



Prom rolls out red carpet for seniors — 3B

P8/CB*****CAR-RT LOT**C 002 A0038

SHEPHERD PRUDEN LIBRARY
106 W WATER ST
EDENTON NC 27932-1854

482-4418

Wednesday, August 9, 2017

50¢

Commission approves water rate hike

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

The Chowan County Commission approved a water rate hike, but held back on imposing any proposed changes to a solar farm ordinance.

During Monday's meeting, commissioners raised water rates from \$6 per thousand gallons to \$7 per thousand gallons effective Nov. 1.

County Manager Kevin Howard said the purpose

of the water rate increase is to make the county eligible to apply for grant funds to make mandated improvements to the water plant. A factor that determines grant eligibility is that a county have water rates that are at or above the state average.

"Even though we do not like having to raise rates it is good for the county since it puts us in a position to be eligible for grant funding for 25 percent," he said. "Of the costs for an estimated \$5

"Even though we do not like having to raise rates it is good for the county since it puts us in a position to be eligible for grant funding for 25 percent."

Kevin Howard
County manager

million project, the increase also puts us in a better position financially to pay back the loan and provide the needed capital funds to

work on a water distribution system that is in some areas over 40 years old."

County Commission Clerk Susanne Stallings

said the mandate was put in place through a Special Order by Consent between Chowan County and the NC Department of Environmental Quality.

Howard said the county provides service to around 4,475 water customers. Rates were increased by 50 cents per 1,000 gallons in 2015, Howard said. Prior to that, the last increase took place in 2008.

County officials were considering a possible in-

crease of 60 cents more per month but opted instead to raise rates by \$1 more to bring in additional funds for repairs and upgrades to infrastructure.

Stallings said that under the current rate plan at \$6 per thousand gallons, had the commission increased the rate by 60 cents, that would have generated \$140,000 per year, whereas a \$1 rate hike will generate

See RATE, 2A

Council approves upgrades financing

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Mayor Roland Vaughan signed paperwork finalizing an agreement that would provide USDA financing to upgrade the town's two water treatment plants during a special meeting (July 27) of town council.

Recently, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton received a call from officials at USDA Rural Development informing her that the underwriting for the town's loan/grant application for the upgrades to the Beaver Hill and Freemason Water Treatment Plans had been finalized.

"The USDA told me that the USDA was prepared to offer the town a \$1.15-million grant and a \$2.641-million loan at two percent interest for 40 years," she said.

The next step was for Jonathan Jones, an area specialist for the USDA, to appear before the council to present the town with a letter of conditions and for the town to formally request the obligation of funds and give its approval to a letter of intent to meet the conditions set out by USDA. Those actions occurred during Thursday's meeting with Jones noting that the two percent interest rate was locked in.

"It will never go up," he said.

The meeting was a necessary first step on the way to securing the funding.

"This action officially started the financing process," Knighton said. "The town will have to make an application to the NC Lo-

See COUNCIL, 3A

WALKING DOWN MEMORY LANE



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Reunion allows Bulldogs to look back

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Perhaps inspired by some old photographs from Chowan High School's yearbook, the newspaper shifted course this week away from a hard news story about infrastructure repairs so as to offer a more user friendly soft news story about the school's upcoming reunion.

Though it is months away on Nov. 25 at the Northern Recreation Center, one can't help but think ahead because as saying goes, "Cleanliness is next to godliness", so is planning which is why the Creator was able to do his work in six days so he could rest, maybe spend time at Ocracoke, on the seventh day.

Being that it is August, it is probably too early to include reunion times and whatnot, but tickets cost \$35 though the trip down nostalgia lane will be priceless. See Steve Evans or Kim (Ober) Ullom for more information call 252-333-8567 or send inquiries to chsallclassesreunion@gmail.com.

For inclusion in the alumni booklet, seek out those same folks before Oct. 1.

