



RESURRECTION CELEBRATED B6

## County to close on properties

By Vernon Fueston  
Staff Writer

The County is expected to close soon on the sale of its former Chowan Community Center, located across the street from Chowan Middle School, and is advertising for upset bids before accepting an offer on another property.

The community center building sold to a Chowan County couple for \$51,000, but is subject to a lease held by the Chowan Runitan Club, which uses the building as a meeting hall.

The community center building is not the more recently constructed Northern Chowan Community Center

located on the same side of Virginia Road as Chowan Middle School.

County Manager Peter Rascoe said the club will stay in the building for now and will negotiate with the new owners about any arrangements after its lease runs out.

Rascoe also said the county is looking for upset bids after

receiving an offer of \$5,000 for a 1.1 acre wooded lot located in Yeopim at 306 Indian Trail Road.

Interested parties have until April 11 to place their bids for the property.

Proceeds from the sale of both properties will be used to rebuild the county's general reserve fund.

## County receives final '07-'08 audit

By Vernon Fueston  
Staff Writer

Chowan's commissioners have received their final draft of the county's audit for the year in which it determined that its reserves, including over \$20 million received from the sale of Chowan Hospital, had been depleted.

The figures show the state of the county's finances for the period beginning June 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008. News of the depleted reserve funds was released July of 2008.

The commissioners had passed a resolution promising not to spend money from the hospital fund and allowing the option to spend only 75 percent of the interest.

Between 1999 and 2008 the county's Web site shows 20 transactions taking money from the hospital account totaling almost \$19.6 million. Those moneys were apparently used cover budget deficits in the general fund.

The fund, listed in the audit as Health Care Reserve 1 and Health Care Reserve 2, had a current balance of \$585,000 on April 1 of this year.

According to the audit, the commissioners had crafted a balanced budget calling for \$18 million in both revenues and expenditures, but figures

### Financial snapshot

Deficit for '07-'08 — \$3.28

Previous Deficits	
2007	\$3.33
2006	\$2.89
2005	\$2.37
2004	\$2.98
2003	\$1.40
2002	\$1.84

(in millions)

at the end of the year showed a \$3.28 million deficit for the county's general fund.

A shortfall in revenues accounted \$2.6 million of that deficit. Expenditures exceeded those planned in the budget by only \$25,000.

Also listed in the audit were Chowan County's 10 largest payers of property taxes to the county. All of them were businesses.

Among the 10 were four manufacturers, two shopping centers, two real estate companies, one logging company and a farm supply firm. The largest taxpayer was a shopping center.

A review of past audits shows Chowan County has operated with a deficit for all seven of the years that audits have been posted on the county's Web site.

## 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY KITCHEN MOVED TO HISTORIC SITE



VERNON FUESTON/THE CHOWAN HERALD

Worth Hare stands in front of the Bandon Kitchen's brick hearth, safely nestled on a flat bed truck and awaiting its journey to the James Iredell House in Edenton where it will be restored as part of the historic compound there.

By Vernon Fueston  
Staff Writer

As workers secured the old brick hearth from the Bandon House kitchen to a flat bed truck, Robert Turner was watching with more than casual interest.

Turner, who used to own the building, said he was glad to see the structure finally get the treatment he had hoped once to give it himself.

The kitchen joined its former neighbor, an old smoke house from the same plantation, at the James Iredell house in Edenton where it will be restored as a companion structure to the former Supreme Court justice's home.

Back when Turner bought the structure, he had hoped to renovate it

personally.

"When I bought it about 25 years ago, the property was in pretty bad shape," Turner said. "The right wall was separating and leaning outward. I needed some braces and support to keep the wall from falling out and the ceiling from falling in."

The 20 by 20 foot kitchen and nearby smoke house were originally part of the Bandon plantation complex, but the main building burned down sometime in the mid 1960's.

As the neighborhood of Arrowhead Beach grew up around the property, vandals took their toll. Kids used the kitchen as a hangout and party place.

When Turner boarded it up, they knocked a hole in the hearth's brick to get in. Finally, Turner sold the

property to the James Iredell Foundation, which planned to restore both structures.

