



ACES BEAT SOUTHSIDE SEAHAWKS 41-0

COULD THIS CRAB BE WORTH \$50?

SEE BELOW

CHOWAN HERALD

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50¢



VERNON FUESTON

A worker with Playworld Amusements sets up the kiddie motorcycle roundup Monday for the fair, which began yesterday.

Man pleads guilty to melon theft

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

County commission candidate Dana Soles has received a 45-day suspended sentence after pleading guilty to misdemeanor larceny in Chowan County District Court yesterday.

Presiding Judge Eula Reid ordered him to serve 12 months unsupervised probation.

He was ordered to pay a \$50 fine and court costs, plus \$3 in restitution for the watermelon.

Soles was charged Aug. 29 with felonious larceny after taking a watermelon from a local farmer's field.

Prosecutor David Hampt agreed to the misdemeanor plea that will still allow Soles to serve as a county commissioner if elected in November.

Soles, a Republican, has filed to oppose Democrat Emmett Winborne for a first district seat on the commission.

Soles, who said he was planning to give the watermelon to a family down on their luck, called his actions "a mistake I'll have to own up to."

After court, Soles said he was relieved to have it behind him.

"I just hope my community will forgive me," he said.

The farmer who owned the watermelon patch said afterwards he had no hard feelings toward Soles.

"I've got no beef with him," the farmer said. "I don't know him personally. We farmers just don't like people taking things from our fields without asking us first."



Soles

FUN & GAMES

61st annual Chowan County Regional Fair combines old favorites with new

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

Sherri Volk looked relaxed this weekend as hundreds of exhibits poured into the American Legion in preparation for the Chowan County Fair.

Volk, who has served as exhibits coordinator for the last four or five years, said her secret was simple.

"I just don't get stressed out," she said as she paused yet again to direct the action. "I can't say exactly why, I just don't. Maybe it's because I do it for the fun!"

While she may not have been stressed, there was plenty of excitement as volunteers signed in those entering items in the fair.

Inside the front building, tables held everything from cut flowers to baked goods, needlework and photographs prepared by those hoping to take home a blue ribbon a day after judging ends.

Unusual sight

Much of the talk about the exhibits in the front building centered on a replica of an abandoned country house created by Rich Miller of Edenton.

Miller, who said he has won ribbons at the fair in the past for drawings he's submitted, said he decided to try something extra this year.

He began working on his design last October. Then came November, Miller said, and he had to take his work off the table to make room for holiday meals and guests.

Work began again in earnest after Mother's Day, he said, determined to finish his project before the fair.

The house — which features an open back so folks can look inside — were fashioned using bubble wrap, popsicle sticks, toothpicks, clay and even a green bean can. A mouse, corn, and a half-eaten apple were fashioned from clay.

Roosters crow

Out in the Show Barn, Roger Spivey and Eddie Sawyer were hard at work helping to remove colorful roosters of various breeds from their cages and put them in pens where they will remain for the duration of the fair.

The roosters, not too happy with the arrangement, could be heard crowing loudly each time anyone walked their way.

"Eddie's the chicken expert," said Spivey, who supervises the livestock

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SEE C2 FOR MORE INFO ON FAIR, CUPOLA HOUSE 250TH CELEBRATION

Local fishermen may get payoffs from tracking crab tags

By Vernon Fueston
Contributing Writer

Local fishermen can get up to \$50 per tag retrieved and win a chance at a \$100 drawing.

The amount paid for a tag depends on which of three research programs generated the tag.

Lurking in Chowan's waters, crabs sporting ordinary tags on their backs can bring rewards of \$5 each.

But the real money is in finding specimens with tags in the form of small capsules attached to their shells.

The capsules contain radio transponders and can earn a fisherman \$50 per

tag.

Tracking the crabs

Mark Turano of Sea Grant said the programs all track the migration patterns of blue crabs.

He said researchers hope to match patterns with changes in temperature, salinity and rainfall.

