



HOT IN THE KITCHEN

Chef Laura Simmons feeds local youth during summer program A3

EDENTON TODAY 2007

See our progress edition in Section C

CHOWAN HERALD

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Collins Small, others compete in big local tennis tourney *B1

Cape Colony undergoes water main construction

Some Cape Colony residents will be without water for four hours tomorrow. The water will be off from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. so workers can repair a leaking water main on the clubhouse side or south side of Cape Colony. The water main on Blackbeard Drive has to be shortened so that it will not interfere with new driveways in the area. "This is a common thing," said Lesa Nolen with the water department. "The pipes in Cape Colony are old."

Tax-free shopping this weekend

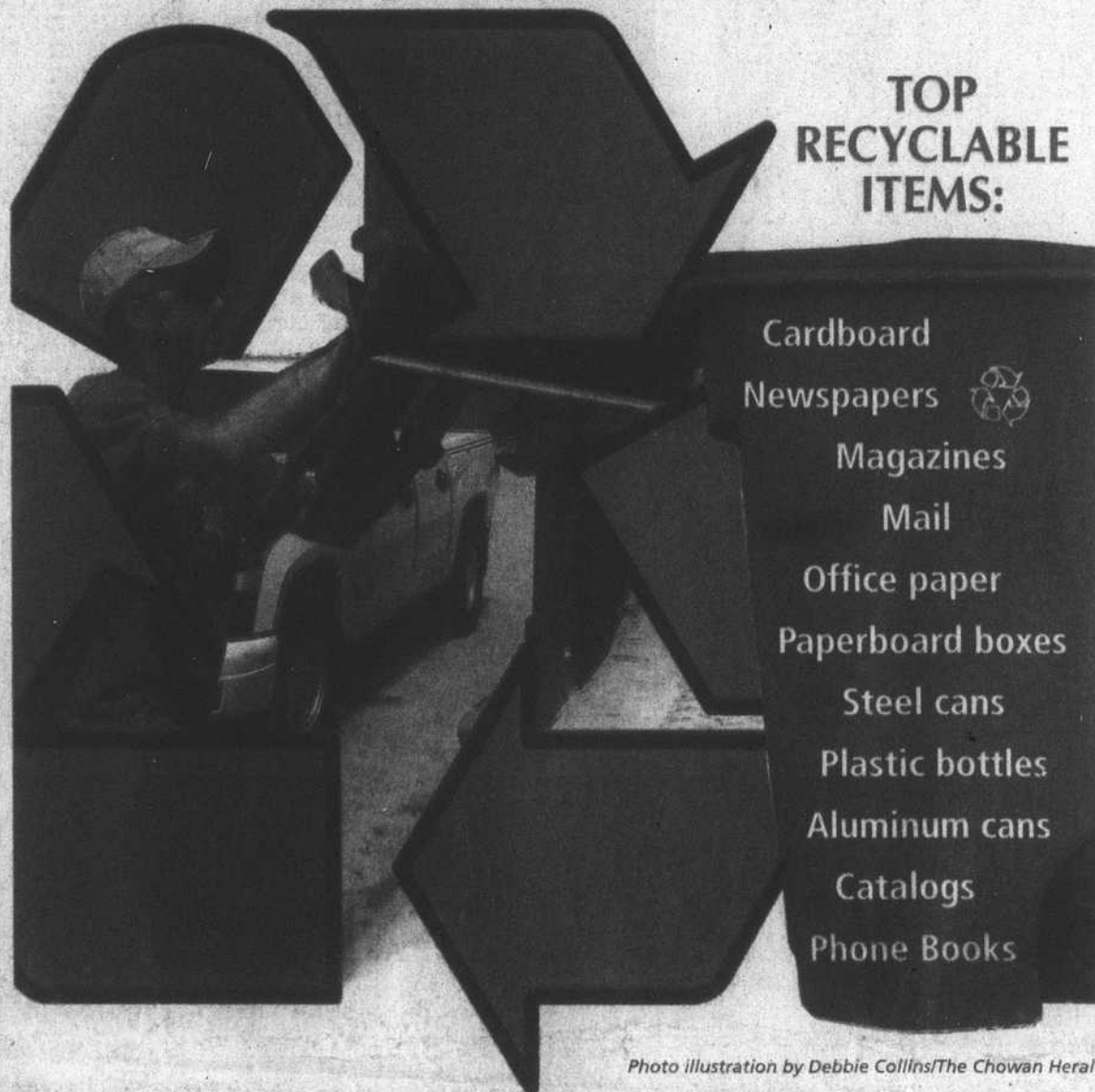
North Carolina will celebrate its sixth Sales Tax Holiday beginning Friday, running through Sunday. During this three-day exemption, created to help consumers with back-to-school shopping, items free from sales tax include clothing, shoes and school supplies, costing \$100 or less per item, and computers of \$3,500 or less per item. Locally, Peebles, Cato's, Farmer's Foods, Dollar General, Super 10, Shoe Show, CottonKiss, Sound Feet Shoes, CVS and Rose's will be among those taking part in the tax-free weekend. Accessories such as jewelry, cosmetics, protective equipment, and wallets, as well as furniture, items used in a trade or business, and rentals are not covered by the exemption.

