



Learn about our newest Person of the Month, Mary Harrell, 18

482-4418

Wednesday, August 25, 2010

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Commercial growth on the rise

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Although last year's building permits generated more than a \$2 million property tax base increase from 2008, any signs that an economic recovery beckons the construction industry remains a mixed bag.

Chowan County issued 155 building permits in 2009, compared to 120 in 2008. While residential growth remained stagnant, commercial growth swelled. Ten commercial building permits were issued last year, compared to only four in 2008. There were 16 commercial additions or alterations while 10 were is-

sued the year before.

Residential declines were evident among the dips in permits for single-family dwellings, singlewide and doublewide mobile homes.

"There was substantially less on the residential side, but the commercial really helped us out," said Holly J. Colombo, Chowan County code enforcement officer.

He points to the recent completion of Walgreens and the current building of Wendy's restaurant as examples of new commercial projects that bolstered the county's property tax base. Chowan Hospital additions also represent a sizable chunk of local commercial growth.

Despite the dip in residential construction, home additions marked a significant increase with 68 permits last year, compared to 37 in 2008. There were also moderate increases in permits for garages and accessory buildings.

Builders agree that commercial construction is currently outpacing residential, which has been mostly dependent on remodeling projects.

"Residential is a lot slower," said Chris Layton, Layton Home Builders. "We're taking on a lot of home additions and renovations."

Layton said he believes

See CONSTRUCTION, 3A



PHOTO BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

Walgreens, which officially opened for business on Sunday, represents a recent trend of new commercial construction. Commercial growth is currently outpacing residential construction.

A ROUGH LANDING



PHOTO BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

Pilot Mike Flynn balances the wing of his '79 Cessna that he skidded 450 feet down a runway at Northeastern Regional Airport without the airplane's landing gear activated Monday afternoon.

Pilot forgets landing gear, skids plane down runway

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

A pilot belly flopped his airplane at Edenton's Northeastern Regional Airport Monday afternoon after he apparently forgot to activate his landing gear.

Mike Flynn of Winterville skidded his 1979 Cessna 450 feet down the runway during his 2:30 p.m. landing, according to Edenton police Capt. Tim

Hickman. Flynn, who was flying alone, was unhurt in the mishap that closed the runway for about two hours.

"(Flynn) failed to take the proper steps to make sure the landing gear was down," Hickman said.

Harry Davis, airport manager, said the mishap did not appear to be an equipment malfunction.

"The lever was up inside the plane," Davis said. "He just forgot to put the gear

down."

Police said Flynn declined to be interviewed for this story.

In addition to the bottom of the airplane scraping the runway, the aircraft's three-prong propeller was bent from pounding the asphalt during the landing.

Davis said Flynn talked with Federal Aviation Administration representatives after the incident. The Flight Standards District Office (FSDO)

in Greensboro was also contacted, Davis said. It was the FSDO that released the plane so that it could be winched onto a rollback before being towed away and the runway reopened, Davis said.

Flynn was reportedly arriving in Edenton from Greenville for business.

His skid occurred on the same runway and near the June 7 fiery crash that killed William Thomas Jordan, 69, of Edenton.

CAC move to Municipal Building nears vote

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The Edenton Town Council could vote on Chowan Arts Council's possible relocation to the former Municipal Building as soon as next month.

During a committee meeting Monday night, CAC President Wanda Rossman shared the arts organization's vision for the future with town council members.

At the end of the discussion, the councilors agreed to forward the proposal to the full council for additional discussion and action.

Rossman noted that the CAC's present "out of the way" location has been a problem.

"Should the move to the Municipal Building become a reality, (we) will prosper along with the downtown businesses and sites such as the Barker House, the Cupola House, the Lighthouse, the Shepard-Pruden Library, Chero's, Waterman's, Edenton Bay Trading Company and those businesses along South Broad Street by being a cohesive and active partner in downtown activities," Rossman said.

Rossman also outlined a number of benefits should the new location for the CAC be approved. They include:

- Opening shows/local activities having a kitchen suitable for providing finger foods; no kitchen is available at its present site.
- Bathroom facilities, since limited facilities are available only outside the CAC's gallery.
- Programs for teaching new skills for adults and children will find a

See CAC, 4A

Grants to speed broadband

Area counties to benefit from project

By REGGIE PONDER
AND BOB MONTGOMERY
Staff Writers

Gov. Bev Perdue and the U.S. Department of Commerce announced Wednesday that North Carolina has received \$115 million in five federal recovery

grants — money that will extend high-speed Internet service across much of the state, including the northeast.

Local counties among the 69 statewide that will benefit from the future broadband service include Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Pasquotank and Perquimans.

"Increasing broadband access will create new jobs up front and provide a boost for local economies to create even more jobs and a better quality of life in the near future," Perdue stated in a press release. "These improvements are

especially important to rural and underserved areas of North Carolina."

The grants are part of the second round of federal stimulus funding for broadband projects from the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture, Perdue said.

The largest grant awarded, \$75.75 million, was awarded to non-profit Microelectronics Center of North Carolina, which follows the \$39.9 million awarded to MCNC in January, according to a statement issued by U.S. Sen. Kay

See BROADBAND, 4A

BUS-eum to display area's POW camp history

From staff reports

Most Edenton residents may not know, and perhaps never knew, that Edenton housed as many as 300 German prisoners of war during the 1940s.

Locals will soon be able to get a history lesson next month about Edenton's World War II POW camp that was located on the grounds of the former military base where the Northeastern Regional Airport now. Some 100,000 German POWs lived

among 17 camps in North Carolina during the war and Edenton had a branch camp under the larger Camp Butler. Typically, branch camps housed 250-350 prisoners. The 65-year old story is coming to Edenton by bus, officially dubbed BUS-eum.

"Held on the Homefront: German POWs in the U.S., 1943-46," will be on display for free visits on Saturday, Sept. 18, in a bus in the parking lot opposite the Shepard-Pruden Library, from 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. The driver, Irving Kellman, is also a docent for the BUS-eum, and knows many stories about the camps across the state. The Edenton visit is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Edenton-Chowan Tourism Development Authority.

"Had we only knew to go back 65 years for a time all but forgotten," said Bill Haley, Friends of the Library. "I think

See BUS-EUM, 3A



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