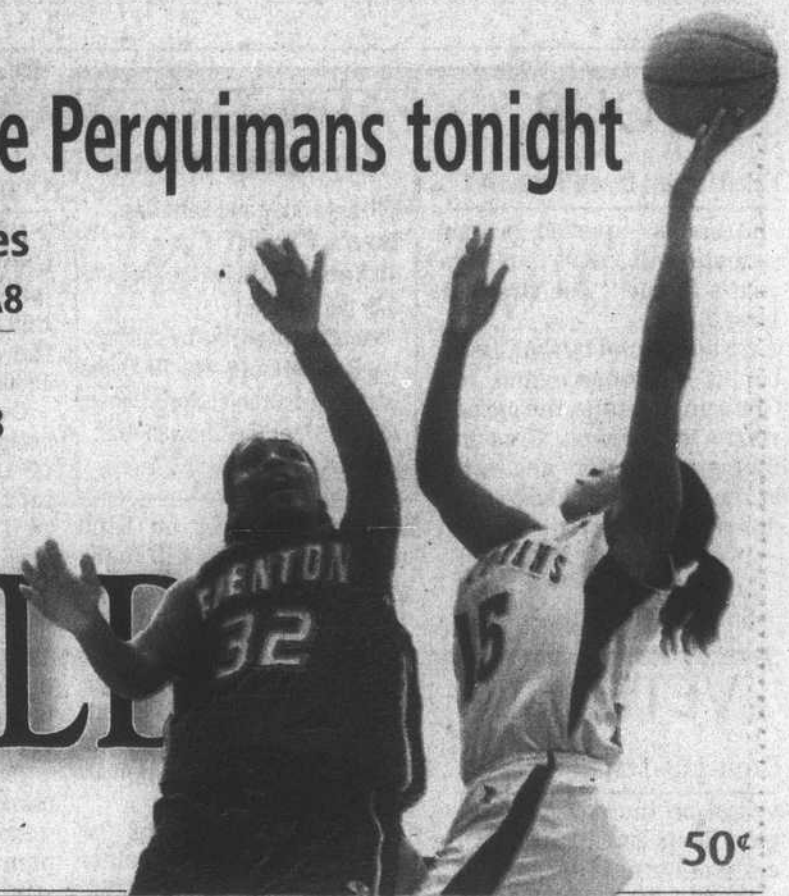


ON THE RUN
Hunters rely on
skill, dogs to bring
home dinner B1

Lady Aces battle Perquimans tonight

Team bested Pirates
last week 55-34 A8
Boys team gets
second chance A8



CHOWAN HERALD

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"We're going to have
to pull ourselves out."
— Eddy Goodwin,
commission chairman



Straight talk about county's road ahead

By Vernon Fueston
Contributing Writer

Eddy Goodwin has had little time to celebrate his election, either to Chowan's board of commissioners or as the board's chairman.

With a tough battle ahead to hammer out a balanced budget for the cash-strapped county, Goodwin knows the political honeymoon that newly elected politicians are usually granted expired about 10 minutes after he was sworn in.

"By the time this is all over, I will probably be the one person in the county people love to dislike," Goodwin said. "Tough decisions will have to be made now if we are going to move on from here."

One week after being sworn in, Goodwin sat down for a frank talk about just who he is, what he stands for and where he thinks Chowan County will have to go from here.

Deep country roots

Goodwin has been away from Chowan for most of his life, but he said his roots here run deep. A fourth-generation Chowan County farmer, his background is varied to say the least.

Goodwin raises peanuts, cotton, and vegetables on his family's 425 acre farm with his brother and 82 year-old father. He goes to the same church his great grandfather did, where he teaches Sunday school.

As a retired investigator for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), he's served around the world working in the fields of anti-terrorism, criminal investigation and protective services.

As an entrepreneur he's grown a software development firm from three employees to 54 in 11 years. His company's software uses satellite technology to help

See GOODWIN, Page A2 >

Edenton to welcome 800,000th visitor Christmas Candlelight Tour weekend



Jack and Mary Ann Warmack at 107 Blount St. decorate their house in time for the tour this weekend, Friday and Saturday from 4 to 8 p.m. The Iredell, Cupola, Barker houses will be open from 1 to 5 p.m.

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

Edenton will reach a milestone during this year's Christmas Candlelight Tour — the welcoming of its 800,000th visitor.

"We are really excited," said Linda Eure, site manager for the local visitor center.

The center has maintained records of visitors since it opened in June, 1968.

"We are very close," Eure said. "We expect that special person will walk through our doors before the tour is over."

So sure is she, in fact, that Eure and her staff have prepared a very special gift basket

for that lucky someone.

The basket is filled with all kinds of goodies donated by downtown Edenton merchants, according to Carolyn Owens of the visitor center staff.

Eure pointed out that with gas prices lower than they have been in years, a strong turnout for the tour is expected.

