

A salute to  
C4 & 5



Steamers beat OBX Daredevils Friday B1



## Air station examined for dangers

Possible soil contamination at Naval Air Base

Further study is needed, Corps of Engineers says

By Vernon Fueston  
Contributing Writer

The Army's Corps of Engineers has determined that three sites at the old Edenton Naval Air Station deserve further study due to possible soil contamination.

No immediate action is planned and no date was set for follow up studies. The possible problems identified consisted of soil contamination by lead and other chemicals.

### No dangers found

John Baden, project manager for the Corps' review of the station said there was no immediate safety or health issues.

Baden declined to give a date when the army will revisit the old base.

"I couldn't hazard a guess at this time," he said. "There are a lot of projects with higher priorities. This doesn't raise a lot of red flags."

### Three sites of interest

He said that three sites raised the group's interest.

The first, an earthen wall called a "gun butt," was identified as a potential site contaminated by lead from machine gun bullets.

Aircraft used to taxi to the gun butt and unload any remaining ammunition by firing the rounds into the dirt.

Today that site is used as the backstop for the town's police pistol range, so no plans are proposed to remove the lead.

### Military skeet shooting

Another site is a World War II era Army Air Corps skeet shooting range. According to the reports' site map, the range was located in Cape Colony.

The site was used to train

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RACES BEGIN AT 8:30 A.M. SATURDAY; FESTIVAL FUN AT NOON

## Music & Water Festival



Enjoy music, food, crafts, sports, demonstrations and learning activities for children and adults. Come out and have a fun day on the bay. See C2 for festival details.

## Seniors say 'no' to kids in complex

Beechwood developers encouraged to restrict age at new property

By Rebecca Bunch  
Staff Writer

Some seniors attending an informational meeting Saturday morning on the Beechwood subdivision made one thing perfectly clear — they don't want to have to listen to a lot of noise from children.

Sumit Gupta, co-developer with his brother Amit, of the 52-acre property located behind Chowan Crossing Shopping Center, assured them that would not be a problem at the site of the retirement community they have in mind.

"One part of the subdivision could be age-restricted," he said in response to a question from local resident Craig Miller about Phase I of the project.

At this point, Gupta said, children would be allowed to live in

the subdivision.

Gupta answered that and other questions during the hour-long meeting intended to allow the developers to meet one on one with locals and listen to their concerns.

Gupta said that his company is hearing there may be a need for family-friendly housing in the community for teachers and other professionals who may have difficulty finding affordable housing in town.

Plans for the 225 homes to be built on the site could accommodate that if the community supports it, he said, resulting in young professionals sharing the subdivision with "baby boomers, retirees and seniors."

Exactly how affordable the homes would be was another concern raised.

Gupta said that the price of condos in the development could start at \$200,000 or less. He added that handicapped access would be offered in the subdivision.

Gupta said that study after

study shows Americans as they age are inclined to prefer a more maintenance-free home.

Among the amenities that could be provided are lawn and garden maintenance as well as the services of repairmen and housekeeping that would be made available on a "fee-for-service" basis.

Continuing care services could be made available on-site during Phase II of the project and medical care would be available across the road from the subdivision at Chowan Hospital.

Architect Ralph Lasater of Chapel Hill had prepared renderings showing the various proposed designs that could be built in the subdivision. Local residents carefully studied the condo/villa home, the garden home and others.

Most important, Gupta said, is that whatever configuration the development takes, it "fits with the character of Edenton."

## Locals to star in Lost Colony drama

By Vernon Fueston  
Contributing Writer

There will be no summer vacation from school this year for Razi and Riaz Lane.

As part of their home schooling program, the boys will be joining the cast of the Lost Colony, presenting the story of America's first English colony six nights each week.

Their father, Alton Lane, said the family is very committed to education and looks for any experience that will enrich what the boys learn from books.

"We don't take summers and holidays off," he said. "It's a 24/7 experience. Even going to the grocery store is an educational experience."

Appearing in the Lost Colony has involved no small amount of sacrifice for the family.

Alton works for the Post Office in Hertford. He will remain at home while the rest of the family stays at a rented house on the Outer

Banks for the summer.

The boys' mother, Rakhshede, works as a nurse at Obici Hospital in Suffolk and also coordinates their education.

