

CHOWAN HERALD

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Edenton's first B&B to close after 26 years A4

From art to dry wall, Bill Hoffman teaches it all B1

Town going green?

By John Rothchild
Contributing Writer

The Edenton Green Energy Fair made a timely debut — oil hit \$135 a barrel two weeks later.

Cy Rich, who's turned a pasture into a solar farm and keeps up with state and national energy trends, says we'll have fond memories of today's utility bills in five years, when they'll be twice as high or higher.

Are our city and county prepared for this?

Where does Edenton stand on the green scale?

We may have missed out on the library addition and the new police station — they're already built, and not to LEED standards (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

LEED is mandatory for public buildings in some states, not yet in North Carolina. Using a car analogy, LEED puts you in a Prius or Saturn Two-Mode, as opposed to a Hummer H2.

To be fair, the recent projects came off the drawing board before the latest fuel price lift-off, with the U.S. not yet on full guzzler alert.

Now we're alerted, so what about the upgrade at the high school?

"At this point," says school board member Gil Burroughs, "we're talking to an architectural firm."

"An energy-efficient design costs more to build, but gives us huge savings long-term. We ought to do it, look beyond the short term. The school system has an obligation to set an example for the community. The board, then the county commission, will have to decide."

Meanwhile, nobody's putting money into energy rehab before the school's renovated. "Everything's on hold," says Burroughs. Same story at Chowan County headquarters on King Street, the ex-hotel decorated with room air conditioners — some looking haggard; a few, historic.

"We plan to relocate in two years," says new County Manager Peter Rascoe. Why waste cash on empty rooms?

Since Town Hall on Broad Street isn't going anywhere, City Manager Anne-Marie Knighton wants to put it through an energy audit. Inspired by the recent Green Fair, Knighton said: "we've already turned off the chandeliers, and we're checking out ceiling fans. If we ask our customers to take action, so should we."

Changing light bulbs, cleaning furnaces — does this small stuff really make a difference?

Orville Mason is the right person to ask.

A journeyman electrician (in Michigan), convenience store owner (in West Virginia), Mason retired to Edenton, then quickly unretired — "too much time on my

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GRAIN BIN COLLAPSES AT C.A. PERRY AND SON



Vernon Fueston

One large grain bin full of wheat collapsed at C.A. Perry and Son in Hobbsville Monday morning. No one was hurt in the accident. The collapse happened about 11:45. As the first bin collapsed, it apparently tore open a second.

By Vernon Fueston
Contributing Writer

With a record \$1.2 million scholarship bounty to send them on their way, members of this year's graduating class of Edenton's John A. Holmes High School gathered one last time before commencing their journeys onto new careers.

Friday's skies were cloudless but hazy with smoke from nearby forest and agricultural fires.

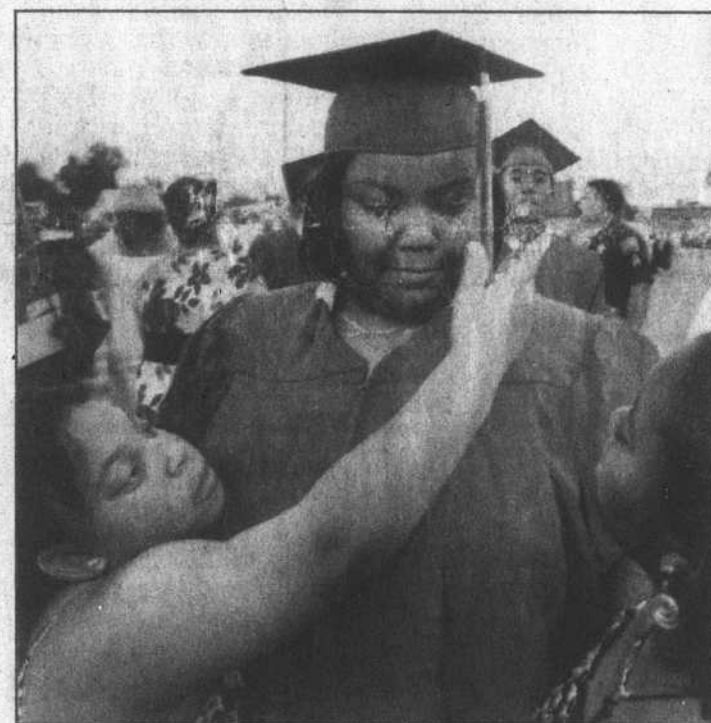
Debris from a windstorm that scattered tree limbs and sections of the nearby Hicks Field fence had to be cleared before ceremonies could take place in the stadium, but everything went off as scheduled.

More than 1,300 spectators attended the ceremony with 100-plus standing along the fence line after the stands were filled.

Eighty-one percent of the school's 121 graduates will be attending college, 45 percent of them at four-year institutions. Seven will be enlisting in the military.

