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Jones won't seek re-election to Commission seat

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

As expected, only a handful of political hopefuls had filed for the July 20 primaries during the first two days of the filing period.

According to Chowan County elections director Rebecca Lowe, the three that had filed through press time Tuesday were all incumbents. N.C. Rep. Bill Culpepper, D-2nd District, is seeking a sixth full term in office. County Commissioner Ralph Cole is making a bid to win election to his first full term, while County Register of Deeds Susan Rountree is

vying for another four-year term.

Longtime county Commissioner George Jones is retiring from the board after 26 years on the job.

"I would like to thank my many supporters and sincerely believe that, working together, we have accomplished much," Jones wrote in a farewell ad published in today's *Chowan Herald*.

In recent years, the board completed a lease agreement between Chowan and Pitt County Memorial hospitals, built two new elementary schools, and a state-of-the-art

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Murder suspects arrested

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Two Edenton men were arrested last week and charged with the Nov. 6 murder of Jamel Boyce.

Edenton police arrested Dwight Coston, 21, of 1013-C Badham Road, and Lashaun Hill, 25, of 2113 John Hill Road, at a Badham Road residence April 22. Both were charged with murder stemming from Nov. 17 indictments handed down by a Chowan County grand jury.

Boyce was at Edenton Manor Apartments when he was fatally shot, police detective Sgt. Rhonda Copeland said Monday. Coston and Hill's next

court date is July 9. They were each placed under a \$500,000 secured bond and jailed at the Chowan County Detention Facility.

Neither suspect offered any resistance during the arrest, Copeland said, which involved a host of Edenton Police officers.

"I don't think they were expecting us," Copeland added.

Neither Hill nor Coston made any statements to police, Copeland said. There were five others in the house when police swarmed the property, armed with a search warrant.

"We had been watching that house for a while," police Chief Greg Bonner said shortly after the pair was arrested.



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

Edenton Police Officer Alan Stulick, at left, escorts murder suspects Dwight Coston, second from left, and Lashaun Hill, far right, out of the Chowan County Courthouse on April 22. Coston and Hill were arrested at a rental home in Edenton and charged with the Nov. 6 murder of Jamel Boyce.

Grocery could be closed

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A popular Edenton supermarket is part of a regional chain apparently pondering whether it will have to close some of its stores.

The Winn-Dixie at Chowan Crossing Shopping Center has not been identified as a store that could be shut down, a spokesperson said in an email to *The Chowan Herald* last week.

But the company is "reviewing all of its locations . . . (and) will identify core markets targeted for future investment and growth and non-core markets to be evaluated for sale or closure," stated Kathy Lussier.

"We have not yet announced the results of this review," Lussier added, "so I am not able to comment on any particular location."

A Winn-Dixie employee, who did not want to be identified, also said he is not aware just how the Edenton store would be affected by any corporate decision. "We don't know until they come out and tell us," the employee said, "so we're all in the dark on that."

Recent published reports have indicated that profits have continued to dip in recent months. The company has been shuffling its management hierarchy in recent months, reports have stated.

