

CHOWAN HERALD

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Wednesday, October 4, 2006

50¢

Coming Next Week

Bill Bangert
shakes
things
up with
unique
salt and
pepper



**After 44 years:
Peebles' Modlin still
on the job**

Community, C1



Aces Profile
QB Joseph Westbrook
has completed 56 passes

Sports, B1



**Aces drop
fourth game**

Sports, B1

Keeping kids safe focus of session

Former White Oak
educator stresses
safe use of Internet
by students

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Managing Editor

A former White Oak Elementary School teacher is attempting to raise awareness among parents concerning sexual predators who target children.

During an upcoming community workshop, Deborah Goodman, now on loan to the N.C. Department of Instruction, will explain how parents can monitor their children's Internet use and keep them from making inappropriate contacts.

Sponsored by the Edenton-Chowan Schools and the local law enforcement community, the session will take place at the John A. Holmes High School cafeteria Oct. 12 from 7-8:15 p.m.

As Nelle Hyatt, director of Media/Technology for the Edenton-Chowan Schools, explains, "While the Internet can be a very enlightening resource, it can also be a dangerous place. This Internet Safety Awareness session is designed to provide information to parents and community members on the issues concerning children and youth on the Internet as well as giving tips on keeping our children safe while they learn from the Internet."

See WORKSHOP, Page A2 >

Ober pleads guilty to murder

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Carl M. Ober III, of Edenton, pleaded guilty yesterday to the 2005 slaying of his grandmother.

Ober, 21, was sentenced to roughly 26 to 33 years in prison by Superior Court Judge Clifton W. Everett Jr. Ober shared a hug with his mother and received a kiss on the

cheek from his father shortly before he was led out of a Chowan County courtroom.

Ober pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. He had faced a potential life sentence if convicted by a jury of first-degree murder, defense attorney Andy Womble said.

Womble said it was a reasonable deal between his client and prosecutors, adding, how-

ever, that neither side was completely satisfied with the outcome.

"Sometimes the best pleas are when nobody's satisfied," Womble said.

Everett called the crime "terrible" considering Ober's relationship to the victim.

"It's sad for the family, sad for him," he said.

Ober was convicted of the January 2005 murder of his

grandmother, Joyce Smith Lee. Ober was 19 and living with Lee at the time of her death. She had been reported two days prior to the discovery of her body in Vine Oak Cemetery by a state Highway Patrol helicopter.

Casey Lynn Forward has also been charged in Lee's murder. Forward was 14 at the time of Lee's death. She had agreed to testify against Ober through an

arrangement with prosecutors. Her trial — for a second-degree murder charge — could begin as soon as today.

Statements given by Forward to Edenton police investigators were presented before Everett. Forward said she and Ober killed Lee then dumped her body in the cemetery in the middle of the night.

See MURDER, A2 >

County Fair hits record attendance



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Talesa Spruill, Hannah Rice and Jada Privott enjoy the slide at the Fair.

Fair attendance climbs to 25,000 visitors this year

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

Where else can you eat cheesecake on a stick, pet a goat, fish for trout, and listen to gospel music all day?

For years the Winbornes have taken home handfuls of blue ribbons from the county fair for their large pumpkins. And this year was no different - Sarah and her father, Emmett both took first place for size and best in show.

Theirs was just two among the 281 agricultural exhibits at the 59th annual regional fair, and among the 2,135 entries for homemade goodies, arts and crafts.

Fair attendance this year was up nearly 2,500 people for a grand total of 25,000 — the largest crowd so far.

Sherri Volk, chairperson of the exhibits, has noticed slight increases each year in the number of entries, especially those among the youth—a sign that the fair is still going strong after so many years.

E. C. Toppin, president of the fair association and fair manager said, "A lot of people come out just for the entertainment, especially the younger crowds for the rides and cotton candy. But I think the older ones come out for the exhibits and the enjoy their kids/grandkids."

At the fair you can hear, touch, smell and taste what is still being produced in the rural kitch-

ens of America, handed down through generations of cookbooks.

In a tradition tracing its roots back as far as 1620, the county fair - an American institution - continues to provide a slice of Americana right here in Chowan.

Fair fun caught
on film
Community, C1

The agricultural fair is a way to keep the next generation close to their roots and a means for the older generation to rekindle memories of their childhood days on the farm.

Cole Hare entered his Virginia peanuts and won first place. Caleb Sawyer showed several of his chickens and goats. Makayla Deaver picked buds from her blooming miniature rosebush. Lisa Wilkins entered canned snapbeans she made just months earlier. Wyatt and Tori Bland both brought corn on the cob, freshly picked from their family's farm and took away several ribbons.

More than 3,000 fairs, state, county and district are held each year in the U.S. allowing a

See FAIR, Page A2 >

While farmers struggle, peanut festival goes on

Annual parade, run and
'Battle of the Bands' all
back on tap for Saturday



Glenda Jakubowski/Edenton-Chowan Schools

Mr. Peanut is looking forward to another
successful Peanut Festival this Saturday.

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

With more and more local farmers turning away from the peanut, will the festival, one of the longest-standing in N.C., created in its honor die as well?

Since 2002 (and the introduction of the peanut quota) peanut farmers have been seeking alternatives to the southern cash crop. Instead of peanuts, farmers are planting soybeans and clary sage, turning family farmlands into housing developments, horse and beef pastures, as well as mining for development, according to county agriculture agent, Mike Williams.

J.C. Nixon Jr. feels the effects of the quota all too well. Nixon was the 2003 county production winner (with nearly 5,300 pounds of peanuts per acre) but said that he will not be farming much longer if prices continue to be low.

He was working on a picker

For a
schedule of
Peanut
Festival
events, see
page A2

See PEANUT, A2 >

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National 4-H Week **October 1 - 7, 2006**

VOLUNTEERS WE NEED YOU!

See Page C6 & C7 for more details

How can YOU become
involved in Chowan County 4-H?

If you are between the ages of 5 and 19,
you can become a member of 4-H!