

Bunch quits Chamber for Northeast Commission

Replacement search under way

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Richard Bunch, executive director of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, announced his resignation after 26 years at the helm.

In a June 8 hand-delivered press release to the Chowan Herald on Monday morning, Bunch brushed

away questions about the resignation. Bunch will move over to the North Carolina's Northeast Commission, located in Edenton and serves a 16-county region.

Vann Rogerson, president and chief executive officer of the N.C. Northeast Commission, said Bunch will work as a regional marketing manager where he'll assist with industry recruitment.

"Richard has been working as a regional developer

for 20 years," Rogerson said. "He has demonstrated an ability to work with people and has helped a number of communities."

Edenton Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton said Bunch's new capacity should prove beneficial for both Edenton and the region.

"I'm really happy for Richard and the region," Knighton said. "I know

he'll work hard for the region. He has such good contacts and he knows the region well."

Among Bunch's Chamber accomplishments touted in the news release include the formation of the Chowan County Tourism Authority, the A.B.L.E. Center, which led to the present day College of The Albemarle, Phase One of the Airport Industrial Park,

and 25 annual Christmas parades.

He also served on various boards, including current stints on the COA Advisory Board, Airport Advisory Board, Destination Downtown Edenton, and the Chowan Perquimans Smart Start.

Bunch shared the Chamber's success with the leadership of 24 volunteers that served as president of the Chamber of Commerce.

"Our 24 Chamber presidents have been the best

group of people in the world to work for and their leadership has allowed for us to accomplish so much," Bunch stated in the release.

Plans call for an immediate search for a new executive director for the Chamber of Commerce.

"Richard will be missed but the work of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce will continue," said Deborah Lee, Cham-

See **BUNCH**, 2A



Bunch

Catfish Cleaning



PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

Sam Pollock, left, of the Edenton National Fish Hatchery, spearheads a lesson in catfish cleaning Saturday near the conclusion of the annual Fishing Derby. More than 400 attended the derby designed for kids 14 and younger, sponsored by the Chowan Edenton Optimist Club.

Area primary losers make endorsements

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Runner-up and third place finishers in last month's Republican primary have joined forces to defeat the top vote getter in the race for the GOP's bid for secretary of state.

Michael Beitler has officially endorsed Kenn Gardner in next month's Republican runoff against Chowan County's Eddy Goodwin. Meanwhile, not only has fourth-place GOP finisher A.J. Daoud endorsed Goodwin, but the Surry County businessman has been stumping for him as well.

Both Goodwin and Daoud attended last Thursday night's Al-Pam Republican

Club meeting in Williamston.

It was there that Daoud told the partisan crowd that Goodwin would be the best secretary of state and where the primary victor told supporters that Daoud had been substituting for him at various functions across the state, a gesture Goodwin said Beitler has yet to do for Gardner.

On Monday while en route to a stump in Asheville, Goodwin questioned whether Beitler's endorse-



Gardner

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Jamesville lands business over Edenton-Chowan

Deal includes free building

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Martin County's gain is Edenton-Chowan's loss.

Edenton was among the areas in northeast North Carolina in the running to land the Marco Company as its home distribution base along with 100 new jobs. Instead, the Texas-based company chose to erect a facility in Jamesville. Among the advantages of choosing James-

ville over Edenton - a free building.

"I think the fact that they got a free building, wow!" said Anne Marie Knighton, town manager. "That was the absolute difference. A free building versus having to buy one here."

Board of Commissioners Chairman Eddy Goodwin agreed that a free building put Edenton-Chowan at a disadvantage to the competition.

"We didn't have a building to give them," Goodwin said.

During multiple visits

here, Marco executives looked at the George C. Moore building that formerly housed textile manufacturing on a 25-acre site. The 149,000-square-foot building is now locally owned after it was auctioned last November for \$250,000 after an original listing of \$1.2 million.