And, she said, along with the modestly priced tour tickets, there are a number of free events that will take place Friday and Saturday from 1-5 p.m.

"With the economy like it is, lots of people are looking for ways to enjoy the holidays that don't cost a lot," Eure said.

"This would be a perfect way to do that."

Cost-free events

Free events scheduled include the Iredell House Groaning Board, the Cupola House Wassail and the Barker House Repast from 1-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Caroling in the 1767 Chowan Courthouse will take place Friday evening at 5 p.m.

The Chowan Arts Council's Confection Perfection will take place both days of the tour from 4-9 p.m.

Another communitywide activity that will give kids of all ages that holiday feeling is the Edenton Christmas Parade that takes place Saturday morning.

The 60 or so parade units

See TOUR, Page A2 >

Joblessness on the rise in Chowan

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

More than \$2-million in unemployment benefits have been paid to jobless workers in Chowan County so far this year, state officials say.

Lockhart Taylor of the state Employment Security Commission in Raleigh, said those benefits covered the period between January and October, the most recent month for which figures are available.

Taylor said that during the same period more than 1,000 local residents filed initial claims.

Of those filed, 739 were for permanent job losses.

Of the 1,000, attached claims — those in which an employer expects to be able to put employees back to work within a short period of time — totaled 265.

Taylor said the number includes some who may have filed more than one claim if they were laid off twice during that time but was unable to say how many.

"Those numbers, of course, do not include those who live in Chowan County but work elsewhere who have been laid off since the first of the year," Taylor said.

Above State Totals

Chowan County posted a 9 percent jobless rate during October — the 11th highest among North Carolina's 100 counties.

That means almost 700 people were without work from a workforce of just over 7,000.

During the same month, 122 local residents filed for extended jobless benefits totaling \$43,826 from state and federal funds.

Federal funds paid for additional benefits for 61 who remained unemployed but had exhausted the normal extension period. Those funds totaled \$44,366.

See JOBLESS, Page A2 >

VA eyes Edenton as site for new clinic

By Vernon Fueston
Contributing Writer

Edenton or Elizabeth City will be the home for a new Veteran's Affairs outpatient clinic, according to an announcement from the office of Senator Richard Burr.

No date has been set for deciding between the two cities.

Dale Wright, commander of American Legion Post 40 in Edenton, said he has been in discussion with the VA regarding the clinic for some time.

Wright said the clinic will be an important source of medical care for veterans, treating both service and non-service related injuries and illnesses.

"I'm hoping that it will be a boon to veterans here," Wright said. "We're talking about an eight-county area. This will save a great deal

of travel for veterans and their families."

Right now veterans must travel to Greenville, Durham or Virginia Beach, Wright said. The clinic will provide medical care and prescription medications.

Wright said the VA must still decide between establishing a "mobile" site and setting a dedicated location for the clinic. A mobile site would use an existing business location for clinics several days each week.

He said that in meetings with VA officials, a mobile site seemed to be the preference.

Wright said a dedicated clinic site would be chosen on the basis of available locations and could end up in either city. Wright said that if a mobile site is chosen, the most likely locations

See VETERAN, Page A2 >

Legion events lose \$6,000

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

The Chowan County Regional Fair may soon be the only event the local American Legion is known for if an upcoming raffle doesn't earn broader support than other events it has sponsored this year.

Overall, the Legion has lost about \$6,000 this year, Dale Wright, commander,

said that recent events like the Randy Owen concert and the Carson & Barnes Circus have been poorly attended.

"The Hog Fest, things like that, you may not see them again," said Wright.

Wright said that difficult economic times and a lack of community support could result in serious program cuts.

"We are committed to

having the fair," he said, "but everything else is on the table."

E.C. Toppin, post adjutant, said it was "very disheartening" to those who worked so hard to offer these events.

Many of those involved, he said, consider working with the Legion as an outreach of their past military service.

See LEGION, Page A2 >

Local man okay after alleged kidnapping

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

An Edenton businessman's family is thankful to have him back home.

Al Waff, 56, of Waff Contracting, returned to North Carolina yesterday afternoon after being the victim of an alleged kidnapping Monday.

According to law enforcement sources, Waff answered the door at his Emperor Landing Road

home around 9 a.m. Monday morning and was confronted by a man wearing a hooded coat and carrying a gun.

The man reportedly told Waff that if he would drive him to Alabama he would be released unharmed.

The two left together. After not hearing from Waff for several hours, his family reported him missing, officials said.

Authorities started checking local hospitals

and for any possible activity on his credit card or cell phone, but found none.

Then, between 2:30 and 3 a.m. Tuesday morning, came the call his family had been praying for.

Waff called home to say he was safe and in Alabama. His truck was impounded there to be processed for evidence.

By Tuesday afternoon, Waff boarded a flight to the

See WAFF, Page A2 >

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