INDEX

- A Local/Community**
 - Land TransfersA4
 - OpinionA5
 - Upcoming EventsA8
 - SocietyA9
 - ObituariesA10
 - ChurchA14, 15
- B Sports**
 - Steamers NewsB1
 - NascarB2
- C Edenton Today Section**
 - CrimeC3
 - OLFC4
 - Services, businesses. C5, 10
 - Real estateC7
 - Man on the StreetC8, 9
 - Movers and Shakers ..C14
- D Classified/Legal Section**
 - ClassifiedsD1
 - Service DirectoryD2
 - LegalsD3

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Chowan County residents recycle too little trash The cost: \$1,200,000 annually The answer: Recycling initiative set to begin



TOP RECYCLABLE ITEMS:

- Cardboard
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Mail
- Office paper
- Paperboard boxes
- Steel cans
- Plastic bottles
- Aluminum cans
- Catalogs
- Phone Books

Photo illustration by Debbie Collins/The Chowan Herald

By Sean Jackson
Staff Writer

Here's a quick quiz: What can you put in your blue recycling bin in Edenton and Chowan County? The answer, says Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland, is just about anything you want. "We take about anything except food," Copeland said. And there's no need to sort it. Paper, plastic, cans, you name it, Copeland said, all goes in any way you want it. And local officials want you to take the program seriously. Copeland plans to launch a re-education program in upcoming months about recycling. Residents are simply throwing away too much stuff that can be reused, he said. And it's costing the county — and taxpayers — to the tune of \$1.2 million annually.

That's the figure Copeland put in his current budget to pay for waste disposal.

"The town and county are about to get serious about recycling."

— Cliff Copeland, County Manager

For every ton of recyclables, the county nets \$60. The recyclables collected by the town and county are taken to a recycling plant in Chesapeake, Va. TFC Recycling sorts through items, plucking virtually everything out to be recycled. Copeland said he consistently sees town trash cans, those pushed to the curb by residents, filled with items that could be recycled. "It's got to stop," he said.

"The town and county are about to get serious about recycling." The county plans to buy ads in local newspapers and distribute refrigerator magnets to residents in an effort to spell out what can — and should be — recycled. Then there's the plan to purchase 30-gallon trash cans for each town and county household. They would replace the current, smaller blue containers town residents use for recycling. The county currently does not provide recycling containers. Copeland estimates the project could, at the very least, reduce the amount of trash trucked to Bertie by 25 percent. At a cost of a few thousand dollars, he said, the money for the new containers would be well spent.

ELECTION 2007

Waff says Biggs has 'conflict-of-interest'

By Sean Jackson
Staff Writer

Roughly three weeks after launching her campaign against Councilman Steve Biggs, challenger Terry Waff is questioning if Biggs has a "conflict-of-interest." Waff said she wonders if Biggs has a conflict in recruiting industries for Bertie County — where he is employed as the county's economic developer — while helping oversee industry growth for Edenton. "Because of that," Waff said, "I feel I would do a better job." Biggs, who is seeking a fourth four-year term in office, said he does not have any conflict-of-interest issues in striving to bring jobs to both Edenton and Bertie County. "What is good for Edenton, what is good for Chowan County, is good for the surrounding counties," he said.



Waff



Biggs

The issues

Both candidates for town council's up-for-grabs at-large seat feel that economic growth is a key issue for Edenton. Both Biggs and Waff feel there's work to be done to create more and better-paying jobs in Edenton. And that's where their top priorities end. Both candidates spoke with The Chowan Herald this week about what they feel are the key issues. "We certainly have a lot of good people working to try to create jobs here," Biggs said. "I've worked extremely hard for Edenton for economic development." Biggs, said he has traveled — as a town official — from Canada to Florida to help lure industry to Edenton. Waff, a realtor, said it's simply her time in life to have a chance at that role. "We need more jobs for working people," Waff said. Specifically, Waff wants to work to help bring in jobs for the younger workforce. Young workers often leave the area to find

See ELECTION, Page A2 >

Council mulls plan to snuff smoking in town parks, playgrounds, ballfields

Signs would discourage smoking, create healthier environment, official says

By Sean Jackson
Staff Writer

A local health official wants to put an end to smoking in local parks and playgrounds. Jean Bunch, smoking cessation coordinator with Chowan Hospital, knows a smoking ban in public parks isn't possible without action by state lawmakers. But she has asked the

Edenton Town Council to post signs that discourage smoking in parks, on playgrounds and sports fields. "Playgrounds and parks, and recreational facilities and playing fields, should be safe havens for our kids," Bunch told councilors recently. Mayor Roland Vaughan said the town could undertake such a project, but should be careful how it



Anti-smoking advocate Jean Bunch says proposal is a "no-brainer."

places the signs. "You don't want to be too intrusive with the signs," he said. The council will review Bunch's request at its Aug. 14 meeting. Tyrrell, Washington and Perquimans counties have already adopted similar pol-

icies, Bunch said. Bunch said the signs would help send a message to youth that smoking is an unhealthy habit. She also hopes the signs would keep smokers from tossing butts onto the ground in parks and on playing fields. Bunch recently led a small group of high school students who scoured the Lat Purser soccer complex for discarded butts. It didn't take long to pick up hundreds of butts, Bunch said. "This is just one of the

problems," she said, noting that cigarette butts are not biodegradable. Kids often take up smoking because it's seen as a "social norm," Bunch said. Making public places smoke-free would help curb that trend, she added. "That's pretty much a no-brainer," Bunch said.

INSIDE

Bunch garners state award for anti-smoking efforts.
PAGE A6

Aug 2nd - 5th



All Stars