

# Board Stands By Its Decision

By JEANETTE WHITE  
A controversial issue was put to rest Monday night when Edenton-Chowan Board of Education upheld the July 8 hiring of Billy Nixon as transportation director for the school system.

The endorsement came after an executive personnel session was called when some county residents said the hiring was unfair, because Nixon was a member of the school board.

Those residents said a 17-year veteran with the transportation system, mechanic Van R. (D.D.) Hare, was bypassed for one of the board's own.

When board members gathered Monday night, around 75 residents

were looking for answers to questions and accusations that circulated around the county since Nixon's hiring.

Board chairman Cecil Fry gave each person who wished to speak five minutes and harsh words were spoken, but in a civil manner.

The harshest words came from Chowan County Commissioner Wayne Goodwin, who made it clear that he spoke personally and not as a commissioner.

Goodwin said he had never seen "the county so upset. I believe there are people here who would like to stand up and are afraid because of reprisal at their jobs," he said.

Goodwin said the school board had lost credibility and gave the impression of a "rubber stamp board". He asked for an independent investigation into the hiring and said he believed the decision to hire Nixon was made several weeks prior to other job interviews.

Goodwin asked for the resignation of school superintendent Dr. John Dunn and associate superintendent James Kinion.

"This is one of the hardest things I've ever done in my life...I've taken a stand and ask that you have the guts to do the same thing," Goodwin told the board.

Continued On Page 4



**LARGE TURNOUT**—School board meetings in Chowan County usually get underway with no audience, but a large crowd gathered Monday night to express opinions on the way a vacancy in the transportation department was filled. Carlton Nixon (standing) said his son, Billy, was qualified for the supervisory position of transportation director.



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## The Public Parade

### Leave Off Sour Grapes

May we compliment the workers out at Atlantic Forest Products on the outcome of the union election Thursday, July 27? Although the vote was relatively close, those who preferred to continue as their own agent in dealings with the company were in a clear majority.

And that's where we think it ought to be left. Post-election sentiments expressed through the Chowan Herald by union spokesmen sound like sour grapes to us. Continued efforts to drive a wedge between workers to favor unionization and those who don't can only have an adverse effect on the industry.

We have observed through long years of experience, both as a union member and as an employer, that labor organizers know more about the financial status of industry than it knows about itself. It may be true that the parent company of Atlantic Forest Products has \$25 million in cash and other assets in the bank. Most solvent companies do have money in the bank. That is why it can continue to provide jobs and pay wages.

It is when they don't have money in the bank that jobs are at peril. The best example of that we can think of is the U.S. steel industry, which was long a haven of organized labor. But when it became over-committed to its workers and could no longer compete with imports that the roof fell in.

So we hope the workers out at Atlantic Forest Products will accept the fact that the election is over and start pulling together as a team again. There is not enough industry in northeastern North Carolina to play too high, wide and handsome with what we have.

### Good News From Raleigh

That was good news about the \$16,000 grant from the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development to help Edenton's Build-The-Park project. That puts the goal of \$35,000 set by Gil Burroughs and his committee well within reach.

So, the fact that the state money requires a dollar-for-dollar match imposes no burden on the local community. That's the way Edenton does things.

It was also good news that a \$200,000 request for funds to renovate Swain School auditorium is "looking good" as the legislature heads into its final days. It may well be that the money has been nailed down by the time this is in print. If so, we need to thank Senator Marc Basnight and Reps. Pete Thompson and Vernon James for their support.

Swain School building is scheduled to be converted into apartments suitable for senior citizens; but that left the large auditorium area up for grabs, so to speak. Fortunately for the community, plans call for refurbishing the auditorium into a sort of local civic center and convert the area under the auditorium into a teen center.

Both are badly needed in the community.



**REVIEW PLANS**—Brad Brooks (left) and Hoyt Spivey review plans for the new nine holes at the Chowan Golf and Country Club. They are at the site of the new fifteenth hole.

## New Golf Course Extension Underway

By JACK GROVE

A 25-year-old nine-hole golf course is being revitalized with the addition of nine holes for duffers and pros alike. Chowan Golf and Country Club's existing yardage of 6,183 in two rounds for 18 holes will be expanded so golfers may play 18 holes straight-through on 6,435 yards.

Forty acres of land for the course addition was deeded to the club by Tom Wood of Raleigh, who is developing some 130 building lots, the bulk of which will border the course. The present course has 18 residential lots bordering it.

