

Q&A with
librarian
Naomi
White

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Falcons run over Aces



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CHOWAN HERALD

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50¢

First Christian Church
pastor is 96 years old



Church, C8

Gangs still a no-go here

Police chief lays out differences between real gangs, groups

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Edenton's top cop wants to dispel what he calls a misconception that organized gangs are operating in town.

Police Chief Greg Bonner said neither of two suspected groups using gang-like names — the Bloods and Crips — are actual gangs.

Neither group has the initiation process nor the specified roles for members associated with a bona fide gang.

True gangs also specialize in violent crimes, Bonner said. But that's not being seen in Edenton, he added.

"Groups are often local boys that know each other, often from the same family he said," that have a vendetta against an individual or a group of individuals."

Bonner said that's likely the case here.

"At this point I wouldn't identify a group of guys as a gang just because they are wearing red," he said.

The differences

Members of the two local groups apparently aren't given specific crimes to commit. A recent fight on East Church Street appears to be a case of retaliation between one group — the so-called Bloods — and a member of the family living at that residence, Bonner said.

So far, six arrests have been made with four warrants still to be served.

"I think the arrests will make a significant impact on it," the chief said when asked if those arrests could ease tensions between the two groups.

Seeing things clearly

In the meantime, Bonner hopes local residents understand the situation.

"There is a misconception in most communities when you have five or six guys together that are wearing a similar color," he said, "that they are a gang. We want to dispel that misconception in this community."

"If we had constant calls about it," Bonner said of the alleged gang activity, "I would have a greater concern that there may be a formulated gang."

Bonner also said he is hesitant to identify young adults standing along town streets in groups as gangs simply on assumption.

"They have a right to assemble," he added.

Edenton-Chowan Schools spokesperson Glenda Jakubowski said the recent increase in gang-like behavior — including youths wearing "colors" — spurred local officials to team together to address the issue.

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A day at Nixon's Fishery involves ...

Blood, sweat and gills



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Fishery veteran Florence Beasley has been skinning fish at Murray Nixon's for 33 years.

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

They say that after you've been around fish for a while you can't smell it anymore.

But after 33 years skinning, cutting and dressing fish at Murray L. Nixon's Fishery, Beasley can still smell it.

Dressed in her gum boots, rubber gloves marked "Flo," and net covering her wavy black hair, Beasley says the smell greets her at the door at seven each morning.

But it doesn't stop her from eating fish at least once a week — for the iron, she says.

Beasley stands this morning before a mound of catfish (nearly half as tall as she is) waiting to be cleaned for shipping to Kinston.

Around her swirls Spanish conversations and giggles from her veteran co-workers Mary Hayes and Nancy Armstead who also learned to clean fish from Murray himself.

Beasley grabs a catfish weighing nearly 8 pounds, pushes its

head onto the screw mounted on the cutting board, and with a pair of pliers grabs a whisker. In two smooth sweeping motions, Beasley has skinned it clean. She chunks its body in a bin and reaches for another.

Back when Herring was king on the Chowan River, fishermen would pull in close to 1,000 pound nets a day. Back then you could bring in as many fish as your boat could haul. And there were over 200 fisheries to choose from when



it came time for unloading.

Today, nestled in the pine thickets of Rocky Hock only one fishery remains, struggling to stay afloat through three generations of new fishing laws and regulations.



By 6 a.m. Nixon's Fishery trucks have already come and gone, en route to points in Virginia, Elizabeth City and the Outer Banks. During the day a half a dozen local fishermen will bring in their hauls from area rivers — crabs, croakers, flounder and more catfish. Trucks also are unloading, bringing in catfish from China, trout from Argentina.

The concrete dock is a bustle with men scooping ice onto fresh fish to be shipped as far away as New York.

Forklift operators beep back and forth along the docks loaded down with boxes labeled for Chicago, New York.

Inside the office overlooking the dock, manager Joey Nixon,

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Coming Next Week



Good times
at the county
fair caught
on film

Sandy Point not out of the weeds

Canals excluded from state permits for now

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

The Sandy Point subdivision is back before state review, but a key part of the application have been taken off the table for now: a pair of canals.

While two permits have been issued for the large, waterfront development, its inland harbor could be in jeopardy, according to Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland.

"Unfortunately, it would lose a lot of its value as a one-of-a-kind effort in this state," Copeland said when asked what impact the loss of the canals could have on the project.

The project's developer acknowledges that there is still one hurdle to clear. State environmental officials have cited aquatic plants along the shore as being imperiled by the developer.

To overcome this hurdle, the developer is seeking a variance to allow the canals to be built.

"We're just trying to overcome the problem," developer Sam Young said last week.

Revising the plan

Overcoming the problem could require eliminating some of the original features of the plan. Located on the northern banks of the Albemarle Sound just south of Edenton, the subdivision is slated to have hundreds of homes, a marketplace, and a harbor with a navigable channel.

It's that last feature that caused concerns with the state Division of Marine Fisheries. Under the current plan, dredging for the channels could affect the underwater plants. The plants bloomed heavily this summer and forced the project to go on hold for about a month.

Developers are now working on a mitigation plan that would allow for the channels to connect with the harbor. The state Coastal Resources Commission will have the final say on whether or not that can happen.

Can the re-tooling work?

"I think it's possible," Copeland said of the project retaining its channels and harbor. "We obviously hope the [commission] staff would support the variance request. To me, it's a no-brainer."

One of the primary fixes is to construct a breakwater about 200 feet offshore, Copeland said. The breakwater would protect the plants and still allow access into the inland harbor.

"It's going to cost a lot of money to build it," Copeland said of the proposed breakwater.

The earliest the commission would hear the request would be either November or January, Copeland said.

Copeland said he remains optimistic that Sandy Point will be the unique, flourishing development that it was projected to be.

"The project is building momentum," he said. "We feel like we're close to putting a package together to enable Sandy Point to move forward."

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Coming Next Week: Got a McCafe coffee?