



## AUDACIOUS, QUESTIONING, CRITICAL

Former Edenton resident receives accolades with film "The Sky Below" on India, Pakistan regional conflicts C1

Tears transformed into songs of praise for one local woman C8

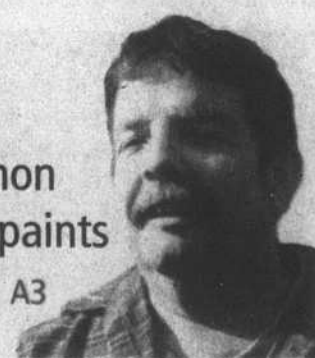
# CHOWAN HERALD

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Wednesday, January 23, 2008

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Handyman  
Blake Harmon  
replasters, paints  
& restores A3



## The legacy of a dreamer lives on

By Earline White  
Managing Editor

A dozen young women dressed in pink T-shirts stood at the front of Swain Auditorium and nearly 150 people they didn't know.

They clapped their hands, stomped their feet and said that they have a dream.

Forty years after Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated, his dream lives on.

On Monday, white officials joined hands with black officials and sang "We shall overcome." Young people held hands with their elders. And for two hours, color, sex and financial status didn't matter.

"They thought they killed King, thought they would stomp out his memory," speaker Dr. Stanley Elliott said. "But look at us still honoring Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy today."

Elliott said. "But look at us still honoring Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy today."



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Minnie B. Felton, along with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Choir of Edenton, sings before an audience of nearly 150 during the annual King celebration held Monday at Swain Auditorium.

helped them get through their trying time or watch their potential go down the drain?

"None of us is here by our own accord. Ideas were poured into us. You must pour something in to get something out.

"I have a student from Africa. He brought me back a pair of shoes from his home. I asked him why. He said he too is from an agricultural society and you cannot reap

what you don't sow. "They need you."

Many of the people in the audience remembered King's visit to Edenton. He came to the area by way of Elizabeth City. He spoke at the Armory to the masses that were crowded beyond the doorway.

Holmes student Heather Taylor told the story and

gray-haired men and women nodded.

It was a memory of unity that those attending the celebration took away.

"Whether it is the man on the street with tattoos on his arms, the woman showing so much skin or the young man with a head full of gold teeth — we are still all children of God," Elliott said during his hour-long speech about integrity, tenacity and common

sense.

"Luther Vandross got booed off Apollo not once, but twice. Michael Jordan got cut from his high school basketball team twice. Rosa Parks sat down because she was tired.

"What doesn't kill you will make you stronger. But either we learn to live together as brothers or perish as fools."

The celebration was a touching one for Elliott, who grew up stuttering in his Tyner home. Today he is the vice-president of student affairs for Livingstone College in Salisbury.

"I see the youth of today. They don't have the worries we did. We had neighborhood evils — that dog down the street, that tree from which I fell. Today there are world evils — Internet predators and gang signs. Will they remember you as someone who

## Fox finds perfect fit at Barker House

By Earline White  
Managing Editor

It was a job she applied for on the last day, after verbally declining it twice.

Within the first week of her accepting the role as the commission administrator for the Edenton Historical Commission, Terri Fox was bombarded with new faces, places and tight schedules.

Her first day was the Barker House Volunteer of the Year reception. And that weekend was the Christmas Candlelight Tour.

"I know I had a 'deer in the

headlights' look all that month," Fox said of the whirlwind that was December.

Needless to say, it has been an exciting transition for Fox and the enthusiasm remains high.

"The more I talked with Susan [Schmidt] about [the job], the more I realized it would be an exciting job for me. I'm so thankful to her for her encouragement. I grew up in a house that was pre-Revolutionary in Maryland, and with all the history around [Chowan] I feel that this is a perfect fit for me."

Today, Fox is busy cleaning out the Barker House's third-floor attic and creating a hot spiced tea drink for visitors.

"Every job I've had had an element of reaching out to the community," Fox said. "I find that most fulfilling — whether through a brochure, presentation or personal contact. Getting people excited about something has been the one constant in my career."

Fox, formerly of Nags Head, has a masters in design from the University

of Baltimore, owned and operated The Barefoot Gourmet Specialty Grocery and Wine Market in Nags Head, and worked as part of the community outreach for the Nature Conservancy.