"We feel this is very important," Alton said. "We've made great sacrifices, including a loss of income for this."

This is not the boys' first acting gig. They have appeared in productions at the Rocky Hock Playhouse, the Hampton Roads Shakespearean Festival and the Jamestown Anniversary Festival.

Razi, age 12, will be playing two parts in the production. He plays Thomas Archer, Jr., a colonist, and one of Queen Elizabeth's two pages.

He even has a speaking part, which he happily repeated. "And see the sassafras roots, they will make a good tea for father's fever," he said.

Razi said his biggest challenge has been the quick costume changes, but he loves acting for the chance



Razi and Riaz Lane pose in their costumes for this summer's production.

it gives him to get out there and prove himself.

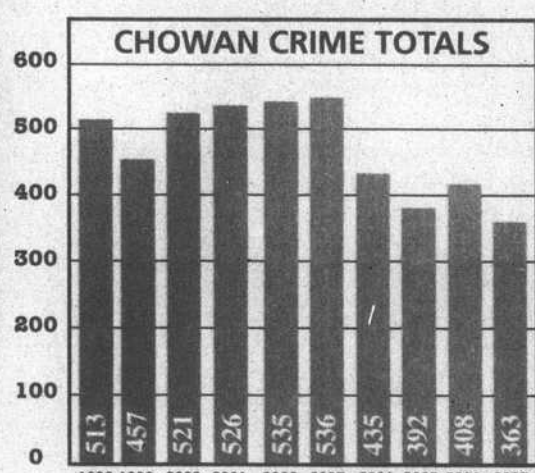
Riaz, age 10, is considered a leading cast member even though he has no lines. An 8 X 10 photo of him is even posted outside the theater. He plays Wano, son of the chief.

Wano takes over the tribe at the end of the play when his father is killed.

Riaz is particularly thrilled with the props he gets to use, an Indian rattle and a 16-inch knife. His biggest challenge came this winter during rehearsals, standing in the cold in a loincloth.

The play will run in Manteo until Aug. 20. Shows start at 8:30 p.m. Sunday through Friday.

## Chowan County crime hits 10-year low



— from Chowan County Sheriff's Office

By Vernon Fueston  
Contributing Writer

Total reported crime in Chowan County has been slowing for four years, according to statistics provided by the state's department of justice and local officials.

Chowan County is significantly safer than the state average when it comes to the number of reported offenses per capita. Even so, there is plenty of crime in the county as figures from local law enforcement show.

One possible explanation for the drop in overall crime in the county may be the long-term incarceration of a few high-volume drug merchants, local law enforcement officials said.

For a community where many don't bother to lock their doors when they leave the house, the numbers from state and local crime reports can provide a much-needed reality check.

Last year, out of every 100,000 people across North Carolina, 4,660 became the victims of crime, or at least reported crime.

But if you lived in Chowan County, you were safer than the average North Carolinian. For every statistical 100,000 people in the county, 2,500 were the victims of a crime.

By contrast, Perquimans County was safer than Chowan while Pasquotank County was considerably more dangerous to live in.

The overall number of crimes reported for Chowan County has been falling for four years. From a peak of 536 incidents in 2003, crime has dropped by 173 incidents to its current low.

That drop over the last four years may have been due to a shift in the way the town and county have been prosecuting some of their larger-scale drug offenders.

Edenton Police Chief Gregory Bonner and Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin said they began charging higher-profile drug offenders with federal crimes after state courts handed down sentences they felt were too light.

Federal courts put away 13 individuals back in 2003 and 2004, receiving sentences that sent them away for years.

Those 13 offenders accounted for some of the county's worst drug merchants, Bonner and Goodwin said.

Neither Bonner nor Goodwin wanted to credit that single action for the reduction, but they could not cite any other explanation for the trend in street crime.

Goodwin said those 13 criminals might have made the difference. Looking at the figures for burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft that make up the bulk of county crime, he saw a connection.

"These aren't drug offenses, but that group of people draws in the guns, alcohol and other crime. That's the element it (the drug element) brings."

### COUNTY CRIME RATES 2007

State average	4,659
<b>Chowan</b>	<b>2,476</b>
Perquimans	1,800
Pasquotank	4,027

(Incidents per 100,000 citizens)  
— from state Department of Justice