



SENIOR OF THE WEEK JOELISA DREW

"A special thanks goes to my mother for getting me this far in life." B4



HONORED BY STATE BOE

Holmes' project about Duck-Thru cats a hit B4

CHOWAN HERALD

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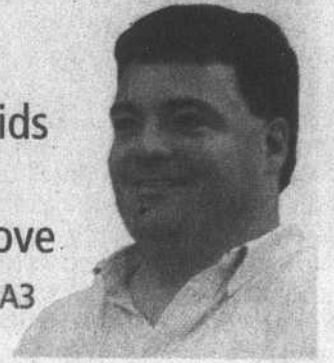
Wednesday, September 12, 2007

50¢

FROM COURT TO CLASS

Love of kids prompts career move

A3



Peebles store plans to leave downtown

By Connie Sage
Contributing Writer

Peebles department store plans to move from Broad Street to the new Edenton Commons Shopping Center if Town Council approves plans for the proposed retail complex.

Even though Peebles earlier this year signed a two-year lease at its current downtown location, the store expects to relocate

by late next fall, said Justin Titcombe, director of real estate for Peebles in Charlotte.

Wheeler Interests on Monday submitted plans to the town for the proposed shopping center on Route 32 north, near the Albemarle Ford dealership.

A Farm Fresh supermarket and a Lowe's home improvement center are listed as anchors, according to the Edenton-Chowan Planning

and Inspections Department.

Peebles, which is not mentioned on the site plans, is considered a "junior anchor," Titcombe said. "We're excited," he said. "It would be a good move for us. Edenton's been a good market for us. We think it can be a lot better."

In a fiscal impact report submitted to the town on Monday, the developer estimates that Edenton Com-

mons could generate up to an estimated \$1.2 million in annual combined tax revenue to the town and county. Lowe's is expected to have \$18 million-to-\$23 million in annual sales; Farm Fresh is projected to have annual sales ranging from \$14 million-to-\$20 million.

The shopping center would have 217,460 square feet of leasable space, plus additional retail buildings. See PEEBLES, Page A2 >

- Store plans to relocate as early as next fall
- Peebles hopes business will pick up after move
- Public hearing for Edenton Commons could take place in October

BOE backs housing initiative

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

The local school system may soon have a special advantage in recruiting teachers — affordable housing.

The State Employees Credit Union Foundation has made a commitment to construct affordable housing for educators in communities across North Carolina, to be paid for with 15-year, interest-free loans.

Repayment of each loan would begin in the second year of participation.

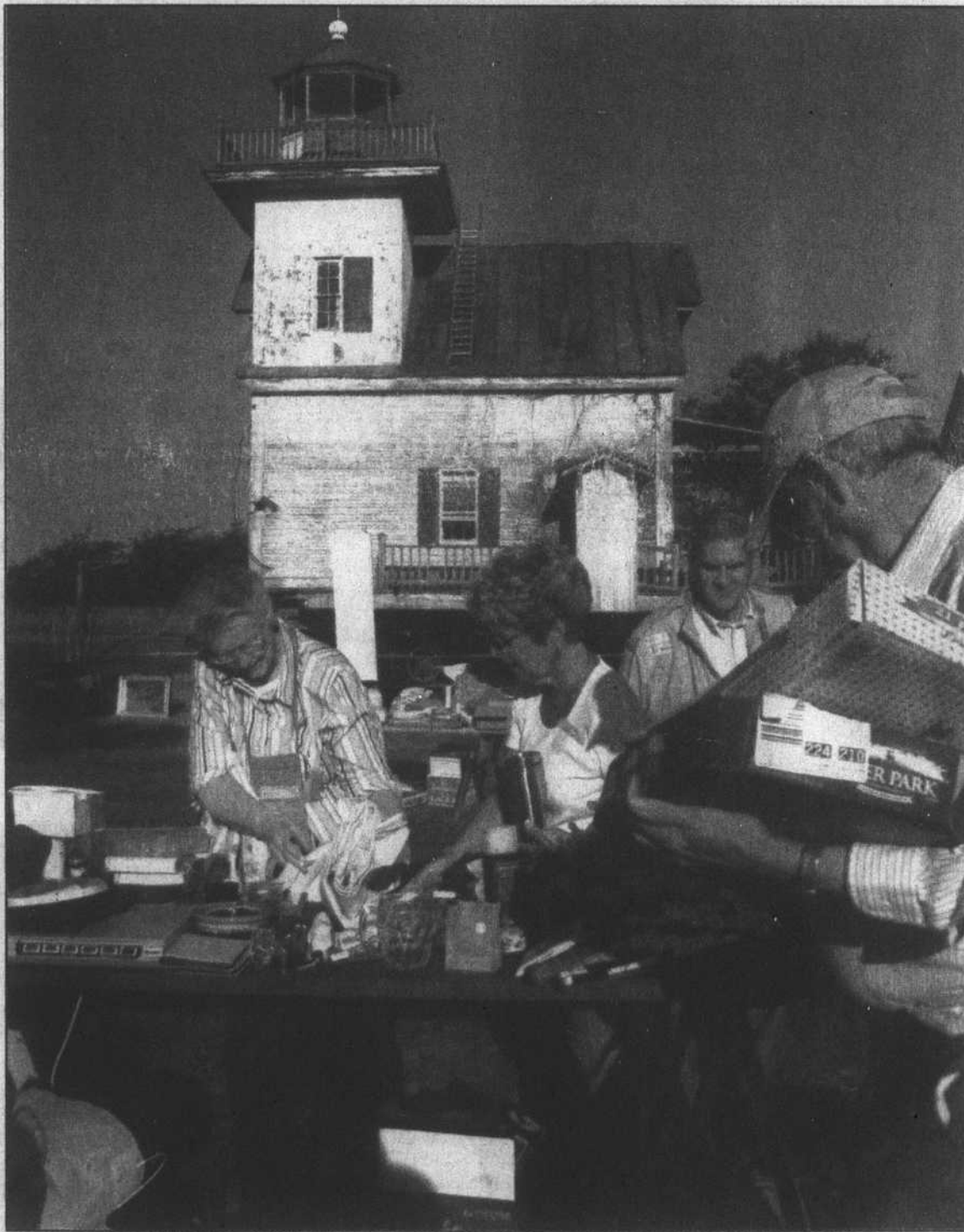
The first such housing has just been completed in nearby Hertford County.