Linda Eure, site manager for the Iredell house complex, said the kitchen would help complete the Iredell house site. Most homes of the well to do during the early nineteenth century had separate kitchen structures as a fire precaution.

She said the kitchen was built sometime around 1827 and is an uncommon find.

"It's one of the very few surviving kitchen buildings in North Carolina," she said. "Hope plantation constructed a kitchen on their site based on its design. We're very pleased to have it."

## Pilgrimage nears; thousands expected to attend

By Rebecca Bunch  
Staff Writer

Organizers of the Biennial Pilgrimage say they're expecting a nice turnout despite the downturn in the economy.

"We're doing quite well with pre-ticket sales," said Marge Soper, co-chair of the event scheduled for April 24-25.

"With the economy the way it is, we weren't sure what to expect but response has been very good," she added.

Part of those visitors will

be coming in tour buses, holding about 55 passengers each, Soper said. Three of them have so far confirmed they will be here.

Twelve private properties, nine public buildings, three churches are scheduled to be part of this year's tour which is sponsored in odd-numbered years by the Edenton Woman's Club.

According to the Albemarle magazine, the oldest home on the tour will be Greenfield, circa 1752; the newest, the C.S. Vann House, built around

1910.

First-timers on the tour will be the Pack House at Shelton Farms, Long Beach, the Folk-Taylor, C.W. Vann and John Branning houses.

Those who love outstanding architecture along with local history will find some outstanding examples of Federal (Shelton Farm, Mulberry Hill), Victorian (Zeigler House, home of the Historic Edenton Visitor Center), and Georgian (the Cupola House) styles on the tour.

For hours, tour headquar-

### IF YOU GO

What 2009 Pilgrimage  
When: Friday & Saturday,  
April 24 & 25  
Where: throughout county  
Cost: \$25 per person

ters and ticket information, call (252) 482-3400 or 1-800-775-0111, e-mail nancy nicholls@ncmail.net or visit www.visitedenton.com.

## Foundation to hold seminar on taxation at Edenton's 1767 courthouse

By Vernon Fueston  
Staff Writer

A major constitutional seminar is scheduled to take place in Edenton's 1767 Courthouse. The event, featuring scholars and activists, will examine the North Carolina constitution and the powers it

gives the state when it comes to taxation.

A film crew will be on hand to record the event for a documentary.

The forum, titled "The North Carolina Constitution and the Power to Tax," is expected to attract hundreds of participants from around the state according to its organizers.

The John Locke Foundation's North Carolina History Project and the North Carolina Institute for Constitutional Government, sponsors

of the event, had considered New Bern for the conference. The selected Edenton instead because of its historic roots as a center for tax protests.

Edenton was the scene of the nation's first political action by women when Penelope Barker hosted a "tea party" to boycott English tea there in 1774.

"We're just so lucky to have this here," said Bob Steinburg, the chairman of Chowan County's Republican Party.

"I think that with all that's

gone on today, with government seizing powers that are not theirs, we need to be fully aware of the rights we are provided under the United States and North Carolina constitutions," Steinburg said.

A reception on the courthouse grounds will precede the seminar, beginning at 5 p.m. The program will begin inside the courthouse at 6 p.m. Overflow seating is planned in the upstairs ballroom for those unable to fit into the courthouse chambers.

Speaking at the forum will

be Gene Boyce, an attorney who has represented citizens in fights against the state regarding tax matters. Dr. Jeff Broadwater, a historian from Barton College and Dr. John Dinan, a political scientist from Wake Forest University will also speak.

Robert Orr, Executive director of the North Carolina Institute for Constitutional Law and Former North Carolina Supreme Court Justice, will also speak and John Hood, the Locke Foundation's president, will moderate.

Steinburg said he hopes the seminar, as well as the tea party demonstration planned for April 15, will put Edenton on the map as a center of political activism.

"If this goes well and we have strong support, Edenton will be a starting point for events like this in the future," he said.

Interested persons can register for the program at the Locke Foundation's Website, www.johnlocke.org/events, or call them at (866) 553-4636.

