

CHOWAN HERALD

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Story Below

Coming next week
Edenton Aces 2006 fall
football preview; new
coaching staff, players

Officials deep six town's
plan for removal of
'stinky weeds'

Sandy Point project collides with environmental roadblock

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

The huge Sandy Point project is running into environmental problems that could jeopardize the future of the project, officials say.

Doug Huggett, permits coordinator for the state Division of Coastal Management, said Monday that he expects the developer to ask for the project's permit to be put on hold.

But Sam Young, the developer, said Tuesday that he currently has no such plans.

"I don't know exactly where

we are at the moment," Young said.

The problems stem from the recent discovery of aquatic vegetation near the shores of the Albemarle Sound.

"We're trying to figure out how to deal with that," Young said.

The 930-acre project, to include hundreds of homes in addition to some businesses, sits on the sound just south of Edenton. It involves 1.6 miles of shoreline, 200 feet of which are impacted by the plants, Young said.

But could the problem jeopardize the expensive subdivi-

"There's an awful lot of money tied up in that, [project] and we're aware of that."

Doug Huggett,
permits coordinator

sion? "Potentially, it could," Huggett said from his Morehead City office. "But, also potentially, there could be some solution to work out."

Young didn't rule out an and to the project.

"Anything is potential," he said. "But if I thought they were going to stop it, I'd pack up and go. We haven't given up yet."

Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland also sees Sandy Point happening.

"At the end of the day," Copeland said, "we're going to have a project."

The protected plants would be affected by proposed dredging for the project, Huggett said. The plants are in a heavy bloom this summer, while last summer they were more

sparse in numbers, Huggett said.

State agencies have called for developers to draft a mitigation plan regarding three types of underwater plants near the shoreline. State officials have reviewed that plan.

"A lot of discussion is going back and forth," Huggett said. "As of right now, I'm not how sure it's going to work out."

Huggett said it is not unusual for developers to ask for a hold to be put on a permit application. The state has a deadline to meet to either approve or deny such applications, he said. He's seen such

delays take from a week to several months.

"They can keep it on hold as long as they need to," he said.

Huggett was unsure how much the problems with the plants — and the potential delay in the permit application — would cost the developers.

"There's an awful lot of money tied up in that [project] and we're aware of that."

Young said the discovery of the plants has been costly. He's worked with biologists, environmental experts and college

See PROJECT, Page A2 >

Kids beat the heat

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

"Turn on the water", the kids screamed as temperatures hit record numbers in town last week. An afternoon trip to the hot playground was the furthest thought from anyone's mind.

Meanwhile the kids were everywhere, splashing and splashing all over town. Those who didn't have a pool found refuge in others' pools or opted to get wet the old fashioned way—the trusty waterhose.

They would spray each other and even turn it on themselves just for a few minutes relief from the sweltering heat.

Even at the Kids Being Kids Camp (sponsored by the recreation department) last week, every morning was filled with water activities—water games, water guns and slip and slide fun. In the afternoons the 20-plus participants would cool down with homemade smoothies and watch movies in the A/C.

Many seemed more concerned about their animals and the heat than their own person.

"I give my two dogs fresh water twice a day and doggy ice cream," Carolann White said.

Jaylan Boyce lets his pet turtle out every day to run around and then treats him with cold food afterwards.

How do you stay cool?



Carolann White, 10
Swimming pool, eating popcicles, and playing on the slip 'n slide