After studying the proposal, Superintendent Allan Smith said, "I feel we are ready to move forward and am excited about the possibility" of the community being chosen.

The school board voted Monday night to send a letter of interest to the foundation. Participants may opt for either a 16- or 24-unit complex.

If selected, the Edenton-Chowan Education Foundation, not the school system, would own the complex.

LIGHTHOUSE TAG SALE RAISES \$2,000+



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

From left, Barbara King, Candy Roth, Harry Thompson, Rev. Robert White check out the goods at the Roanoke River Lighthouse tag sale Saturday morning. All proceeds from the event, more than \$2,000 and counting, will go to restoring the 1886 lighthouse.



Waff



Biggs

Candidates weigh in on crime, gangs

Second in a series
By Sean Jackson
Staff Writer

Edenton police are doing a good job keeping the community safe, the two candidates for a Town Council at-large seat said.

Terry Waff said there is room for improvement, that increased visibility of officers could help reduce crime.

Steve Biggs says the town's crime rate is dropping, but he's concerned that officers come to Edenton to gain experience, only to move on to higher-paying jobs elsewhere.

The following is a series of questions and answers between *The Chowan Herald* and the candidates. Both candidates submitted written responses to questions.

The Chowan Herald: Is the Edenton Police Department doing all it can to keep our residents, streets safe? What can it do to make the Town safe by reducing crime?

Waff: "Our police department has a tough job. But the Department is working very hard and continues to work with town and state officials to look for new and better ways to improve their effectiveness."

"I read where state law enforcement officers came to town a few weeks ago and worked with our officers and Elizabeth City officers."

"I would encourage more of such. Visibility is very important. I recently saw two of our officers on bike patrol. It was a good feeling to see them. When I had my retail shop on Broad Street, I always appreciated the foot patrol coming in to check on us."

"At our last Main Street Convention we had two police chiefs from other towns speak, and they

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Chief says Edenton gang activity decreasing

By Sean Jackson
Staff Writer

After flaring up a year ago, gang-related violence and crime is on the downswing in Edenton, police Chief Greg Bonner said.

During a meeting with the Edenton Discussion Group Monday night, Bonner said police have arrested numerous youths involved in the

fighting and painting graffiti. Bonner said the court system is the last resort in curbing gang activities.

Plans are to use current and new methods to keep youths out of gangs — and out of courtrooms and jails, he said during an 85-minute talk with roughly 15 group members on hand.

"If they're in a gang, there's a way out," he said.

"We offer them that."

A local anti-gang task force is set to receive an assessment on what problems the town has, and what solutions are available. Linda Hester, the consultant hired



Bonner

by the town and county to do the assessment, suggested in a draft of the assessment a number of ways the town could prevent gangs from spreading.

They include:

- Neighborhood watch groups
- Mentoring programs
- School uniforms
- More activities for at-risk youth

■ Parenting classes.

Bonner said Edenton's two rival gangs continue to show few signs of becoming organized outfits. Gangs traditionally get involved in drug dealing and targeted violence.

That's not happening here, Bonner said.

"I'm staying on top of exactly what these groups are doing," he said.

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