"This is the reunion of all



STEVE EVANS



KIM ULLOM

reunions," Ullom said. "This is something that alumni have been asking for, for years. A group of us finally decided it was going to happen. It is our hope that our Bulldog family will come together once again, sharing where life took us, but looking back on what we had."

Next week, there will be an article about the Edenton Jr./Sr. and John A. Holmes High School graduating classes from 1955 through 1963 are holding a joint reunion Aug. 18/19 - Sandy

Point Beach Blast IV.

As for now, a black and white photo — circa 1979 — of Chowan High's Future Farmers of America Club was inspiring enough to fire up meet Mr. Peabody and his boy Sherman for lunch so as we could fire up their "Wayback Machine" — those were great cartoons. Pay close attention to the photo and maybe you'll see Steve Evans, FFA president.

See REUNION, 2A

Board sees strategic plan draft

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

School board members had the chance to see a draft of the school system's 2017-2019 Strategic Plan during their Aug. 1 monthly meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Tanya Turner reviewed the plan with the board during a first reading of the document.

Turner said that the two-year initiative focuses on three key questions — Where are we now? Where do we want to be? How will we get there?

She noted that the draft is a continuation of the school system's 2015-2017 Strategic Plan that was designed to align with the North Carolina Strategic Plan for the state's schools.

"That consisted of five goals with a total of 21 objectives," she said. "Data is updated and complete on 14.5 of the 21 objectives."

An online survey designed to get comments from community members/leaders, business leaders, parents, school/staff members and students received 223 responses including two from students, Turner said. Responses were used to create an Excel spreadsheet, she said.

"We looked for patterns in answers to the questions," she said.

Survey Monkey was used to perform a text analysis of the information provided, Turner said.

To the question, "What is one thing the Edenton-Chowan school system is most known for," the top answer was sports — not surprising, because the Aces have been in the news so much for their athletic prowess, she said.

See PLAN, 3A

Not just parents who need supplies

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

New Edenton-Chowan Schools Maintenance Director Jamie Johnson offered the school board a look at 2017-2018 capital outlay project requests at the various schools during its Aug. 1 meeting.

Johnson promised that the work would be done efficiently and with as little cost as possible. School maintenance staff can perform some of the necessary work, he said.

"I'm a dealer and I intend to save as much as possible," he told the board.

Those items include:

White Oak Elementary

■ Furniture Replacement; Budget Request — \$10,000; Cost/Quote — School Handling; Difference — N/A

■ Replace Carpet in Media Center; Budget Request — \$7,500; Cost/Quote — \$7,475; Difference — \$25

■ Restripe Teacher Parking Lot; Budget Request — \$3,500; Cost/Quote — \$3,000; Difference — \$500

■ Replace Carpet in Six Classrooms with Tile; Budget Request — \$14,000; Cost/Quote — \$13,972; Difference — \$28

■ Renovate Teacher and Student Restrooms; Budget Request — \$12,000; Cost/Quote — Quotes Pending; Differ-

See OUTLAY, 2A

School supplies donations needed

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

This Friday is the deadline for local residents to bring donations of school supplies to the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department.

The supplies will be used as part of a Back to School Bash event being sponsored by the recently formed Edenton United group to provide

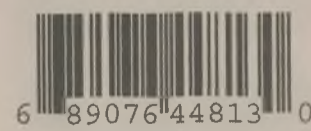
school supplies to students from pre-K through high school in the Edenton-Chowan Schools.

The supplies donated by local churches and civic organizations will be distributed at the Back to School Bash on Saturday, Aug. 19 from 4-8 p.m. at John A. Holmes High School.

See SUPPLIES, 3A



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AT /EDENTON-CHOWANHERALD



©2009 The Chowan Herald All Rights Reserved



RH Cantaloupes, Watermelons, Tomatoes, Beans, Okra, Peppers, Fresh Shrimp & Crabs, Local Pork and Chicken, dairy products, baked goods.

730 N Granville St Open each Saturday 8am-noon We double EBT/SNAP benefits