Jaylan Boyce, 8
Water ballons, slip 'n slide-staying wet



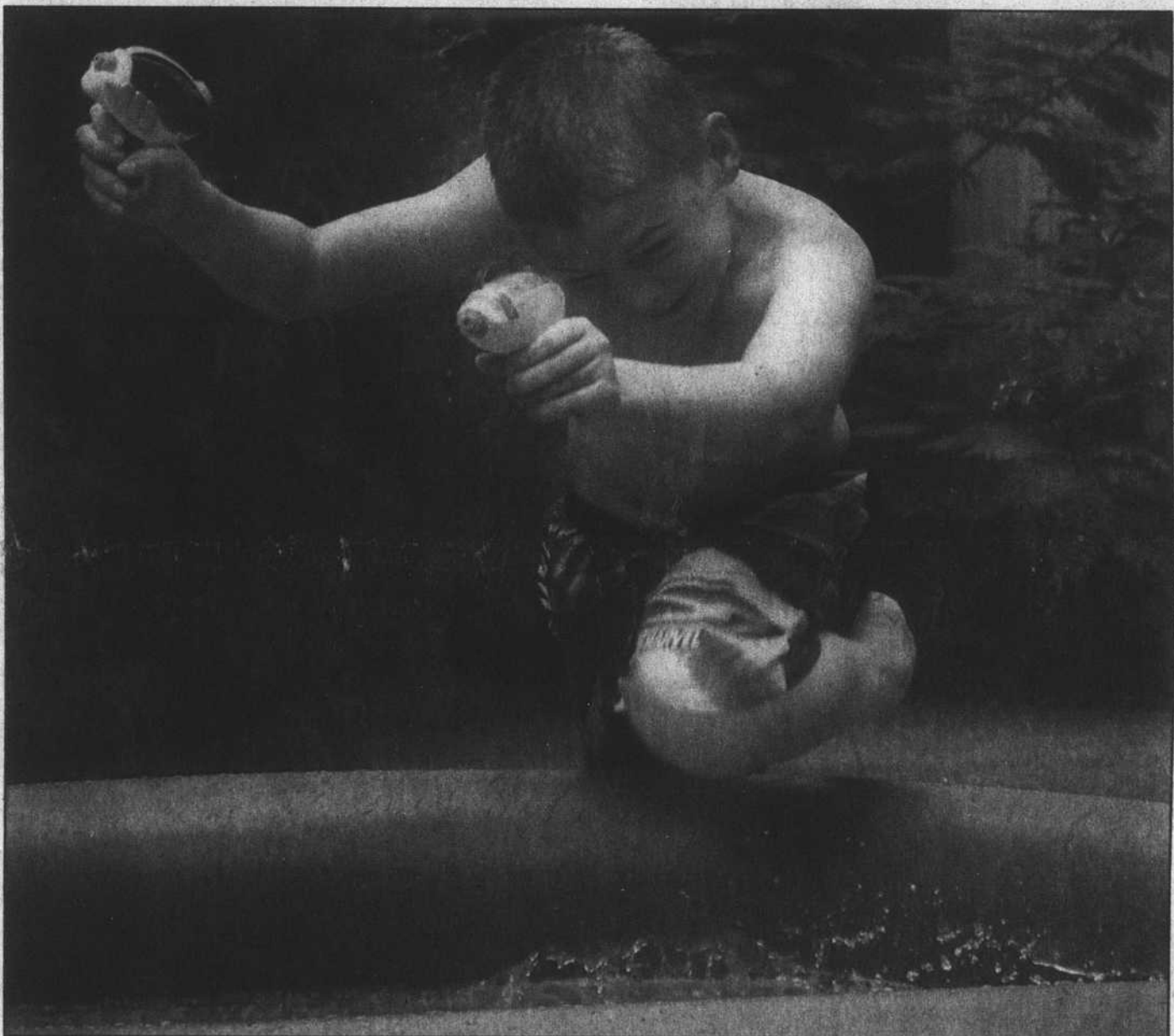
Keibrea Holley, 7
Go inside the house with the A/C and watch TV



Shanna Armstead, 9
Eat ice, wear short sleeves, stay in the A/C



Davis Marshall, 7
Eat lots of vanilla ice cream, watermelon and cantaloupe



Robbie Emminizer heads for the cool relief of a blowup pool during his ninth birthday party Saturday.

Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Increases in funds equals more teachers in the classroom

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

An increase in state and local allocation will allow for two new core classroom teachers at White Oak, one at John A. Holmes, and one at D. F. Walker in the upcoming school year.

Superintendent Allan Smith is pleased with the addition of staff in the classroom which he feels confi-

dent will make a real difference to curb class size in the schools.

"The state allotted a substantial increase this year, which will allow funding for three additional teachers (because of the rising average daily attendance)," Smith said.

An additional person for instructional support will

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Officials tell town to halt weed removal; plants beneficial to aquatic life, they say

Public Works staff had been digging in effort to kill odor on waterfront

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

The stinky weed bloom in waters in and around Edenton is something people will just have to put up with for a while.

N.C. Division of Coastal Management officials last

week told the town to put the brakes on efforts to scoop the weeds out of Edenton Bay.

The milfoil and other plants growing along the town's shoreline is considered a plant that benefits other aquatic life.

"We were told to cease and desist from raking or digging out any of the vegetation," Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said early Monday.

"If the weed was washed up on the rocks, dead and decaying, we would remove that. But that is it," she added.

But could the town, as some residents have suggested, put nets out in the bay next year to trap the weeds?

"The state said that would be an absolute no-no," Knighton said.

The good news is, she said, is that the weeds typically don't hang around too long.

"It is likely not to be this bad in future years," the

town manager said.

The weeds reportedly bloomed in large numbers this year due to excessive heat, still conditions, and low salinity in the Chowan River and Albemarle Sound.

Mike Williams, agriculture extension agent for Chowan County, said improvements in the quality of area waters also aided the plants' arrival.

Clearer water allows sunlight to reach the bottom of a body of water, where nutrients have gathered.

"As we learned in grade school," Williams emphasized, "plants need nutrients, sunlight and water to grow."

The bright side of the matter is that the plants provide habitats for fish and waterfowl.

"You may have noticed all the ducks that like to stay right in the middle of the mass of weeds that float into Edenton Bay," Williams said.

And the plants, which include naiad and eel grass,

also play a role in the aquatic food chain. The plants attract aquatic insects that become food for small fish, which are consumed by larger fish. The big fish then become meals for osprey and bald eagles.

"It's well worth an early morning canoe ride on still waters," Williams said, "to quietly paddle over these aquatic weed communities and observe the abundance of life from small minnows and insects to the larger predatory bass and all in between."

The downside, besides the stench, is that the weed masses can be hazards to motorized boats.

"Boat traffic has to worry about fouling propellers in the thick vegetation," Williams said.

"And everyone near the water has to deal with the odor as the weeds wash onto shore and decompose," Williams added.

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