Blue crabs migrate over a considerable distance, Turano said. Fishermen in Currituck have captured crabs from Maryland, and crabs from the Albemarle Sound routinely show up at Oregon Inlet.

Turano said the data would be matched with older studies to look for discernable patterns.

In the end, he hopes data will give clues about spawning habits and stock levels.

How to collect

Yellow tags measuring 0.25 X 1.5 inches are from a program tracking mature female blue crabs in the Albemarle and Currituck Sounds.

Fishermen should contact Kristina Bridges at (866) 737-6808 or (252) 441-5497 for either a \$5 reward or a hat.

Winners are also entered in a \$100 drawing.

Be prepared to give the tag number, capture location and date, gear used and whether the tag came from a crab with a "sponge," packets of fertilized eggs

the female carries under her abdomen.

\$50 reward

Small, cylindrical black tags resembling a battery come from a program tracking the movement of mature female blue crabs in the White Oak River.

The cylindrical tags are tracking devices capable of tracking both location and depth.

Fishermen should contact Erika Millstein at (860) 803-1139 for a reward of \$50.

Millstein will need the tag number, date and approximate capture location including depth.

Red Rectangular or white

circular tags track the distribution and movements of spawning blue crabs in non-tidal systems.

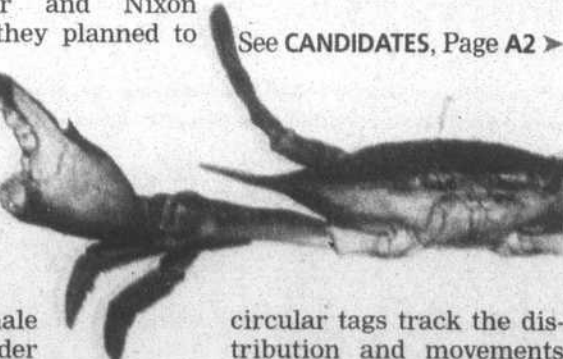
The crabs were released in the Beaufort area.

Fishermen should contact Zack Darnell at (888) 988-CRAB (2722) for a \$5 reward. Darnell will need to know the tag number, capture location (GPS if possible) and date.

He will also need to know the sponge color if present.

The research programs are funded by the NC General Assembly and administered by North Carolina Sea Grant.

For more information, go the Sea Grant's Web site at www.ncseagrant.org.



See CANDIDATES, Page A2 >

put their business experience to work for the county, if elected.

ELECTION 2008



Mitchener

John Mitchener

Age: 67
Date of Birth: Sept. 30, 1941
Political Offices Held:
12 years on the school board
(6 years as vice-chair, 4 as chair)
Occupation: Retired pharmacist
Party: Democrat



Nixon

Keith Nixon

Age: 46
Date of Birth: March 26, 1962
Political Offices Held: None
Occupation: Self-employed, former owner, manager of local paint store
Party: Republican

Candidates run for first term

The race — two non-incumbents for an at large seat. Citizens from all districts may vote.

By Vernon Fueston
Contributing Writer

Two non-incumbents will face off for a single at-large seat on the County Commission this November with neither candidate tainted by the county's financial crisis.

The race between John Mitchener and Keith Nixon is the only one between a Democrat and a Republican where neither candidate is currently serving on the board.

With Mitchener and Nixon competing for an at-large seat, voters from all three districts can cast a ballot in the race.

Mitchener and Nixon both said they planned to

Running experience

Keith Nixon, a Republican, is the former owner of a paint distributorship in Edenton. He is still self-employed as a property manager.

John Mitchener is a retired pharmacist and developer of several downtown Edenton commercial properties.

With an eye toward the county's financial woes, both felt their life experiences suited them for tackling Chowan's budget crisis.

"I know how to look out for financial issues," Mitchener said. "I've learned how to anticipate developments and the importance of a backup plan."

"In my business, I learned the importance of the political process as insurance