

CHOWAN HERALD

Coming in two weeks
The Chowan Herald will include "Edenton Today," an annual progress report on our community.

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Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Single Copies: 50¢

Pastors' Spouses under stress

Page C8

Tobs tarnish Edenton Steamers' winning streak

Page B1

New Feature Land Transfers

Page A8



Austin Laing, 10, suffers from autism and mild cerebral palsy.

Child's call saves mother

10-year-old hailed as a local hero by 911 Center

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Austin Laing was sitting beside his mom, Leigh, when she felt the "woowos" come on.

First, she felt the woowos—the family's code

word for mom's seizure attacks—and then she collapsed at the desk while talking on the phone with her mother-in-law.

Austin, now 10, who suffers from autism and mild cerebral palsy, hung up on his grandmother and immediately dialed 911.

At 2:06 p.m. on June 9, Austin described what was happening to his mother to emergency medical dispatcher Monica Stulick. He

asked her to hurry, please.

Austin remained calm. He followed Stulick's instructions, turning what was a life-threatening situation into a life-saving one.

For that he was recognized on Monday by the Chowan County Commissioners for his courage and good judgement, becoming the first ever recipient of the "I Made the Right Call" award.

"He's my miracle baby."

He's always proving how amazing he is to me," Leigh said.

Austin was expected to be in a wheelchair by the age of 12, but doctors have since changed their minds.

Today, Austin plays, runs and swims just like all the other kids. Recently he was able to tackle a bicycle without training wheels. He is a Yu-Gi-Oh fanatic and loves

See MOM, Page A2 ▶



HAVING A BLAST ON THE BAY

Kermit Layton

Sailors had a busy day on the water Saturday during the Edenton Bay Challenge, an annual event held on the waterfront. Adult winners in the Senior Sunfish division were Rob Eberlee, John Chesson and Dave Culbreth. For information on youth winners in the two-day event, which ended on Sunday, see page B4 of today's edition.

Sparks fly at Monday Farm Fresh hearing

Board delays vote on proposed new shopping center until late July

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

A key Edenton planning leader is worried that a proposed Farm Fresh-anchored shopping center would clog roads and steal business from downtown shops.

Edenton Planning Board Chair Stephen Lane pounded the development team with questions Monday night. The project is proposed for 64 acres of farm land along Whitemon Lane and N.C. Highway 32.

But local business leaders chided Lane's worries about the proposed Edenton Commons shopping center.

"They are old topics of confusion and fear," Richard Bunch, head of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, told Lane during the public hearing portion of the three-hour meeting.

Bunch was one of 12 supporters of the project to address the planning board, which delayed a vote on developers' permit request until July 26.

Lane asked extensive questions of the half-dozen members of the development team on hand for the planning meeting, which drew more than 50 supporters of the project. At one point, board members asked Lane to curb his questioning to allow the meeting to flow more steadily.

"You're being nippy," to the developers, Craig Miller told Lane.

Undeterred, Lane continued to launch questions throughout the meeting. One of his chief concerns was the likelihood for the project to add what he felt would be too much commercial and retail development on the 62-acre site.

"It's like being pecked to death by chickens," Lane said.

Initially, the Farm Fresh is slated to deliver its services in a big way. David Kelly, director of real estate sales for the Virginia-based grocery chain, said the proposed supermarket would be 56,000 square feet.

"It's going to be a full-service Farm Fresh site," Kelly told *The Chowan Herald* after the meeting.

Developers also said retailers such as Goody's, TJ Maxx and Dollar Tree often follow

See FIREWORKS, Page A3 ▶

INSIDE

July 4th thru kids' eyes

C1

K9 Unit hits the streets again

Duo involved in 4 drug arrests so far

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Chowan County has a new best friend. Rico, the newest police utility narcotics canine with the sheriff's office, is hot on the trail of drug traffickers.

With only a few weeks of work experience under his collar, Rico has already been an integral part of traffic stops, leading to several drug arrests.

Since June 28, Rico has assisted in four officer-initiated stops, all of which resulted in drug arrests.

The latest incident in which Rico, under the direction of his handler, Deputy Edward Basnight, took an active part was a bust Thursday morning. The stop led to the recovery of a quarter pound of marijuana.

The officers were given a tip that a black male, 23, of Columbia, coming from New York via bus would be transporting drugs. Shortly after arrival at the bus station, the suspect caught a ride with others from Columbia.

When the auto was stopped by authorities, Rico leapt into action. Rico located the drugs rolled up in a pants leg inside the suspect's bookbag. Jamel Spruill was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana. A \$5,000 secured bond was issued.

"We are really proud of Rico and his track record," Basnight



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Deputy Edward Basnight of the Chowan County Sheriff's Office observes as his K9 partner, Rico, sniffs a vehicle to see if he can detect drugs. The pair have played a part in several recent drug arrests.

said. "He's on a real hot streak now and we hope that continues."

This is not the first K-9 Chowan County has seen wearing a badge. Rex, under the direction of handler Buddy Bunch served as Chowan County's first drug recovery canine

for years until his diagnosis with cancer. Rex retired last spring from service with the sheriff's office.

"We had been hoping to reinstate the K-9 division and were fortunate enough

See K9, Page A2 ▶

INDEX	
A Local	
Opinion.....	A6
B Sports	
Steamers News.....	B1
Nascar	B2
Outdoors	B3
Recreation News	B4
C Community News	
Upcoming Events	C2
Society	C3
Obituaries	C6
Church	C5, 8
D Classifieds	
Employment	D1
Buy/Sell/Trade	D2
Service Directory	D4

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Farm Fresh features

- Pharmacy
- Starbucks
- Online shopping
- 24-hour operations
- Florist