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HATS OFF TO THE CLASS OF 2019



PHOTOS BY MILES LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Mortar boards fly high in the air soon after the Class of 2019 receives their diplomas during Friday's commencement service for John A. Holmes High School.

Aces turn tassels at ceremony

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff writer

While Superintendent Rob Jackson adjusted his academic robes and regalia, Aces' seniors were straightening their blue and gold graduation gowns, placing mortar boards on their heads and getting ready for Friday's commencement ceremony.

"Pomp and Circumstance" played as 144 seniors from John A. Holmes High School entered the stadium that had grass so perfectly trimmed it was almost like being a putting green at the Masters.

Class of 2019 earned nearly \$5.5 million in scholarships — second highest in school history. Graduation rate was 92 percent —



Sarah Williams smiles as she returns to her seat with her diploma.

highest in school history. During their time as Aces, these students have won baseball and track state championships, finished the season as state runner-up in football, and competed at the highest levels

in sports and academics. **Lessons from a President** Salutatorian Brady Armstrong introduced JAHHS Teacher of the Year for 2018-19 Victoria Brinson, a history teacher.

MORE

- Victoria Brinson's speech — A4
 - Graduation photos — B1
 - Valedictorians' speeches — B1
 - Underclassman awards — B4
- Also see Chowan Herald's Facebook page for more videos and photographs.

"In 2015 she started teaching in Edenton-Chowan Schools and has since become a Nationally Board Certified teacher. While being a classroom teacher, Mrs. Brinson has fulfilled many other roles," said Armstrong, who will attend Middle Tennessee State University in the fall. "She coaches the volleyball and JV basketball teams, is

See ACES, A5

Class of 2019 among Holmes' best

BY STEPHEN WOOD

Tonight we come together to celebrate with our Class of 2019 as one of those life-time milestones that appears to be the ending of an era. This era included 13 years of school that has helped shape their lives, hopefully put a focus on a career, guided them in the direction in which they are about to follow, and did not limit them to only certain opportunities. On stage tonight there are some significant people

who have helped these soon to be graduates in those 13 years of school.

Mr. Gene Jordan, Chairman of the Edenton-Chowan Public Schools Board of Education; Dr. Rob Jackson, Superintendent of Edenton-Chowan Public Schools; Mrs. Sheila Evans, Principal of White Oak Elementary School; Mrs. Michelle White, Principal of D. F. Walker Elementary School; Mr. Alton Campbell, Principal of Chowan Middle School;

See WOOD, A5



PHOTO COURTESY KIM ULLOM

John A. Holmes High School Principal Stephen Wood's speech recalled the Class of 2019's numerous achievements during their time in the classroom and on the playing field.

Study: County to have fewer child residents

Number of students will decline within 10 years

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff writer

A demographic study released by the Edenton-Chowan School system indicates that the student population may be decreasing within the next 10 years.

Though the study was to be presented Tuesday after press time, the newspaper was given an advance copy to review. Edenton-Chowan Board of Education requested the study that was compiled by McKibben Demographic Research of Rock Hill, SC.

The study said the data used for the forecasts comes from sources including statistics provided by the state, school system and U.S. Census.

The study may provide policymakers some

insight as they discuss planning for future facilities needs as to whether to build a new high school or renovate John A. Holmes High School.

The study is a forecast of historical and current trends, so it is not necessarily a projection as to what the future holds. For example, the study is unable to take into account what would happen if Interstate 87 is completed, nor it is able to consider present and future initiatives that are being undertaken by the Edenton-Chowan Partnership to attract business and industry. Recent multi-million dollar expansions by Colony Tire and Regulator Marine suggest Chowan County's economic base is bucking trends by growing, in contrast to many areas in eastern North Carolina.

See POPULATION, A2

Proposed solar facility ordinance changes tabled

Board wants more time to look at amendment

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
Editor

The Chowan County Commissioners will revisit amending the county's zoning ordinance regarding solar energy facilities at its July 15 meeting.

A proposed text amendment was presented to the board during its Monday meeting. The board has an opportunity to amend the zoning ordinances once every quarter.

The document was made during the weekend, and presented to the commissioners Monday. Commissioner Larry McLaughlin asked that the hearing on the proposed amendment be continued, so the commissioners can have

MEETING

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners will meet at 6 p.m. July 15 at the Public Safety Building.

MORE

Senior Center moving -- A3

enough time to look over it. The motion was approved, and the hearing was rescheduled to the July 15 meeting.

According to the documentation, the proposed text amendment incorporates some of Commissioner Bob Kirby's proposals, as well as changes by the county planning board and county attorney.

Board Chair Patti Kersey agreed that the proposed amendment hearing be rescheduled.

See SOLAR, A2

Town council learns latest on algae, street paving

Proposed budget calls for fee, electric rate hike

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff writer

Edenton Town Council worked through a busy agenda recently that included updates about algae and street repairs.

During the June 11

meeting, Chowan-Edenton Environmental Group provided an update about the green algae that tends to invade Edenton Bay and the Chowan River from time to time.

Colleen Karl said extreme hot, dry weather and southwest winds likely caused the minor blooms during the past several

weeks. CEEG is working with state and federal agencies researching and monitoring algae blooms.

Recently, the algae appears to have disappeared between the Chowan River Bridge and Edenton Bay, perhaps because of the rainy weather and powerful wind-driven waves that smacked the shorelines, so



KARL

Club's Fourth of July Fireworks display.

In other news, no one

offered any comment during the public hearing regarding the town's budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20.

The proposed total budget of \$20.5 million calls for a zero increase to the town's tax rate, which stands at 40 cents. The budget does call for \$1.50 increase in fees to pay infrastructure needs, as well

as a 1.5 percent electric rate increase.

The budget is expected to be considered for adoption during Special Council Meeting that starts at 6 p.m. Monday, June 24, in Council Chambers.

In other matters, a public hearing was held

See COUNCIL, A2

What's Happening in Chowan County

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Early voting starts today for second primary — A8

Obituaries — A2-3

Melvin I. Harrell
Opal Wright Kehayes
Peggy B. Parks

Barbara Jean Moore Watkins
W. Wayne White

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ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

JUNE 20 @ 7PM
VS PENINSULA
MAGIC 95.9 NIGHT
THURSDAY TUNES
BEACH MUSIC NIGHT

JUNE 22 @ 7PM
VS WILSON
KIDS RUN THE BASES

JUNE 24 @ 7PM
VS MOREHEAD CITY
STRIKE OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE
TOWN OF EDENTON NIGHT
50¢ HOT DOGS