

CHOWAN HERALD

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Music is his passion
Students are his mission

David Shaw
rattles the
music world
at John A.
Holmes



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Former Aces
football coach
passes away

Stories, A9 and B6



Local family has
the touch for
making candy

Community, B1



One juvenile, 13 adults face charges
from local stabbing, ranging from
inciting a riot to attempted murder

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'Why we love Chowan'

We asked residents
why they enjoy
Chowan County and
Edenton, they had a
number of reasons

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

For those that grew up locally, it is no surprise that nearly 30,000 visitors come to Chowan each year.

For many of the same reasons that the locals themselves never leave, people from all over the world come to visit.

A clear blue morning spent on the lazy bay, a bike ride through the sweet magnolia-scented downtown streets, an afternoon picnic on the waterfront, a slow ride through the countryside, a cohesive sense of community, that special quality of light - the serenity of a small town is right outside the door.

Why not make Chowan your valentine?

The historic homes, tree-lined shopping district, waterfront access and unique citizens are what people say make this town the south's prettiest, and everyone agrees.

When it's warm, Jewel Benton, 3, likes taking Wednesday afternoon picnics after storytime at the library with her grandmother, Linda Keeter. She spends most of the afternoon feeding the Mallards that have become so personable over the years that they will practically walk up to her.

For Lillian Spears, who moved to



"The quality of light, the beauty of every season — I love Edenton."

—Deborah Free



"If you don't have a car everything's pretty close ... you can walk."

— Lynda Jordan



"I go on picnics with my grandma and feed the ducks."

— Jewel Benton, 3

Chowan from her home state of N.Y. 10 years ago, it's the yearning for the smell of something different, she says, and for her the smell is best captured here.

Local Brendette Leigh decided a long time ago that this would be the best place for her to raise her two children, and consequently never left.

Deborah Free doesn't know the lady's name, but it is the stranger who sings songs in the park that adds a certain spiritual element to the town.

It's a love story really, of people and a place.

They say you cannot step into the same body of water twice and that you can't go back home.

But for those who never left, it is a reassuring sign that in small towns many things don't change too quickly and that even if you lose your way, home is always where you left it.

And for those who stumbled upon this place along life's path and have yet to leave, go ahead and admit that you're in love with a small southern town.



"The whole town is like a close knit family — everybody knows each other."

— Sue Britt



"One reason that has kept me here is that it is a good place to raise kids."

— Brendette Leigh

DARE program to end

Eighteen year old program to be replaced by gang resistance education

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

The program that has taught local youth for 18 years to resist social pressures associated with drugs and alcohol will cease this week, making way for a new program.

The DARE program, drug abuse resistance education, is currently being taught in the third and fifth grades.

It will be replaced by GREAT, gang resistance education and training, also offered at the schools by the local sheriff's office.

GREAT keeps all the elements of the DARE program and adds to it, Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin said about the changeover. Goodwin feels that the DARE program has run its course and it is time to take a new direction with youngsters.

"GREAT works to prevent youth crime while developing a positive relationship with law enforcement. Unlike the DARE program, GREAT aims to bring the entire family together to combat violence, gang involvement, and peer pressure."

The program will continue to take place in the third and fifth grades, as well as one new class never before offered at the middle school.

"Another good thing about the GREAT program is that the curriculum changes every two years. So a kid that took it in third grade will learn something completely new in the fifth," Goodwin said.

Goodwin hopes to build the program each year, adding more classes at the middle school where peer pressure tends to become a huge factor in life choices.

Also built into the structure of the GREAT program are summer components and programs for outside organizations like the Boys and Girls

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"I like tumbling [at the Northern Chowan Recreation Center]."

— Faelynn Williams, 4



"I met my future husband here. Plus, I'd rather have my kids go to school here than where I'm from."

— Stephanie Goodman



"Good Christian people to work with and a great place for outdoor recreation — hunting and fishing."

— Howard Askew



"Well kept storefronts, a variety of stores, big homes along the waterfront, the smell of something different."

— Lillian Spears

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Town, county move forward with new land use plan

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Town and county officials have sent a draft of their updated joint land-use plan to the state, but it could be months before the new plan is in place.

During a recent joint meeting between the Edenton Town Council and the Chowan Board of County Commissioners, both boards unanimously approved sending the plan to

the state Division of Coastal Management.

The plan would be used as a guideline — not a mandate — for how the town and county continue to develop land uses, consultant Buddy Blackburn said during the Feb. 5 meeting.

It would also aid in managing future increases in population, Blackburn added.

"This plan anticipates growth on the fringe and the

adjacent waterfronts of Edenton," he said.

Overall, a 30-percent population growth is forecast for the town by the year 2030, Blackburn said.

Objectives included in the plan are:

- Identify and analyze new and emerging land-use issues;
- Develop new policies for land-use concerns and needs;
- Address public water access;

■ Review the town and county's respective infrastructure capacities;

- Address water quality issues;
- Preserve open-space areas;
- Manage large-scale residential developments.

Public hearings on a final plan would have to be held before any plan is sent to the state for final approval, Blackburn

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