Brad Brooks, golf pro, superintendent and manager at the club, said that Bob Thomas, club president, and his "new nine" committee were the guiding force behind the expansion. The committee members include George Alma Byrum, Pete Dail, Jesse Harrell, Joe Conger, Harry Gard and Mike Overton.

"Bob Thomas and his committee deserve a great deal of credit for this. He wouldn't rest until the project was signed and delivered to the membership." The project began with a meeting in January 1986.

Brooks said that the project was the reason for his return to the club from his position as course superintendent at the Sheraton Steamboat Resort in Steamboat Springs, Colo. He had left the position of superintendent at the local club in 1984.

Preliminary planning of the course was done by Stroud Engineering, contracted by Tom Wood. The club contracted with Hoyt Spivey to do the actual construction and design of the course extension working with Brooks.

Spivey has constructed many major courses, including Bald Head Island at Wilmington, Hope Valley at Durham and Quail Ridge at Sanford. During his career, he has worked on a total of 35 courses.

Stroud did the land-planning drawing and routing of holes.

Spivey and Brooks planned water hazards and sand traps. A three acre irrigation lake between the fourth and fifth fairways, which acts as a watershed and is spring-fed, became bigger than planned and now totals 10 acres.

Brooks said that the planning has over-lapped into the construction phase, much as a sculpture evolves. Spivey explained, "You build with the contour of the land, using its natural beauty."

The contractor said that work was 85 percent complete. He said that the excavation was complete and "we're in the process of shaping (the course) and installation of

the sprinkler system".

Three different varieties of grass seed will be sown after construction is complete. Hybrid bermuda sprigs will be planted for the tees and greens slopes. Common bermuda seed will be used for the fairways. A special Penn-cross Bent grass seed will be sown on the greens.

Brooks indicated that many factors came together to effect cost savings for the project. "We've been lucky enough to get the services of Hoyt because of the timing of the project. The availability of local soil mixes, local labor,

Continued On Page 4

## Commission Board, DOT Officials Discuss Secondary Road Funds

Chowan county commissioners, in a specially called meeting Tuesday, heard N. C. Department of Transportation officials outline proposed secondary road expenditures for the coming year.

DOT division engineer C. O. White of Ahsokie explained to the board that the figures presented for roads were based on last year's road budget, although 10-13 percent more is expected when

the legislature completes work on the state budget.

Of the \$124,788 allocated to the county, 20 percent will be used to repair paved roads, 15 percent for stabilization of unpaved roads and the remainder for paving, spot strengthening and resurfacing.

Commissioner Al Phillips told White that work on the Base Road "is desperately needed. We're going to continue to try to have it designated a primary road." He

said that it was his concern that "we're having our money (for secondary roads) allocated to a state road."

Base Road is to receive \$72,000 for spot strengthening and resurfacing under the proposal submitted to the board.

Riverton resident Robert Beaumont asked White why so many road projects seemed to be taking place around Raleigh when so lit-

Continued On Page 6-A

## Teenager Facing Rape Charge

A 16-year-old boy has been charged with the July 18 rape of a 13-year-old girl, both of Edenton.

According to Sgt. G.K. Bonner of Edenton Police Department, the girl was home alone, went to the clothesline around 11:10 p.m. and then went back into the house for a clothes basket.

After she entered the house, she said the boy knocked at the back door, but refused to identify himself before pushing the door open and entering the kitchen.

The victim said the assailant grabbed her and she was beaten when she refused to have sex with him. The girl said she was beaten with fists, choked, struck with a bottle and her head was banged against a wall before she was

raped. The attacker left the house when the victim said car lights flashing across a window belonged to her mother, who was returning home.

The mother heard obscene remarks pass between people standing outside the house, entered the home and found her daughter. The mother called the police and the victim was taken to Chowan Hospital, where she was treated and released.

The attacker is jailed under \$10,000 bond and is charged with second degree rape.

The 16-year-old will be tried as an adult, but, Bonner said elements involved did not constitute a first degree rape charge.



**CLOSE CALL**—The draw across Chowan River Bridge has been beset with problems when over-height trucks and equipment try to squeeze through and hit the span. The bridge had another close call Monday around 7:30 p.m. when the truck in the front cleared safely, but the one in the rear was almost too tall. The truck slowed to a crawl to prevent bouncing and squeaked through the opening.