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Museum finally opens doors

Construction of the Museum of the Albemarle spanned seven years



Contributed

A grand opening and ribbon-cutting will be held at Museum of the Albemarle's new location May 1.

BY REBECCA BUNCH
The Chowan Herald

After a seven-year wait, primarily due to funding-related issues, the Museum of the Albemarle will mark the official opening of its new facility Monday, May 1 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The celebration will take place from 5-7 p.m. at the new site, 501 S. Water St. in Elizabeth City.

The museum serves a 13-county area that includes Chowan. Edenton is the focus of several prominent exhibits in the new museum, including silver designed by Smith Issac Marquand, and Edenton's role in the American Revolution.

Officials from Chowan and other counties in the MOA service area have been invited to participate in the opening.

Juveniles are suspects in vandalism

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

A group of juveniles are the culprits in the vandalism that occurred over the weekend at the Northern Chowan Community Center on Hwy. 32. A meeting between Recreation Department officials, the delinquents and their parents will take place today to discuss disciplinary action.

According to the Chowan County Sheriff's Office

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'Odyssey' takes students to Iowa

Middle school contestants in Odyssey of the Mind make it to national venue

BY GLENDA JAKUBOWSKI
Edenton-Chowan Schools

Chowan Middle School's Odyssey of the Mind team continues a several-year streak by heading to the world competition in Ames, Iowa on May 24.

The team earned its spot in the competition in two ways: by placing first in the state in its category, and by winning a Ranatra Fusca Award for ex-

emplary creativity.

"Our Odyssey of the Mind teams continue to prove fine ambassadors for Edenton-Chowan Schools," said superintendent Allan T. Smith. "They never fail to impress the judges with their creativity and sense of fun."

Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem-solving competition. Each fall, OM publishes five new

problems for teams to choose from. While the problems are different each year, they generally fall in one of five categories: Vehicle-building, Technical (contraptions), Balsa Wood Structures (that must support weight), The Classics (with themes based on history or the arts), and Performance (emphasis is on the creativity of

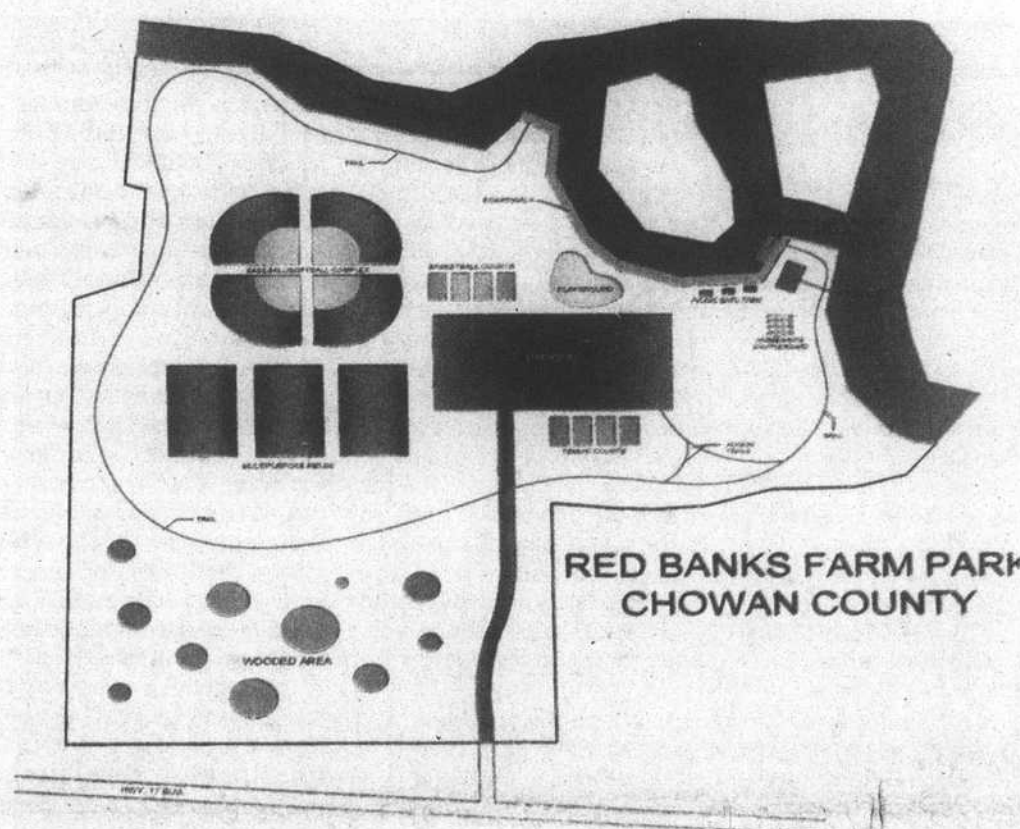
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Marvin Strzyzewski

Members of the Chowan Middle School Odyssey of the Mind team (also composed of D. F. Walker students) celebrate after learning they will return to world competition this year.

