

New homes may follow demolition of Chowan Veneer on Coke Avenue

Story below



First Steamer to play in Majors

Sports, B1



Ashley Barrow starts fund for Duck-Thru cats

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About \$16,000 in musical instruments stolen at Holmes

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Corn plantings increase

Push for ethanol a likely catalyst throughout U.S.

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

On a recent frosty spring morning, farmer Dale White hitched up the disc harrow and headed into the sandy loam of his family's farm on Greenhall Road.

He's hoping for a good summer — he contracted some soybeans at \$8, and because of the rising corn prices he cut his cotton crop in half.

"I'm tickled to death about that," White said.

"We still pick with a two-row picker, dump the cotton into the trailer, stomp it down in the basket and use heavy covers to wrap it up — that's a job and a lot of up and down."

For as long as White can remember working in the field there has always been cotton, corn and beans.

On the family's 600 acre farm White has decided this year to cut back the cotton crop by half and split the difference between beans and corn.

Corn reaches all-time high
This year, the first in a great many, corn reached an all-time high of nearly \$4 a bushel while cotton prices remained level.

Coupled with the increased demand for ethanol, the corn-based biofuel that has surged in popularity partly because of rising gasoline prices and partly because President Bush declared that the U.S. is addicted to oil — local farmers are all jumping on the corn and bean bandwagon hoping for a better-than-average year.

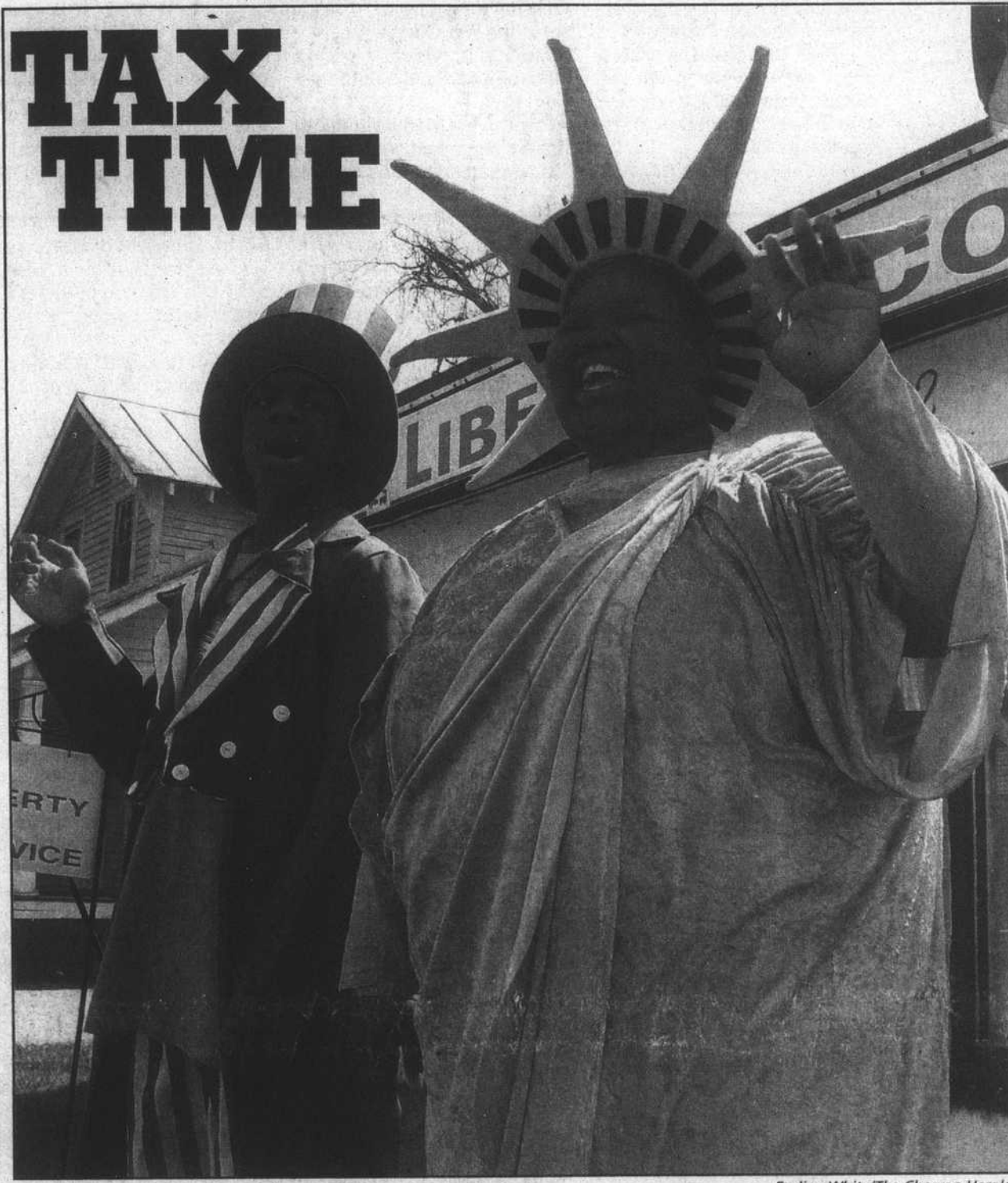
Corn plantings in North Carolina are expected to total 1.05 million acres in 2007; 260,000 more than in 2006, state officials said. Soybean plantings at 1.40 million acres are also expected to increase 30,000 acres from last year.