Valedictorian Kallie Byrum told her classmates that graduation would launch them into a sea of troubles, but that ships were not built for the safety of harbors.

Taking the first steps to a bright future



Justin Falls/The Daily Advance

Left, sisters Alexis Johnson, 7, and right, Kiara Beasley, 12, look up at their newly graduated sister Sentoria Johnson, 17, after the commencement ceremony at Holmes Friday night.

Chowan Arts Council renovations complete

New show to open Friday at 5:30 p.m.

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

Warm colors — including a rich, creamy gold wall — will greet visitors to the newly renovated Chowan Arts Council Gallery Friday evening for the opening reception of "The People's Choice" exhibit.

According to its Executive Director Brenda Russell, the nonprofit arts organization spent \$3,900 to repaint the structure with the county paying for all the paint.

The last time work was done on the building was in the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel in 2003 when repairs cost more than \$5,000, Russell said.

The exhibit will showcase the work of three area artists whose work was chosen by visitors to the CAC's Christmas exhibit.

They are Katherine Wasink of Elizabeth City, Leanne Clayton, who calls Bertie County home, and John

Becker of Edenton.

The reception starts at 5:30 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

The fresh look is intended to better showcase the work of area artists and craftspersons, Russell said.

"We deliberately chose neutral tones in the colors we selected," Russell said, "to give the gallery a more open, friendly feeling. We want this to be a place where people enjoy coming and bringing along family and friends."

Russell was assisted in the selection process by Lisa Hallahan, whom she praised for doing an outstanding job.

She said she was particularly proud of the children's room, which has been painted aqua, and the space in the gallery that will now be dedicated specifically to pottery.

Also new to the gallery will be a small café-style area where visitors to the gallery can sit and drink a cup of coffee as they enjoy the artwork.

Russell credited the



Vernon Fueston

Jack Onufrak preps the CAC gallery floor for painting.

CAC's Gallery Renovation Committee with laying the groundwork for the project.

"My sincere thanks go out to the members of the committee, Debbie Boyle, Fraser Kelly and Pam Hughes," she said. "They deserve the credit for getting the ball rolling on this."

Special music for the Friday night opening will be provided by members of the Renaissance Consort group from Perquimans County. The group performs recorder music and is a favorite here during the holiday sea-

Addressing the students was state senator Edward W. Jones, who reminded the graduates that, in the words of Rev. T. D. Jakes, "Success is intentional."

Gregory Downing won a Gates Millennium Scholarship valued at up to \$80,000 while Chess Chesson received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

Kallie Byrum and Gregory Downing were the recipients of North Carolina Teaching Fellowships.

Richard Charlton, Taneesha Carter and Javonte Brown received four-year Army ROTC scholarships and a \$36,000 scholarship to Arizona State University went to Justin Stone.

Anthony Adams received a scholarship to Chowan University.

Three students received football scholarships to North Carolina Wesleyan College. They were Jesse Southerland, Cameron Mizell and Timaine Moore.

The board of education awarded \$20,000 scholarships to Phillip Davis, Kelsey Lichtenwalner and Jesse Southerland. Krystal Roberts received a scholarship to Elizabeth City State University.

Realty tax may increase 1.5 cents

Finance committee continues to look for possible cuts

County budget approved after no public comment

By Earline White
Managing Editor

Resident Bill Schultz is willing to cut his trash pick-up to once a week, if that means not having to raise his property taxes.

Rich Halbert doesn't understand why the town would buy into an \$11 million public safety center if it meant having to raise residents' taxes.

Mark Reilly wants to make sure that the tax revenue is being spent wisely, considering his property tax doubled following last year's tax reassessment.

The Edenton Town Council considered capping the property tax increase to 1.5 cents as opposed to three cents after a small group of residents argued any type of increase would be fiscally irresponsible.

The council is expected to vote on the budget Monday, June 23 at 6 p.m.

In the interim

The reduction to 1.5 cents would come after the finance committee recommended increasing the solid waste fees, increasing cemetery lot fees and by adding additional funds to the tax base from three annexations (118 acres of land at Queens Landing, 47 acres at Beechwood and 1.7 acres at Wharf Landing).

The committee proposed to increase solid waste fee by at least \$1, increase cemetery lots from \$500 to \$650.

In the interim, the town's finance committee is continuing its review of the budget to perhaps find the other 1.5 cents.

Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton welcomes public comment on the tax increase. She can be reached at 482-7352.

In the county

After hearing no comments from residents about the proposed budget, the county commissioners voted to approve the 2008/2009 budget, which did not include a property tax increase.

The county property tax rate remains at 56 cents.

Rascoe takes helm



County attorney/special projects manager Peter Rascoe was sworn in as the new Chowan County Manager Monday night by commissioner chair Ralph Cole.

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