

CHOWAN HERALD

482-4418

Wednesday, April 27, 2016



Look for
"Living Here"
inside today's
Chowan
Herald

50¢

Progress Edenton continues to move community forward

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

During Progress Edenton's organizational meeting on April 19 one of its leaders, MaryScott Haigler, made their primary mission crystal clear.

"We're just going to push on," she said, referring to the group's determination not to give up despite the town council's decision not to sell the former Northeast Commission Building.

Progress Edenton is a group of like-minded people who are in favor of bringing a brew pub to the town to occupy the former North-

east Commission building.

Haigler said the group intends to seek a new vote by the council and to let them know that "it's okay for you to change your mind."

"What we need to focus on at this point is positive information," Haigler added. "We need to get out and spread the word."

The town council voted 4-2 at a recent meeting not to sell the building but the group's leaders are hopeful they will agree to a second vote on the issue. In the meantime, they are using social and print media to help share their

See PROGRESS, 6A



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH
Citizens attending the Progress Edenton meeting held at the 1767 Chowan Courthouse on April 19 talk and sign in while waiting for the program to get started.

CYCLE NC



Cycle NC riders began their Sunday morning with the final ride they would make during the spring coastal ride in Edenton. They will return again in three years after doing their next spring coastal rides in other communities. See Cycle NC story on 1B.

STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Trustees OK new ag tech program

BY WILLIAM F. WEST
The Daily Advance

Starting in fall 2017, students interested in learning farming and animal production techniques could learn those skills at College of The Albemarle.

The COA Board of Trustees gave the go-ahead Tuesday to a degree program in sustainable agriculture technology.

The program, which requires approval by the N.C. Community College System, would offer both a two-year associate's degree and a one-year certificate. COA also would offer workforce development opportunities and continuing education courses in sustainable agriculture technology.

COA President Kandi Deitemeyer said college officials believe a sustainable agriculture program could be successful at COA's satellite campuses.

See COA, 6A

Billboard at entrance to town draws ire

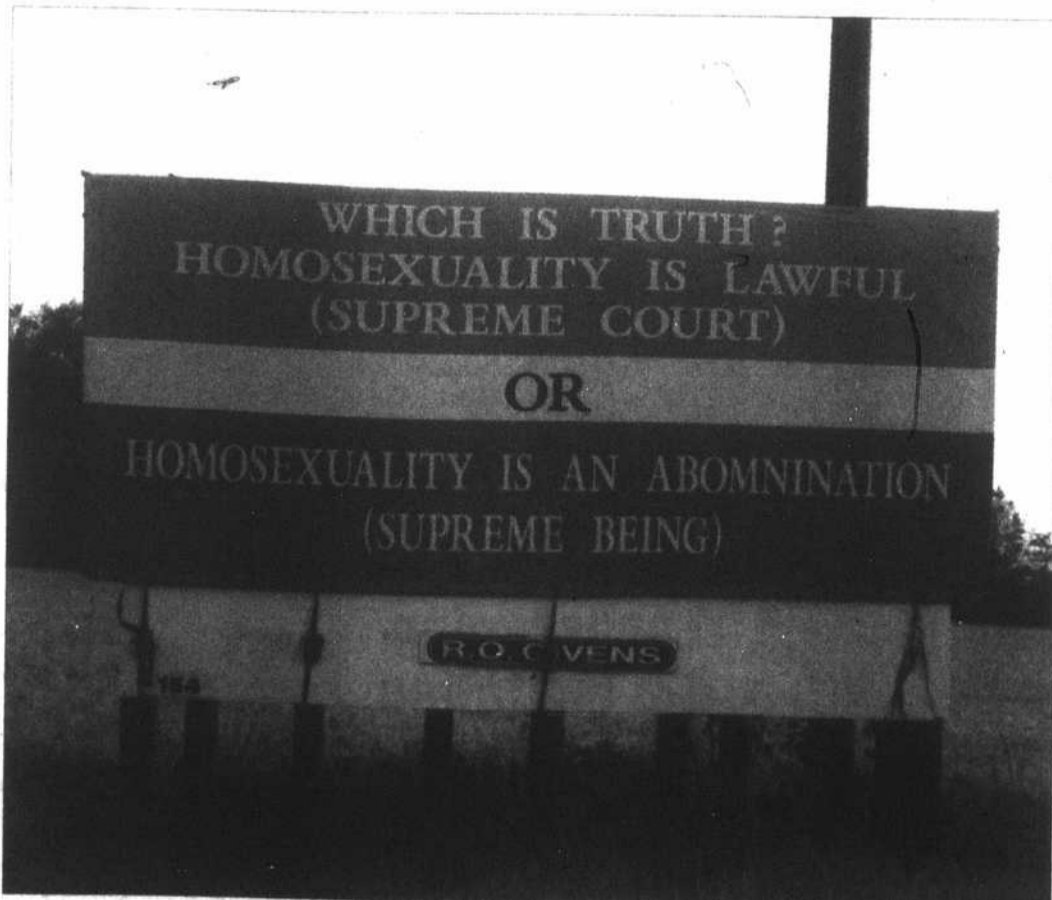
BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