"In the past, the best corn land has been in cotton because of the low prices [of corn]," Mike Williams, local agriculture agent said.

Cotton, on the other hand, is down 300,000 acres across the

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TAX TIME



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Damion Perry, 15, aka Uncle Sam, and Sha'kiera Holley, 14, aka Lady Liberty, remind local passersby that tax season is here. Ed Horn of Liberty Tax Service in Edenton said to have your return postmarked by midnight Monday.

Local schools proud of low dropout rate

Smith: Ninth grade students a major focus of efforts

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

The local school system is among those who have demonstrated a drop in suspensions for the past two school years.

Those results were contained in a newly released report from the Department of Public Instruction.

Chowan County school officials credit a proactive approach to keeping kids in school.

During the 2005-2006 school year, the most recent for which figures are available, the Edenton-Chowan school sys-

tem recorded a 28 percent drop in suspensions, and a 16.8 suspension rate when compared to figures reported in 2003-2004 and 2004-2005.

Among the trends noted in the report was that ninth graders were the most frequently suspended students statewide.

Dr. Allan Smith, superintendent, said he and other administrators and educators in the local school system had learned from prior studies that ninth graders are an ex-

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Demolition ends an era

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

For over 50 years Chowan Veneer was a thriving business, cutting a niche for Edenton in the N.C. furniture business.

So when the business fell into bankruptcy and the building into disrepair, it was a sad reminder to E.L. Hollowell, owner of Chowan Veneer for over two decades.

"I'm just sick about it," Hollowell said about the recent demolition.

Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton said, "The Town and County tried very hard to preserve the jobs at the mill. So it is sad to see the mill gone, but we are relieved to see the property finally cleaned up."

"It was terrible that the neighbors had to endure the overgrown weeds and junk for so long. The Town tried to do



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Chowan Veneer fell to the same fate as similar companies and was demolished last month.

nuisance abatement enforcement but learned that bankruptcy trustees can literally thumb their noses at local government ordinances. Southern Bank worked very hard and diligently to get the prop-

erty out of bankruptcy and cleaned up." Residential housing is expected to go in its place on Coke Avenue.

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Juried Arts and Crafts Show to be part of Hog Fest

Community, C1

Registration Available Now!
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Racing at 7:30pm.
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Located on Atlantic Forest Drive at the Northeastern Regional Airport.

Cycle Speedway is part of the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department