

**Hattie Elliott keeps Chowan Hospital spic and span**



A3

## Pro-growth group forms, welcomes Lowe's to town

By Sean Jackson  
Staff Writer

Local members of a newly formed pro-growth group said those opposing the proposed Lowe's for Edenton are few in number, with little vested interest in job growth here. The Mooresville-based company wants to build a store at

Edenton Commons Shopping Center — a development yet to break ground on the northern edge of town.

Supporters of that plan — dubbing themselves "Grow Chowan" — said Lowe's would bring much-needed jobs to Chowan County.

"The economic factors in here are just good, good,

good," Owen Maxwell said of a financial impact assessment provided to the town by the developer, Wheeler Interests.

Maxwell, co-owner of an Edenton boat-building company, said Wheeler is a responsible developer.

Realtor John Dowd said Edenton has been losing retail dollars to nearby towns such

as Williamston and Elizabeth City for years.

Those towns have large-scale retailers and Dowd said it's time to bring those dollars back to Edenton.

"They're cannibalizing our retail right now," he said.

Opponents of large-scale retail such as Lowe's "have their heads stuck in the

clouds," Dowd, a former mayor of Edenton, added.

About 25 people — mostly business leaders — support Lowe's coming to Edenton. The group embraces Lowe's plans to build in town.

An opposing group, headed by Julien Mordecai and Mark Reilly, wants residents and officials to take a closer look as

**INSIDE**

Readers weigh in about Lowe's A7, 8

Town Council hears Lowe's proposal A2

See **GROWTH**, Page A5 >

- Edenton has been losing retail dollars to other towns for years, officials say
- Lowe's store would create 100 jobs, including 70 full-time

## Aces' player back after hunting accident

By Sean Jackson, Staff Writer

**A**ces tailback Ben Winslow takes the pitch, tucks the ball away, veers around his right tackle.

Defensive teammates are waiting for him a couple yards downfield. They sandwich the speedy senior after a short gain.

Winslow pops right back up, returns to the practice huddle, a new grass stain or two on his uniform.

At first glance you wouldn't think anything is amiss, out of the ordinary. But a closer look tells you that Winslow isn't your average kid.

He's missing two fingers on his left hand, the result of a November hunting accident.

"I thought I'd never be able to play football again," he said of his first thoughts after the accident.

That turned out to be a needless worry. Winslow has returned, coming back more determined and focused than ever, head Coach Bob Turner said.

In fact, Winslow, 17, earned a starting spot in the Aces' backfield.

"Some kids would have given up right there," Turner said. "Since this happened,

he's a totally different kid. I think he knows that it could have been worse than it was. He knows he was given a blessing."

**The accident**

Winslow recalls it was a mild morning last Nov. 10. A Friday off from school. Temperatures were in the low-40s. Thirteen days till Thanksgiving.

He was in a tree stand early. He had wrestling practice coming up in a few hours.

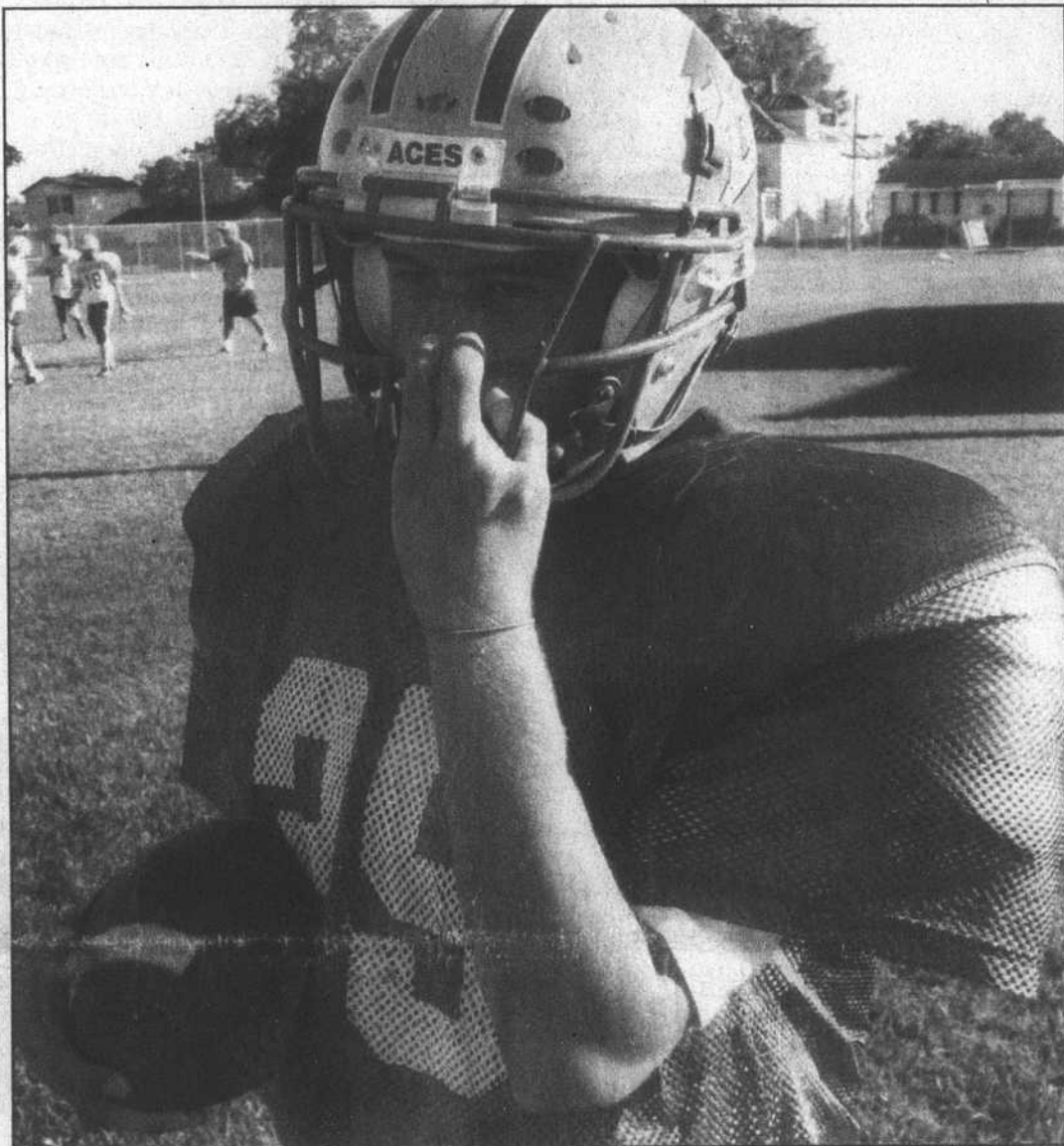
Then Winslow lost his balance in the stand. With his 12-gauge, double-barrel shotgun clutched in his right hand, he grabbed at the tree with his left.

