



Victories keep coming for the Steamers — 7A

## Speed cited as cause in fatal boating accident

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

Speed and possible equipment problems have been cited as the likely causes of a May 31 boating accident at the mouth of the Yeopim River that killed a Chowan County man and a Perquimans County man.

Pronounced dead at Chowan Hospital shortly after the accident were Daniel Manke, 50, of Hertford, and Blaine Weyant, 48, of Edenton, according to law enforcement authorities.

Another boater in the accident, Edward White, 47, of Hertford, was released from Albemarle Hospital

after being flown there from the scene by a Coast Guard rescue crew from Elizabeth City, according to N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Officer William Laton.

No charges are pending, according to Laton's report.

Although White, the lone survivor of the accident, indicated that the driver and

passengers each consumed three or four beers that day, Laton's report did not indicate alcohol use as a likely cause of the crash.

Laton's report on the accident states that Manke was operating the boat on the Albemarle Sound and Yeopim River when the boat struck a stump and then a

cypress tree.

The report estimates that the 17-foot Sea Ray motorboat was traveling 21-40 miles per hour.

White and Weyant were passengers in the boat.

White said he had bought the boat recently and made some repairs, and that he was having a difficult time

getting the engine cover latched down correctly, Laton reported.

The report states that Manke died from trauma and Weyant died from drowning.

The report states that Patrick Cahoon, a commercial

See ACCIDENT, 2A

## County reduces fee

■ Commissioners vote against tax hike

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners Tuesday adopted a hold-the-line county budget for 2013-14.

While a majority of the board continued to reject Commissioner Emmett Winborne's proposal from a previous meeting to reduce the property tax rate by one cent from 68.5 cents per \$100 valuation to 67.5 cents, the board did adopt an alternative proposal by Chairman Keith Nixon that reduced the solid waste fee by \$18 a year.

County Manager Zee Lamb noted that the solid waste fee reduction of \$1.50 a month — \$18 a year — is the equivalent of a one-cent property tax rate reduction on a \$180,000 home.

The motion by Commissioner John Mitchiner to adopt the 2013-14 county budget as presented passed 4-3, with Winborne, Nixon and Commissioner Alex Kehayes voting against it.

See BUDGET, 2A

## 300TH ANNIVERSARY PYROTECHNICS



CHOWAN HERALD FILE PHOTOS

A woman does the electric slide at Colonial Park during a July 4 event. There will be lots of musical entertainment courtesy of Steve Hardy's Original Beach Party.

## Evergreen withdraws appeal

From staff reports

Raleigh-based Evergreen Construction has withdrawn its appeal of a Superior Court ruling that the Town of Edenton acted within its rights when it denied the firm's request for a conditional use permit.

The permit had been requested so that Evergreen could build a 50-family multi-family apartment complex.

The council denied the permit request after deciding that Evergreen's market feasibility study was based on flawed data.

"Evergreen, who appealed (the) Town Council's decision to deny (a) conditional use permit, withdrew its appeal from the NC Court of Appeals," Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton confirmed in an email written Monday morning.

Tim Morgan, vice-president of Evergreen, did not immediately respond to a phone message seeking comment for this story.

## Bigger-than-usual fireworks show planned

■ McArthur: Have set an aggressive goal of \$18,000 more in fireworks this year

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

With Edenton's 300th anniversary celebration in full swing, the Chowan-Edenton Optimist Club is planning a larger than normal fireworks show in keeping with the occasion.

Mike McArthur, chairman of the fundraising effort, said that the club's goal is to raise about \$30,000 for an expanded show this July 4 during the annual Fabulous Fourth of July event.

"We have set an aggressive goal of hav-

ing \$18,000 more in fireworks this year than last, and we are knocking on the door to success," McArthur said. "But we still need the community's help to get us the rest of the way there."

McArthur said that with just two weeks to go the club's fundraising committee has been going door to door asking for donations. Local businesses and organizations — including the Edenton Chowan Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce and the 300th Anniversary Celebration committee chaired by Bob Quinn — have been generous with their support and encouragement, he said.

See FIREWORKS, 3A



Youngsters of all ages will find cool treats and lots of fun at the Fabulous Fourth of July Celebration hosted by the Chowan-Edenton Optimist Club.

## Rainfall helps crop get off to good start

From staff reports

Decent rainfall this spring has helped corn and soybeans get off to a good start this growing season, while cotton and peanuts are behind schedule.

"There has been some growth delay as a result of cool, wet conditions earlier," said Lewis Smith, a local county extension director with the N.C. State Cooperative Extension Service.

While the rainfall has been a blessing for corn and soybeans, many farmers delayed planting of cotton and peanuts because of wet soils and cool conditions early in the planting

season.

"Chowan County is a little different than the counties to the east, in that there are a higher percentage of Sandy, well-drained soils that will allow growers to get in the field sooner at rain events," he said.

Other important crops locally are wheat and clary sage, which grows best in dry weather. Clary sage produces an oil that enables the scent of perfume or cologne to stay on the skin longer.

"Except for just a couple of days, moisture has been good thus far this season," Smith said. "In some areas in the region, rainfall has been excessive at times."

In other words, one field could get 2 to 4 inches of rainfall, while two miles down the road, a field may only get a half-inch from a storm.

Overall, Smith said the outlook for a productive season is "good."

"As I mentioned, cotton and peanuts are generally a little behind," he said. "We always like to see cotton starting to bloom by July 4. I can't speak for all of Chowan, but in Perquimans I'll be surprised if any fields reach that unofficial goal."

Meanwhile, corn continues to grow at a good clip.

"If we continue to get

See CROP, 3A



PHOTO COURTESY BY THE N.C. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Sage continues to climb as a profitable crop. In addition to an herb, sage is used in the production of perfume. The crop shown here is among the fields of Hayes Farms in Chowan County.