Red Banks Farm: recreation mecca



Robbie Laughton

The Red Banks Farm property, located off West Queen Street, will consist of a seven-field complex with trails, a pavilion, disc golf course, water access and a volleyball area, among others. The project will cost an estimated \$1.1 million. Grants are already in the works to help curb local costs.

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

New rec complex awaits funding

A sportslover's dream will be realized if everything goes according to plan, said Robbie Laughton, Director of the Edenton-Chowan Parks and Recreation Department, who is overseeing and applying for grants for the \$1.1 million Red Banks Farm project, a seven-field complex with trails, a pavilion, disc golf course, water access, and a volleyball area, among others.

The Red Banks Farm project, proposed for the county-owned property behind the Edenton National Fish Hatchery on W. Queen Street, is composed of 100 acres, of which 40 that border Pembroke Creek will be left undeveloped. Preliminary sketches for the site include a four-field baseball/softball complex; three multi-purpose fields for soccer/football; paved trails for hiking, walking and biking; a 1300-foot boardwalk along the adjoining Pembroke Creek with kayak, canoe, fishing and nature observation access; a large open pavilion and picnic area for small and large groups with volleyball, bocceball, horseshoe pits, shuffleboard areas; an 18-hole disc golf course in the nearby wooded area; and a playground for the kids.

"This project touches many of the needs addressed by the

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Chowan aims to retain more educators

BY REBECCA BUNCH
The Chowan Herald

Many challenges await first-time teachers in establishing their own classrooms for the very first time.

Establishing a disciplined, orderly classroom where a program of learning can take place on a daily basis can create confusion and frustration for beginners, and helps explain why so many first-time teachers end up leaving the teaching profession to work in other fields, according to Tanya Turner, Director of Testing and Accountability/Staff Development for the Edenton-Chowan Schools.



Tanya Turner

This is an issue that the local school system has been studying, she told the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education during their monthly meeting and developing strategies for dealing with successfully. But that's not the only reason that teachers have been leaving local classrooms. Turner said that over the last 10 years about 40 percent of its teachers have resigned to teach elsewhere. Another twenty percent have retired. In smaller numbers, teachers have left due to non-renewal of their teaching certification, moving into a non-teaching position, a career change, and health/physical disability issues.

What does all this mean for our school systems? Basically, it translates into a need to work harder to retain good teachers to ensure a quality education for Chowan County's children, Turner said. She noted that in addition to dealing with the "same old fears and uncertainty" that brand new teachers have always faced, those walking into today's classrooms also confront a number of new issues. These include: discipline issues; declining public support for educators; an increase in the number of students who do not speak English; and new pressures created by a greater level of state accountability and testing, as well as the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act.

In an effort to provide a greater level of support and encouragement for new teachers, which hopefully will result in their wanting to remain a part of the Edenton-Chowan school system, a plan of action has

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Robbery, assault lead to arrest early Saturday

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

An Edenton man was arrested by police within a half hour of allegedly beating and robbing an assistant manager of a local pizzeria early Saturday morning.

Yanique Lamont Robinson, 31, of 108F Filbert's Creek Apartment, was charged on April 8 with robbery with a dangerous weapon and assault by strangulation. He was jailed at the Chowan County Detention Facility under a \$500,000



Robinson

bond. He was set to make his first court appearance Tuesday.

Police Det. Aaron Davidson said a female Pizza Hut assistant manager was leaving the restaurant on Virginia Road at around 1 a.m. early Saturday when Robinson attacked her and took a bank deposit bag. Robinson apparently had been waiting for the manager, Davidson added.

"While she's getting in her car," Davidson said, "a man

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War games played out at airport

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

From specks on the horizon, U.S. Marines converged upon the Northeastern Regional Airport outside of Edenton on Friday and, amidst the crack of M-16s and the shouts of friends and foes, they "freed" a group of relieved "hostages".

Landing in CH-46 and CH-53 assault helicopters, the roughly 70 members of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit from Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville made a beeline for an abandoned lumber mill just north of the airport. Crouched in the doorway



Sean Jackson/The Chowan Herald

Marines from the 24th Expeditionary Unit at Camp Lejeune enter a warehouse where role-players acting as insurgents were "hostaging" explosives during a hostage rescue exercise on April 7.

of an otherwise deserted loading dock, the role-playing hostages awaited. In a nearby storage building, the insurgents making IEDs — improvised explosive devices often just called roadside bombs — were prepared to fend off the rescue mission. However, it took roughly 30

minutes for the Marines to quell the revolt of "insurgents" and free the shirt waving, "U.S.A. good!"-shouting hostages.

The training session should prepare the Marines for an upcoming deployment

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