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# CHOWAN HERALD

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019

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VETERANS DAY TRIBUTE

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Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library earns accolades for Harry Potter program — B4

# District map proposal may shift Chowan, Perquimans

May move counties from 1st to 3rd Congressional district

BY MILES LAYTON  
Staff writer

RALEIGH — General Assembly's Joint Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting met Tuesday to discuss various versions of draft maps.

Lawmakers have to fit the entire North Carolina population of

nearly 10.4 million people into 13 equal districts.

One of the draft maps available indicates that Chowan and Perquimans county may be shifted away from the 3rd Congressional District to the 1st Congressional District.

"The main idea is that as small counties, we have to work together," said longtime political activist Dianne Layden of Belvidere, who served as the

Northeast Field Campaign Director for Congressman Greg Murphy, R-3rd District. "Dividing us between congressional districts will water down whatever influence we may have. There will no longer be one voice. There is a movement to remove rural North Carolina from the power equation and put it in the hands of the larger liberal cities. North Carolina is a rural state and anything or anyone who tries to

remove our voice is wrong."

Chowan County Commissioner Bob Kirby said one of the draft maps seems to penalize Murphy, who was elected in a special election in September.

"It should be noted that at least one iteration of the November 8 map shows that the District 3 boundary is drawn so that Congressman Murphy, who was elected less than three months ago, will now be living in District

1," he said. "Candidly, I look at the redrawn districts, roll my eyes, and see this as yet another instance where the folks in Raleigh continue to ignore the plight of those of us who live east of I-95."

Lawmakers have opted to go ahead and redraw congressional districts to avoid any delay to the primaries. The candidate filing

See MAP, A7

# Ward: Honor veterans all year long

Holmes graduate speaks at annual Veterans Day ceremony

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON  
Editor

Lt. Col. William "Joe" Ward, who retired in July after 34 years in the U.S. Army, noted how he left several times during his military career but he eventually re-enlisted every time. When he finally did decide to retire, friends and family would ask him "haven't you had enough."

"I didn't realize it at the time, but my friends and family just wanted to see me get out of harm's way," the American Legion Post 40 member said. "To me, the military is who I am, it's what I do."

Ward, a member of John A. Holmes' class of 1985, spoke during the Veterans Day ceremony Monday at the Chowan County Veterans Memorial, behind the courthouse, near the intersection of Court and East Queen streets. The event was hosted by American Legion Post 40, which was helped by the John A. Holmes JROTC and Boy Scout Troop 164.

Ward encouraged the community to honor and help veterans the other days of the year — not just Veterans Day.

See VETERANS, A2



The John A. Holmes High School Junior ROTC presents the colors Monday during the Veterans Day ceremony hosted by American Legion Post 40.

NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

# Post 40 celebrates 100 years

American Legion has served Chowan County since 1919

BY MILES LAYTON  
Staff writer

One hundred years of American Legion history was celebrated Sunday at Edward Bond Post 40.

Photos of past and present commanders were on display as were medals from all branches of the military. Veterans dined on hot dogs

See POST, A2



MILES LAYTON/  
CHOWAN HERALD

American Legion Edward Bond Post 40 Commander Maureen Sobulefsky (left) and past Post 40 commander E.C. Toppin pose during Sunday's 100th birthday celebration at the legion.

# School to stay in Edenton

M.B. Kahn Construction hired to oversee school project

BY MILES LAYTON  
Staff Writer

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education has agreed with a panel's recommendation to keep John A. Holmes High School where it is and either renovate the school or build a new one.

During the Nov. 5 meeting, the school board also agreed to hire the South Carolina-based construction management firm M.B. Kahn Construction to oversee the project.

The board's unanimous decision follows a recommendation by a joint committee of school board members and county commissioners last month that Holmes remain at its current site on Woodard Street in Edenton. School board member Ricky Browder, a member of the panel, said he thought it was important that a county commissioner make the motion to keep Holmes where it is and a school board

See SCHOOL, A3

# Candlelight Tour set for Dec. 13-14

Christmas event to feature four centuries of Edenton homes

BY SALLY FRANCIS KEHAYES  
For Chowan Herald

During Christmas Candlelight Tour Weekend, Edenton is on display. This year's 38th annual tour includes homes from four centuries. From the 1758 Cupola House to a 2009 waterfront home, the variety on display reveals the evolution of architecture, decorative arts and Christmas decor. From candle power to Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs), from driftwood to glass and silver, the warmth of Yuletide persists through the centuries. The self-guided tour of private homes, sponsored by the Edenton Historical Commission, takes place from 4-8 p.m. Dec. 13-14.

Three homes from the 18th

See TOUR, A7

# Mills dedicates to life of service

Has been an Edenton volunteer firefighter for 34 years

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON  
Editor

Service to the community just seems to be in Thomas Allen Mills blood.

The Edenton Fire Department volunteer recently received the Outstanding Fireman of the Year award at the Chowan County Emergency Personnel Banquet.

Mills joined the fire department in 1982, according to Fire Chief Bill Bass. He also has had over 2,500 hours of training, and serves as the department's safety officer. In his role, he

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

makes sure that everyone is safe at the scene.

"I look out for hazards before the firefighters go into the scene," he said. "I help make sure everyone gets home safely."

Mills was born and raised in Edenton and is a graduate of John A. Holmes High School. Shortly after graduation, he left Chowan County to attend apprentice school, but when he and his wife decided to start a family, they moved back to Edenton. In 2013, he retired

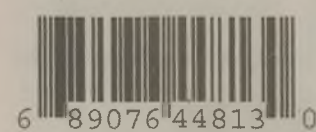
See MILLS, A3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Thomas Allen Mills holds the Outstanding Fireman of the Year award he received recently during the Chowan County Emergency Personnel Banquet at American Legion Post 40.

## What's Happening in Chowan County



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District governor visits Edenton Rotary Club — A6

## OBITUARIES — A3

Lloyd Hunter Hicks  
Jonathan Britt Smithwick Jr.  
Toby S. Wilder

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**ROCKY HOCK Opry** FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29th, 7:00PM  
 Christmas Show  
 Sponsored by the Rocky Hock Ruritan's Relay for Life Team  
 Tickets \$10.00 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30th, 2PM & 7PM  
 John A. Holmes High School Auditorium Edenton, NC  
 Tickets Available at various locations or call 252-333-8567 or 252-221-4875. Email rockyhock opry@live.com