Last Thursday, Gov. Beverly Perdue joined Marco Company officials in Williamston and announced that Martin County was the firm's choice to become home to its manufacturing and distribution facility for its retail equipment.

Marco Company plans to locate a new facility in Martin County. The company plans to invest \$190,000 over the next three years at the former location of McMurray Fabrics. The 110,000-square-foot facility sits on a 39-acre site along the Roanoke River. It is estimated that the renovated facility will be open for operation in about six months.

"The renovation and new use for this manufacturing facility will be an excellent economic re-use project for Martin County," said Lawrence Lilley, chairman

of the Martin County Economic Development Commission.

The Marco Company began its search early this year, considering locations that would enable the privately held firm to serve its East Coast customer base more efficiently.

"We looked at everything from Jacksonville (Fla.) to Baltimore," said Craig Nickell, president and CEO of the Texas-based Marco Company.

Vann Rogerson, president and chief executive office of the Edenton-based N.C. Northeast Commis-

sion, said landing Marco is more a victory for the region than a loss for Edenton-Chowan.

"They (Marco) had been looking up and down I-95," Rogerson said. "We're lucky to get this. They looked in other states for sure."

He also deflected the notion that a building at no expense was the deciding factor that eliminated Edenton as a contender.

"Once they became comfortable that our region could support their com-

See **JAMESVILLE**, 2A

Events fill kid's summer calendar

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

"I'm bored."

How many times each summer do parents hear their kids say that once school ends for the year? But there is a solution.

Local organizations such as the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library, the Chowan Arts Council, the Edenton-Chowan Parks & Recreation Department, Chowan 4-Hand and the Boys & Girls Club of Edenton/Chowan County have joined together to plan some fun-filled summer activities for kids that are both interesting and entertaining.

They include: Free Summer Reading Programs at the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library.

Sponsored by the

Friends of the Library with help from the Chowan Arts Council and the Chowan Parks & Recreation Department, these creative Tuesday morning programs designed to spark the imaginations of youngsters will take place at 10:30 a.m. in the meeting room at the library.

- June 19 - The North Carolina Museum of Science presents "Batmania"

- June 26 - A field trip to the Elizabeth City Planetarium to enjoy "Dreams of Outer Space." Limited to 58 participants; sign-up now under way

- July 3 - No program scheduled.

- July 10 - Storyteller Lynn Reuhlmann shares "Australian Dreamtime"

- July 17 - The Balloon Lady, Donna Pruett, will present "Dream Big and Read"

- July 24 - Pettigrew State Park staff will talk with the kids about "Dream Catchers and Na-



CHOWAN HERALD FILE PHOTO

Horticulture Agent Katy Shook, left, talks with Tristan Anderson, center, and Vivian Kelly, right, during the 4-H "How Does Your Garden Grow?" workshop at the Chowan Ag Extension Building in Edenton last summer. Here, Shook explains how insect infestations can damage tomato plants.

tive American Indians." entertain the kids with a program entitled "I final program of the summer, mystery guests will

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Edenton AARP disbands charter

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

One year after securing a club charter, the Edenton AARP Chapter No. 5443 officially disbanded on Monday.

By unanimous vote by its membership, the chapter officially dissolved. The action ended a two-year effort by president John Cutter to kick-start the chapter back to life after it came close to shutting down.

Cutter expressed disappointment at the outcome but said he felt he had given a tremendous amount of time and effort to developing a thriving, active chapter locally. In the end, he said, that just wasn't enough to make a difference.

"We have had some excellent programs and some wonderful speakers," Cutter said. "But we just

haven't been able to get enough people in the community involved."

Cutter said that in the fall of 2010 when he became president and announced plans to reorganize the local chapter with a necessary charter, as well as adopting bylaws and getting officers named, the group had 34 charter members.

When the final vote to disband came Monday, there were only 12 members plus Cutter present for the meeting at the Chowan Senior Center. And the decision capped off an unsuccessful effort in May to name a nominating



Cutter

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