Fox's goal is to unite the town and county for the benefit of the Edenton Historical Commission and their projects: the Barker House, the Roanoke River Lighthouse and the 1767 courthouse, among others.

"The Commission has rededicated itself to its mission statement given by the state General Assembly. We're all going to see a lot of new energy devoted to Edenton and historic preservation. It's a very exciting time to be here."

Fox is currently working on a power point presentation for town and county officials and organizations on the Commission's master plan.

"And to do this in this setting," she said from her office on the second story of the Barker House, "is the ultimate."

"I want to remind people that the Barker House is here for them, for the community. Come and have a picnic on the porch. If you don't want to sign up as

a docent, we invite you to volunteer your skills as a handyman. There are lots of activities that center around the Barker House," Fox said as if creating an advertisement for the historic site.

"I've heard from people who remember tea parties and guest speakers at the Barker House. That's something I am interested in. I want to see the Barker House as a center for community activities."

Fox has been married for 16 years to Richard Fox, a national accounts manager for Wiley Publishing. They met when she opened a bookshop on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He came in on her first day to sell books.

She has a stepdaughter who graduated from the University of Oregon and plans to attend graduate school in New York.



Fox

## Fuel suppliers say the gas prices are unpredictable

By Earline White  
Managing Editor

In 20 years at Joe Lee Company, Penny Norman can't remember such heavy fluctuating of the gas prices as is taking place right now.

"We dropped the price three times last week: twice within eight hours on Wednesday, then again on Thursday — it was crazy," Norman said.

But according to some

area fuel suppliers, that fluctuation will be a constant for a while.

Early reports in '08 said that gas prices could be anywhere from \$3.50 to \$4 by summer.

Norman anticipates the up and down, but does not foresee \$4 a gallon this summer.

Steve Taylor with Bridge-turn Exxon dares not say what he thinks gas prices will be by the summer.

"It all boils down to what the world economy and stock market do," Taylor said.

"Anybody that can predict gas prices has a real skill," Taylor added.

Gas prices have continued to drop from the \$3.29 high of early January to as low as \$2.89 in the region and \$2.98 locally.

"It's strictly a speculative market," a representative with Hollowell Oil in Winfall said Tuesday.

"It's one of the few markets where supply and demand have no effect on price."

"Gas is like milk — you have to have it," Norman said.

"But you do have the option of car pooling to save gas. Fill up when gas prices are low. And when buying a new car, look closely at the gas mileage."

N.C. has a higher state gas tax (\$.06) than either Virginia or South Carolina.

## DSS has record caseload

Unemployment, working poor, transients among contributing factors

By Connie Sage  
Contributing Writer

Chowan County Department of Social Services caseloads are at an all-time high as the area grapples with higher-than-state average unemployment and poverty rates.

"We're seeing a lot more unemployment and poverty, more transients moving here, plant closings, and an increase in the aging population," said Social Services Director William "Ben" Rose.

Local caseloads are at their peak, he said, for those receiving Medicaid, food stamps, child support, foster care/child welfare services, and day care.

Twenty-six percent of the local population, or about 1,000 households, receives Medicaid benefits for children, the aged or disabled, compared to average statewide estimates of 15-16 percent.

A record 21 children are in foster care here, double the normal average.

More than 1,000 households, or 2,000 people receive food stamps here; 15 percent of those food stamps are for the elderly poor.

Sixty child support cases are taken to court here monthly to force a parent to pay support.

Rose said there is no one reason for the increase in caseloads.

"We've been in a trend since 1999 where our numbers have really gone up," he said.

A lot of transients are moving to the area. "A lot are extended family. We do see a lot of people from the North coming here for our services," he said. "It's a small part, but definitely a part of it."

There are 1,300 cases of child support in the county that his department handles.

Seventy percent of those are under court order to pay, according to Rose, who said the county collects more than \$1 million per year in child support.

Nine children were in foster care locally early last summer, Rose said.

By Christmas, there were 20 children taken from their homes, he said, because of poverty, substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health issues or the inability to parent.

Economic stress is a factor in the increased case-load that Rose's staff of 37 handles.

Unemployment here is 6.4 percent, compared with 4.7 percent in North Carolina, according to the most recent statistics.

A family of four with a total income of \$20,614 is considered in poverty, according to 2007 federal guidelines.

A family of six with an annual income of \$27,560 is in

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