

## Forum provides information, but no answers about algae bloom

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Information was plentiful but answers were in short supply during a Citizens Information Forum held Thursday evening at the COA Edenton campus.

The purpose of the forum was to provide an update on the algae outbreak that has plagued Chowan County waters in recent weeks. Community leaders said that with a focus on collaboration between various agencies they were hopeful increased amounts of information would help move efforts to eradicate algae

along.

That collaboration will also be the focus of a planned forum to educate local officials on strategies currently being used to address the issue. That forum is scheduled to take place on Aug. 9 from 5-7 p.m., Davison said. The location has yet to be decided.

"It takes all of us working together to find answers," said Cathy Davison, executive director of the Albemarle Commission.

Davison added that the more partners join in the effort the more attention their efforts would get.

"Collectively we have a

stronger voice in Raleigh and in Washington, DC to fix this issue," she said.

Besides Davison other speakers that evening included:

■ Mark Powell with the Albemarle Resource Conservation and Development Council, who talked about what is currently known about algal blooms and what the current impacts are on local waterways

■ Colleen and Steve Karl of the Chowan Edenton Environmental Group (CEEG) who gave an update on work their volunteer organization is doing with NOAA (National Oceanic and

Outreach Administration) to help state and federal scientists with algal bloom research

■ Gloria Putnam of North Carolina Sea Grant, who spoke about monitoring work and support being offered by the agency through NC State University

■ Chowan Emergency Management Coordinator Cord Palmer who briefed those present about the flow of communications between agencies that comes into play when the state confirms the presence of algal blooms



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Cathy Davison of Albemarle Commission talks about what's being done to collect information following the recent algae outbreak in Chowan County waterways during a Citizens Information Forum held at the COA Edenton campus on Thursday evening.

See ALGAE, 2A

## Scotland native talks about American birthday

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Tuesday, Blair Currie will join countless others in celebrating Independence Day in America. But he'll also be marking another special occasion — his 88th birthday.

Currie, who emigrated from Scotland with his wife Chrissie and their two children in 1961, said his opinion of America was colored by the entry of the United States into World War II. He well remembers, he said, how that event elevated the mood of those in Britain.

"There was a sense of jubilation," he said with a huge grin. "The Yanks are coming! The Yanks are coming! You heard that everywhere."

And he said that even though America has changed over the years, he and his family are grateful for the decision they made to come here.

"America is a very different place today but there's no question that if you're ambitious and willing to work hard it is still the land of opportunity, and we're glad to be here," he said.

James Blair Currie began his life in the Royal Burgh of Sanquhar in southwest Scotland.

"The area was mostly sheep and dairy farming," Currie said, "and many of our personal friends were shepherds. Until recent years there was also some coal mining in nearby areas."

When Currie's father, a coal-mineral, talented musician and a member of the Home Guard, died at age 39 his mother was left with four children to support.



Scottish born Blair Currie will not only celebrate his 88th birthday, but join countless others in celebrating Independence Day in America.

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"It was perhaps due to this that I made the decision to accept an apprenticeship in the local butcher's shop," he said. "Other than two years in the Royal Navy, my career in life was in that industry."

Currie, a self-taught photographer, found success in the field of child photography as well.

"I had many awards for photography but the biggest was when I placed third in a nationwide contest, the prize being a weeklong trip for two to the Lake Placid Winter Olympics in 1980," he said.

A man of varied interests, Currie took up long distance running at the age of 50 and ran in a number of marathons, most notably the Penn Relays.

He and his wife, Currie said, "were always keen dancers" and taught Scottish dancing in a variety of locales including New Bern. The first night they taught, he said, a small group showed up. But evidently word spread about the class because at the next session 200 people came.

See BLAIR, 3A

## Brew pub closer to resolution

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

The issue of whether or not Raleigh businessman John Glover will establish a brewpub in the former Northeast Commission building on the downtown Edenton waterfront is moving closer to resolution.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton told town council members during a June 26 work session that she expected engineer Tom McNiellan from Norfolk, Va. to present his report to Glover in the next few days on expected costs associated with a requirement that he flood proof the building as part of the agreement to purchase it from the town.

"He's wrapped up his report," she said. "The building can be flood proofed but Mr. Glover will have to decide whether or not the cost would be worth it."

Knighton said she was not able to find out from the engineer prior to the work session what the estimated costs would be. She said McNiellan told her he had just completed his report but had not yet had an opportunity present his findings on those costs to Glover. He needed to do that prior to releasing the information to the town, she said.

"I think at best we're a good 60 days away from knowing what his (Glover's) decision is," Knighton said. "I think it's going to take that long for us to get an answer."

The requirement for Glover to flood proof the building comes as a result of a requirement by the National Flood Insurance Council that if renovations to any waterfront property

See BREW, 3A

## Fabulous Fourth of July festivities

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Do you love peanut butter? If so, then you'll be excited to hear about the newest attraction to be offered at the Chowan Edenton Optimist Club's Fabulous Fourth of July Celebration this Tuesday.

Kirk DeVine, who is co-chairing the activities being planned that afternoon and evening at Colonial Park on the downtown waterfront, said he and his co-chair, John McArthur were talking about what they could add to the event's popular watermelon eating contest and traditional penny hunt, and thought a

peanut butter eating contest would be a lot of fun.

"We do a lot of stuff for kids on Fourth of July," he said. "Of course, we are a youth-oriented organization. Our motto is 'Friend of Youth'."

DeVine said once they decided a peanut butter eating contest was something they'd like to try this year, they approached a local business, Jimbo's Jumbos, to seek supplies and received tremendous cooperation.

"We're going to open up this event for participation by kids of all ages," he said. "By that I mean, adults and

See FESTIVITIES, 3A

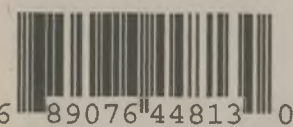


Kids sport big grins during the Chowan Edenton Optimist Club's popular Watermelon Eating Contest during the annual Fabulous Fourth of July Celebration that draws thousands to the downtown waterfront to enjoy Independence Day festivities with family members and friends.

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## Sheriff Goodwin warns residents of 'grandparents scam'

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin wants senior citizens and their families to be aware of — and protected from — the grandparents scam.

What is the scam? Most commonly, the sheriff said, it's an operation typically based outside the United

States, primarily in Canada, during which con artists call seniors on the phone pretending to be one of their grandchildren.

Seniors are particularly vulnerable to these types of calls, the sheriff said, because they can never hear from their grandchildren enough and because their hearing may not be as good as it used to which makes it

easier for someone to fool them into thinking the person on the other end of the line is actually a grandchild and not a con artist.

The scam works like this.

Someone pretending to be one of your grandchildren calls your home and says he or she is out of town and asks to confide in you about a little trouble he or she has gotten into such as

an arrest for driving while impaired. The "grandchild" begs you not to tell anyone else in the family but instead to wire money to help him or her out of this emergency situation.

If you do, you'll never see that money again — joining the ranks of countless grandparents across the United States who get taken for millions of dollars each

year.

For the con to be successful, seniors have to be led by their love for their grandchildren and not by their common sense, the sheriff said.

"The sheriff's department wants to get the word out about this, so we can make sure that seniors in Chowan

See SCAM, 2A



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