

Coming next week:
Find out who's filing for a seat
on the county school board



Edenton Steamers bunt,
steal way to comeback win

Sports, B1



Injured animals are
nursed back to health
by Edenton woman

Community, C1

CHOWAN HERALD

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Edenton outspends others for July 4



Chowan Herald file photo

The Chowan-Edenton Optimists will host another Fabulous Fourth of July celebration on the Edenton waterfront. Residents from all over the area are expected to come help celebrate Independence Day. Activities will begin at 4 p.m. Fireworks will light up the sky starting around 9 p.m.

Fireworks display one of best in area

BY REBECCA BUNCH
The Chowan Herald

Chowan County may be the smallest county in North Carolina, but its July 4 fireworks display is one of the most impressive around.

Carried out by members of the Chowan-Edenton Optimist Club, the brightly hued display costs between \$18,000-\$20,000 - making it second only in size to that of Elizabeth City, which spends

about \$25,000 annually on its show. Other communities in the area, by comparison, typically spend about \$6,000-\$7,000 to put on fireworks displays.

And while Elizabeth City may hold bragging rights to drawing the largest crowd - organizers predict 10,000 will be there - Chowan County's impressive fireworks show pulls in over 2,000 visitors to the downtown waterfront. Optimist Club spokesman

Frank White says that with Hertford's show cancelled for this year, and Windsor's show taking place on July 3, that number is expected to climb even higher.

"We have people coming from all over the area every year," White said. "This is something they really look forward to and we do our best not to disappoint them."

In addition to a dazzling fireworks display, there will also be lots of children's activities

and perhaps a ride on the Optimist Club train. Food and refreshments will be available. And there will be entertainment provided by Steve Hardy's Original

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INSIDE

Reading of the Declaration of Independence by Edenton DAR chapter.
Page A3.

Crime higher in Edenton than Chowan again

Police chief says residential density leads to more crime

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Last year, the crime rate was higher in the city than in the county.

The rate of crime per 100,000 offenses was 245 for Edenton versus 143 for Chowan County.

The data, which deviates little from past years, was recently released by the state justice department.

"Any city has more crime," Edenton Police Chief Greg Bonner said. "When you have more people living closer together tempers flare. And with businesses located within the city limits there is a window of opportunity for crime."

Overall, the crime in Chowan County dipped 11.6 percent between 2004 and 2005. But residents wonder about the statistics.

One gentleman talking with a friend in front of the local hardware store said he wasn't sure the numbers were right.

He said he often sees 'drug deals' go down.

A lady shopping in town for her prescription medicines also voiced concerns.

"I think the drug activities have increased," she said. She credits the increased activity to the job shortage and seemingly increasing unemployment rate in the area.

Others surveyed felt that crime is indeed declining.

Two ladies outside of the J. C. Penny's Catalog Store chatted about the statistics.

"I haven't heard of anything bad going on lately," one said to the other about crime activities in town. "No shooting or stabbing," she said.

"Maybe it (crime) has gone down," the other replied.

"Yeah, but I can't say definitely because I don't stay up on it. I live on the outskirts of town."

The crime summary reported by the state agency takes into account those offenses

See **CRIME**, Page A2▶



"The biggest problem is drugs. Maybe the answer is more citizens' input, like having a community hotline."

—Susie Carter
Coke Avenue



"I've got a police scanner in my house—I hear it all."

—Nancy Noble
Rocky Hock



"It's a good thing that the crime has gone down, but it's still too high, especially drugs."

—Sheldon Stanley
Paradise Road



"I see a lot of officers patrolling in my neighborhood. I feel safe."

—Buddy Lawrence
Country Club Drive



"It's better than it used to be. The police seem to patrol a lot more now and stuff seems to be slowing down."

—Jamaal Williams
Greenhall Road

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Cattle farmers upset by federal regulations

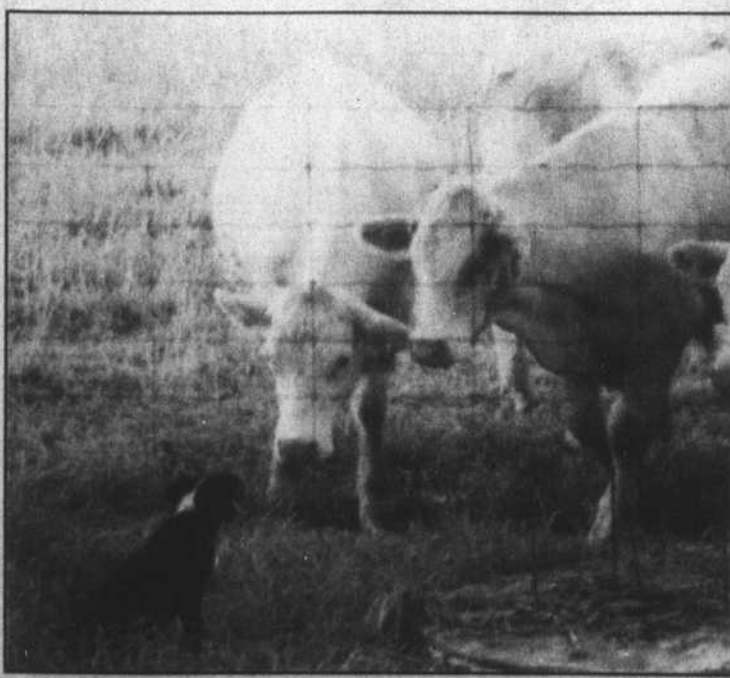
BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Local ranchers have mixed feelings about the national ID program, which will require an identification and tracking system for all agricultural animals across the country.

C. Y. Parrish worries that keeping up-to-date records on animals' whereabouts, births, may become a headache. Parrish is a small producer in Chowan with approximately 60 head of cattle under his care.

"I don't know how expensive it would be to keep up with it (the program and the books)," he said.

Others also worry about the possible financial burden. Will the program's costs trickle down to the producer instead of being taken care of by the



Metro Creative

A national ID program for cattle and other farm animals is causing concern among area farmers.

government?

"I ain't going to worry about it until I have to," Parrish said. "I can't say I'd be opposed to the program. You either do it or get out of the cattle business."

By implementing the NAIS program, the USDA's long-term goal is to establish a system that can identify all premises and animals that have had direct contact with a foreign animal disease or domestic disease of concern within 48 hours of discovery.

Already, many species in

See **FARMERS**, Page A2▶

INSIDE

Rehabilitator brings wildlife expertise to Edenton.
Page C1.

Deadlines changed for next edition

The Chowan Herald will be closed Tuesday, July 4, to allow staff to celebrate the holiday with family and friends.

Ads for next week's paper will be accepted until 4 p.m. this Thursday. This includes classifieds and legal notices.

News stories and photos should also be turned in by that same deadline, however, submissions will be accepted after deadline on a "space available" basis.

News coverage of Tuesday's July 4 events will appear in the July 12 edition.