabilities Act standards. Vandalism was reported as a problem at six sites.

The study suggested better funding to increase Chowan County's current facilities, programs, equipment, and staffing as a way to improve recreation sites. Sources of the funding may include state and federal grants, user fees, and tax dollars, which an overwhelming 84% of Chowan residents supported in a telephone survey.

One of the solutions for the

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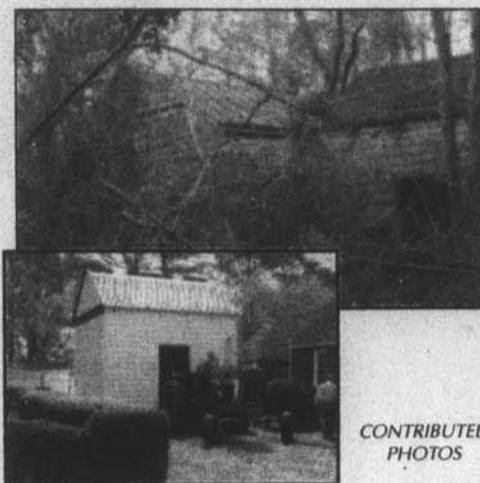
Historic project, marker gets funds

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

The Bandon Plantation Kitchen restoration and the Hugh Williamson Monument, two Chowan County/Historic Edenton projects in the makings for nearly 40 years, are one step closer to realization with a recent appropriation from North Carolina's General Assembly through the NC Department of Cultural Resources.

The Bandon Kitchen project has been one of interest since 1967 when A.L.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Bandon Kitchen (top left, in its current state) beside the Smokehouse (inset, shown following its restoration) will be the fourth building restored from Bandon Plantation.

Closing for holidays

The Chowan Herald will close Friday, Dec. 23 at noon in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Deadlines for submissions will be Thursday, Dec. 22 at 5 p.m.

The newspaper will be closed Friday, Dec. 30, for the New Year's holiday. It will reopen Monday during regular business hours.

Deadlines for submissions for that edition will be Thursday, Dec. 29 at 5 p.m.



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

William "Hawk" Crummey, director of Utilities for the Town of Edenton, will be leaving his job in July, exactly 50 years to the day he began work.

Crummey guided Edenton Utilities through decades of change After 50 years, "Hawk" calls it a day

From staff reports

Edenton Electric Utilities Director William "Hawk" Crummey has announced plans to retire on July 3, exactly 50 years to the day that he began working for the Town of Edenton.

Crummey said he leaves the job with mixed feelings. "I love my job and love serving the people of Edenton and Chowan County," he said. "It's going to be a huge adjustment for me, but I feel it is time for me to slow down a bit."

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said that fifty years of

service to the Town of Edenton is surely a record and one that will likely stand for generations to come. "We just don't have people that spend their entire careers working for the one employer anymore," she said. "When Hawk says he loves his job, he means it, he just loves helping people. Every day for fifty years that is what he has done - help our citizens."

Crummey started out as a lineman for the Town in 1956. Ernest Kehayes was the Mayor, and Richard Hines was the Director of Utilities. The town's electric system at

that time was concentrated within the city limits; the military base at the airport provided its own electricity. The town's system has grown significantly since those days, Knighton noted. Now, the town is bracing for more growth, she said, which motivated Crummey to retire. "This community is growing and more growth is on the way," Crummey said. "I think it is time for the town to get a new director in here that can help guide the system through all this growth."

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CHRISTMAS EVE

St. Paul's 101 W. Church St.
7:30 pm Children's Service
11:00 pm Candlelight Communion

St. Paul's Episcopal Church and St. John's Episcopal Church

Invite you to their Christmas Services:
"Come Join Us As We Celebrate Our Lord's Birth"

CHRISTMAS DAY

St. Paul's 101 W. Church Street
10:00 am Christmas Morning
Holy Communion