A billboard on North Broad Street just north of the Town of Edenton has drawn sharp criticism from some residents because of its strongly worded message about homosexuality.

Noting the strategic location of the billboard at an entrance to the community, Roger Coleman compared the billboard's message to the "sundown town" era when some communities had billboards warning blacks not to be in that town after sundown.

"The billboard's presence makes us no different than the 'sundown towns' of the past with their 'no blacks after dark' signs," Coleman, a retired minister, said in a letter to the editor of the Chowan Herald.

Local businesswoman Gail Singh also blasted the billboard's message in a letter to the editor. Singh said that kind of message at an



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

This billboard on North Broad Street is drawing fire from some local residents because of its strongly worded statement on homosexuality - 'homosexuality is an abomination' - and its location near an entrance to the town.

entrance to the community can deter the visitors and retirees who help fuel Edenton's economy.

"Pragmatically, we know that this kind of 'welcome' into town may discourage the kinds of visitors we so badly need," Singh said in

the letter. "For instance, in the last two weeks, two couples (one who chose Edenton as a place to live recently and one who chose Edenton as a wedding location) have tried to put me on the defensive by asking about the billboard."

Thomas Baumgartner, a frequent writer of letters to the editor, also has weighed in on the billboard.

"I do not have much confidence that I can trigger some rational thought in the person who put up this billboard, but I do hope at

least to alert all who see it to this very negative message being given to people who come here and encourage them to make a real effort to make the point with such people that it does not

See BILLBOARD, 6A

Teen's death being examined

From staff reports

The Chowan County Sheriff's Office is continuing its investigation into the death last September of 18-year-old Jesse A. Wood.

An autopsy report released last week determined that Wood's death on Sept. 30 was the result of combined toxic effects of cocaine and methadone. The report also noted the presence of numerous prescription drugs and multiple abrasions.

John McArthur, a detective with the Chowan County Sheriff's Office, said last week that investigators are reviewing the autopsy report and continuing to look into the circumstances surrounding Wood's death.

"The sheriff's office is still actively investigating this death to try to determine how Jesse was able to get these drugs or who he was able to get the drugs from," McArthur said.



©2009 The Chowan Herald
All Rights Reserved

MAY PLAY DAY
FAMILY FUN
ROCKY HOCK COMMUNITY CENTER

Food & Fun!
Baked Goods
Craft Booths

BBQ CHICKEN PLATES
\$9.00 from 3-7pm
Edenton Dance Stars
11:00 - 12:00 PM

CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT 10:00 Until
Winning Team - Grand Prize - \$100.00 Cash
FREE CHILDREN'S CRAFTS & GAMES
BB GUN SHOOTING CLINIC & CONTEST
BICYCLE DRAWING 1:30 PM

SATURDAY, MAY 7TH - 10AM
Pembroke Bass Club - Kids Fishing Instructions
Contest and Prizes
For Craft Booth Spaces, Call 252-221-4169