



Winning parade floats — 3B

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## 'Kids and Cops' awarded grant for 2014

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Chowan County's Kids and Cops program got an early Christmas gift on Dec. 19 when the Albemarle Community Trust announced it had chosen the program as one of its grant recipients for the coming year.

The trust is the giving arm of Albemarle EMC, a Hertford-based electric co-op that also serves customers in Chowan County. A total of \$60,000 in grants will be awarded according to Chris Powell, director of public relations for Albemarle EMC. Powell was on hand for the check

presentation. Accepting the \$5,000 check were Chowan Middle School Principal Tanya Turner and Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin. CMS School Resource Officer Ricky Winebarger and other law enforcement officers joined children who participate in the program on the front lawn of the middle school for the presentation.

Goodwin said he came up with the idea for the program because he realized that just talking with kids about core values like honesty, respect and teamwork wasn't enough.

See GRANT, 3A



PHOTO BY MICHELLE MADDOX, EDENTON-CHOWAN SCHOOLS

Law enforcement officers and students that participate in the Chowan County Kids and Cops Program gathered on the front lawn at Chowan Middle School Thursday afternoon for a check presentation (at right in photo) where Chris Powell, public relations director for Albemarle EMC, presented a \$5,000 donation to CMS Principal Tanya Turner and Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin in support of the program.

## Privott touted by Town council

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

When Mayor Roland Vaughan opened the Dec. 10 monthly town council meeting, it wasn't with some words about the evening's agenda.



PRIVOTT

Instead, he indicated that the early part of the evening would be dedicated to the swearing in of new and

returning council members and celebrating the decades of service given to the town by retiring Councilman Willis Privott.

"Welcome all of you to this festive, celebratory meeting," Vaughan said as he addressed an audience filled with the family members and friends of the new and outgoing council members.

Vaughan praised Privott for his love of community that the mayor said had been apparent in Privott's often-voiced concern for citizens and the impact the council's decisions would have on them.

"It is that same spirit of community that helps make Edenton the special place it is," Vaughan said.

Chamber Director Win Dale thanked Privott for his support of that organization over the years. Destination Downtown Executive Director Jennifer Harriss echoed the sentiment. Both presented Privott with special gifts in honor of the occasion.

"Ya'll are trying your best to make me cry," Privott said as he accepted their gifts.

Privott was also presented with a miniature version of a framed portrait of him that will hang in the lobby at town hall that is being re-named for him to honor his

See PRIVOTT, 2A



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## THE GRINCH CAN'T STEAL CHRISTMAS



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

The Grinch draws grins from those watching the Christmas Parade as he prances along the parade route. See more photographs of the Edenton Christmas parade on page 2A.

## New districts adopted by county

From staff reports

The new electoral districts for county commissioners and school board members have been adopted.

At a joint meeting last week of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners and Edenton-Chowan Board of Education, both boards unanimously adopted the redistricting map as presented by a joint working group from the two boards.

No one from the public spoke during the joint public hearing on the new map that was held Dec. 16.

The new map continues the tradition of school board districts and county

commissioner districts being the same.

The new map moves 1,105 residents from the 2nd District to the 3rd District.

The county has three districts, each of which elects two members, and also has one at-large member.

The 1st District is the northern portion of the county, the 2nd District is in the southern and central areas of the county around Edenton, and the 3rd District includes most of the town.

The new district map was developed by county staff in consultation with a small group of county commissioners and school board members.

The change was required because of population shifts as indicated by the 2010 census.

Under a '5 percent rule' used by federal officials, population of electoral districts for local officials are not supposed to deviate more than 5 percent. In other words, no district is supposed to be more than 5 percent bigger — or 5 percent smaller — in population than any other district.

Since the population of Chowan's three electoral districts were roughly 3,900; 5,000; and 5,900, Chowan needed to add about 1,000 people to the smallest district and reduce the largest district

by about the same number of people. That resulted in moving 1,105 residents from the 2nd District to the 3rd District.

The new map maintains the 3rd District, which roughly corresponds to the town of Edenton, as a majority minority district in keeping with an agreement the county reached in the late 1980s.

Of the residents being moved from the 2nd District to the new 3rd District, 529 are white, 564 are black and 12 are reported in the census as being of another race.

The population of the new 3rd District will be roughly two-thirds black and one-third white.

## Commissioners in midst of county manager search

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners plans to discuss an interim county manager arrangement at its Jan. 6 meeting.

County officials have begun interviewing candidates for the position of county manager but do not expect to have anyone in place by the time County Manager Zee Lamb assumes the post of county

manager in Nash County on Jan. 1.

Board of Commissioners Chairman Keith Nixon said last week that the search for the next county manager is just getting started.

"We have just started the process," Nixon said. "We really haven't gotten very far on it."

The county will continue accepting applications for county manager until the position is filled, Nixon said.

Nixon said he isn't concerned about not having an interim county manager appointed at this time since the first week of January typically is a slow time for county government.

Nixon noted he is authorized to sign checks himself.

The board likely will appoint someone at the Jan. 6 meeting to serve as interim county manager, according to Nixon.

Lamb announced in November

that he would leaving to take the Nash position.

Lamb said he has enjoyed his two years as Chowan's county manager but is looking forward to the challenge of a larger county. Nash's population is around 96,000.

The contract with Nash County calls for Lamb to come aboard at a starting salary of \$156,800 a year.

Lamb's salary in Chowan is \$116,000.

## Permit for historic building approved

Demolition comes with delay, conditions

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

The Edenton Preservation Commission voted unanimously at its Dec. 17 meeting to approve a request by the Chowan County commissioners for a demolition permit for the old County Office Building on East King Street.

However, they have delayed the county's ability to execute the permit for 365 days and attached a series of requirements to the permit that the county must meet to the satisfaction of the preservation commission before the permit can be used.

County Manager Zee Lamb repeated at the meeting what county commissioners have said previously — that the county has no plans to tear down the former hotel building constructed in 1926.

Rather, Lamb said, the county simply wants to have the option to do that as a last resort. In the interim, he said, the county remains hopeful that developers who have expressed an interest in the property through Preservation North Carolina will decide to move ahead with restoration.

In the event that doesn't happen, though, Preservation Commission members said they wanted to make sure that other historic buildings adjacent to the site such as the 1767 Chowan Courthouse are protected

See PERMIT, 3A

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