

# CHOWAN HERALD

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## OPINION

Editorial: Public input essential to school building decisions — A4

## NEWS

Bertie County beach open all summer long — A5

## COMMUNITY

Girls learn etiquette at Mommy and Me 51 House — A6

# Faircloth: Public input needed for school issue

Timeline among topics at commission meeting

BY MILES LAYTON  
Staff writer

Chowan County Commission's meeting agenda contained a long laundry list of items Monday.

Commissioners received an update from the joint school replacement committee, discussed cost-of-

living raises sought by the sheriff's office and initiated plans to finance the renovation of the former D.F. Walker School for use by the Boys and Girls Club of the Albemarle. Water infrastructure projects and an important draft of a water discharge permit also was included within the agenda. And the county commissioners learned the difference between

seasonal labor and "unauthorized" population as these terms relate to the 2020 census.

A more extensive version of this story appears on the Daily Advance's webpage. A link to that article appears on the Chowan Herald's Facebook page.

Commissioners provided an update about deadlines and planning

associated with the possibility of building a new high school. See a related story about the joint committee on page A1 and read an editorial board opinion about the topic on page A4.

The first public input session on site selection for the new high school will be held at 6 p.m. Sept. 17 at the current high school, John A. Holmes. The second will be held at

6 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Northern Chowan Recreation Center. More meetings may be held as the process moves along.

"Public has got to be involved in this," Commissioner Don Faircloth said. "All in all, it's the public dollars that are paying for this. This is something they have to buy into, understand the importance and ultimately, they have to

know what they are getting. We have to listen to what the public wants. We want everyone in Chowan County to be a part of this."

Commissioner Larry McLaughlin will spearhead an effort to generate an online survey for data and comments that can be used to facilitate decision-making.

See INPUT, A3

## PUTTING IT TOGETHER



PHOTO COURTESY KIM ULLOM

John A. Holmes Band Director Lynn Dale (left) works with the band Aug. 1 in front of the Boy Scout hut along North Broad Street. The band is getting ready for the fall sports season, when it will play during half-time at home football games.

## Timeline set for school plans

Public hearings on future high school site Sept. 17, 19

BY MILES LAYTON  
Staff writer

Chowan County residents will have at least two opportunities next month to weigh in on whether they'd like to see the county's current high school renovated or a new high school built. If they favor a new school, citizens can also recommend where they'd like to see it built.

The first public input session on site selection for the new high school will be held at 6 p.m. Sept. 17 at the current high school, John A. Holmes. The second will be held at 6 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Northern Chowan Recreation Center.

Both Chowan commissioners and members of the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education say the meetings are important to learning more about what the public wants before moving forward.

For months, a joint committee of school board members and county commissioners have met, listened to experts and

discussed the high school project. Progress has been slow because of the enormity of the decision and because funding sources for the project remain unclear.

The project is estimated to cost between \$35 million and \$44 million — an amount that may be funded from a combination of sources, including proceeds from a bond referendum. Because current estimated costs are more than a few years old, experts who have spoken to the joint committee contend that future construction costs may change.

Last week, both boards set deadlines for formulating plans for the new high school.

Depending on what public input is received, the joint committee has set a deadline of Oct. 29 to consider site selection recommendations. A few days later, on Oct. 31, the boards will hire a bond counsel, a financial adviser and a construction management firm at a cost expected to exceed \$20,000.

Then during the first week in November, the

See SCHOOL, A2

## Murphy campaigns in Edenton

3rd Congressional District election Sept. 10

BY MILES LAYTON  
Staff writer

Republican congressional candidate Greg Murphy stopped by Edenton Coffee House recently to talk with supporters and remind folks that an election is around the corner.

A special election will occur Sept. 10 for North Carolina's 3rd Congressional District. The district's former incumbent, Republican Walter Jones, died Feb. 10.

Murphy will face Democrat Allen Thomas and Libertarian Tim Harris in the September election.

Murphy met Wednesday with leading Republican



MILES LAYTON / CHOWAN HERALD

Republican congressional candidate Greg Murphy (center) talks with party leaders from Chowan County about the upcoming election Sept. 10.

See MURPHY, A5

## PROPOSED TIMELINE

This is the proposed timeline, so far, for the high school construction. It was approved by the joint committee of the Chowan County Commissioner and Edenton-Chowan School system. The timeline is subject to change.

- \*Sept. 17 — Public meeting will be held about possible site selection at John A. Holmes High School.
- \*Sept. 19 — Public meeting about possible site selection will be held at the Northern Chowan Recreation Center.
- \*Oct. 29 — Joint Committee votes on site selection
- \*Oct. 31 — Bond counsel, financial adviser and construction management firm to be hired. Initial cost expected to exceed \$20,000.
- \*First week in November — County Commission and school board will formally approve the site recommendation.

## Jacob Neer, 18, active in politics

### MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

BY MILES LAYTON  
Staff writer

Defying labels and challenging accepted political narratives, Jacob Neer is breaking the mold as a black conservative.

Neer, 18, who grew up in Edenton, said he has worked on several political

campaigns for conservative candidates. Soon after Neer graduated in June, this Eagle Scout was invited to the White House to speak with Vice President Mike Pence.

This past summer, Neer was elected president in week-long mock election at a leadership camp in Washington, DC, called iGovern East and he has interned with Gov. Roy Cooper's office. Recently, Neer was hired

### EDITOR'S NOTE

"Meet Your Neighbor" is an occasional series about folks in Chowan County. Our intent with these articles is not only to introduce, maybe reintroduce, such people to the community, but to explore the mystery as to why our neck of the woods is fortunate enough to attract such folks. That's a strong dynamic that doesn't happen every day in many places. This week, we feature Jacob Neer, an 18-year-old who is involved in conservative politics. For an extended version of the story, see the Daily Advance's website.

as director of community media following of nearly 200,000. See NEER, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Up and coming politico Jacob Neer (right) of Edenton meets with Vice President Mike Pence during recent foray onto Capitol Hill.

### What's Happening in Chowan County

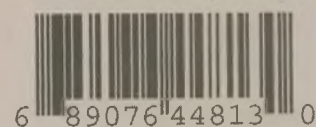
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Darrell R. Moyer Norma Jean Maher

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