Then the gun boomed, shearing off his index and middle fingers.

"It was all like in one quick motion," he recalls.

He made his way to the ground, walked about 75 yards to a field, and collapsed.

He called his dad, Scott, who scooped him up and rushed his son to Chowan



Ben Winslow lost two fingers on his left hand during a hunting accident, but the 17-year-old senior has returned as the starting tailback for the Aces this fall.

By Sean Jackson/The Chowan Herald

Hospital along with Ben's mom, Carol.

"When we first got there," Carol Winslow said, "We didn't know how bad it was."

After being stabilized at Chowan, he was airlifted to

a Durham hospital.

Ironically, Turner was in a tree stand hunting deer that morning. His wife Tanya buzzed him on his cell phone around 7:30.

She had something to tell him.

"My knees were shaking,"

Turner said of receiving the news about his player. "When she told me, I got out of the tree-stand. I was done for the day."

See **WINSLOW**, Page A5 >

## Biggs, Waff: affordable housing lacking

By Sean Jackson  
Staff Writer

Both candidates for Edenton Town Council's contested at-large seat say affordable housing is needed in town.

Steve Biggs, the incumbent, and challenger Terry Waff also say they aren't certain if a forecasted housing boom will open the real estate market to new, local homebuyers.

Waff says unemployment is a tough hurdle for would-be homeowners to overcome.

Biggs agrees. He says the town could do more to offer lower-cost housing.

Both also say that lower-cost housing options could bring new, qualified teachers to the Edenton-Chowan Schools System — via a po-

See **HOUSING**, Page A2 >

## Bertie Co. developments on the move

By Connie Sage  
Contributing Writer

Drawn by the availability of rural, waterfront property, developers have bought — or have options to buy — more than 4,700 acres in Bertie County, south of Edenton.

The owners of a 603-acre farm on the Chowan River are the latest to sign a preliminary contract for the possible sale of their land, potentially making it the sixth new subdivision that is planned or under construction in that part of the county. Four of the six sites are off of Hwy. 17, within five miles of Edenton.

Woody Copeland and his brother, Carl "Cotton" Copeland, have reached a tenta-

See **BERTIE**, Page A2 >

## Local officials oppose OLF in Gates

Nearby airfield would bring noise, little economic benefit, they say

By Sean Jackson  
Staff Writer

Local officials say the plan to put Gates County on the radar screen for a fighter jet airfield is off-target.

Last week, a state panel presented the Navy with six new options for an outlying field, including a pair of sites in Gates and Camden counties. Gates shares a boundary with Chowan County.

The new site options resulted from fierce opposition to the Navy's previous plan to put the OLF on farmland in Washington and Beaufort

counties. Environmental groups, and local, state and federal officials all said that option would not fly.

Now local leaders are saying a site in Gates — the closest is within 25 miles of downtown Edenton — makes even less sense.

"It is very obvious that [Gov. Mike Easley's] committee did not do their homework," Richard Bunch, executive director of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, said.

"I do not understand Gov. Easley even suggesting sites in this area when all we will get is the noise," Eden-



Bunch Vaughan

ton Mayor Roland Vaughan said.

Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland agreed, noting that 10 of the 12 Super Hornet squadrons will be at Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia Beach, Va.

Copeland and others have complained that the county that gets saddled with the OLF would receive little economic benefit.

"Why the heck don't they just put the OLF in Virgin-

ia?" Copeland said.

Both Chowan and Gates were options for OLF sites in the original search in 2001, Bunch said. They were later supplanted in priority by the Washington/Beaufort site, which is within miles of a national wildlife refuge.

"The Navy made a decision then that Chowan and Gates sites were not acceptable," Bunch said.

Bunch is also concerned that the Navy could reconsider a previous site proposal in Perquimans County — which is closer than both the Gates and Washington/Beaufort sites.

"I still believe that the Perquimans site is the target and has been for some time now," Bunch said.

**INDEX**

**A Local**  
Opinion.....A7, 8  
Land Transfers.....A4

**B Sports**  
Aces News.....B1  
Nascar.....B2

**C Community News**  
Upcoming Events.....C2  
Society.....C4  
Obituaries.....C6  
Church.....C7, 8

**D Classifieds**  
Buy/Sell/Trade.....D1  
Service Directory.....D2  
Employment.....D4

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**Giving Back & Moving Forward Chowan County Service Groups**

A special publication produced by The Chowan Herald to draw attention to what local civic organizations do for the community. With everyone working together we can make Chowan County a better place.

If you are a member of a service group and would like to be included in this special pullout call Ashley Misseri at 482-4418 ext. 25 or Becky Carter ext. 28