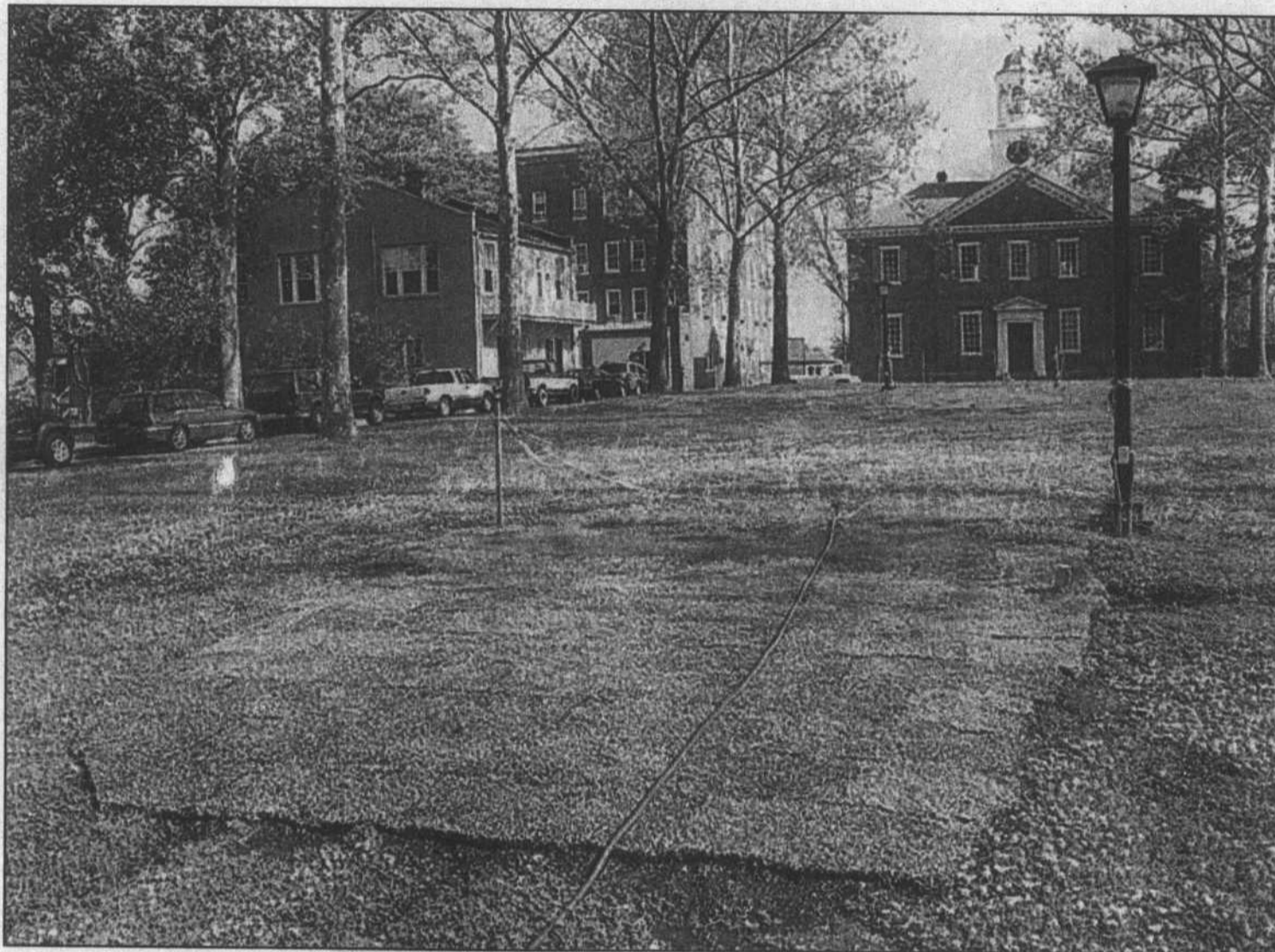
In addition, the company's stock has fallen sharply since June, increasing speculation that closings and buyouts could be imminent, particularly in the Carolinas.

Edenton's Winn-Dixie has about 60 employees. Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Richard Bunch said the supermarket has been a "good corporate partner" to the community and the Chamber.

"We would certainly not be too pleased if (Winn-Dixie's top management) decides that they are not keeping the store here," Bunch said.

Bunch feels the Edenton store could be one of the stronger locations in the region.

"I would hope they would be OK," he said. "But we're going to do a full-court press to keep them here."



Staff photo by Sean Jackson

Courthouse green sports new look

Those passing by the Courthouse Green in recent days have no doubt noticed some changes to the site. The brick steps installed there during the 1960s have been removed. The lamp posts are soon to follow, as part of a redesign project begun last year. The new design will make the green look like it did when the courthouse was built in 1767. Edenton-Chowan Special Projects Director Peter Rascoe said response so far has been strongly in favor of the project. "We've had overwhelmingly positive comments about having the steps removed," he said. Rascoe added that eventually the low, brick wall and platform surrounding the monument to Joseph Hewes — a signer of the Declaration of Independence who lived in Edenton — is to be replaced by marble.

Culpepper hears health concerns

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

As part of the statewide Adolescent Health Advocacy Rally, Representative Bill Culpepper met with Amy Damrow, 4-H Agent with the Chowan County Extension Service, and young people at the Northern Chowan Community Center on April 22. Ms. Damrow and the others provided information on why adolescent health issues are important in Chowan County.

Culpepper praised the SOS (Support Our Students) program that was implemented when he first served with the Legislature. "It was apparent that there was lot of juvenile crime. The most fertile time for



Staff photo by Earline White

Rep. Bill Culpepper listens as local 4-H'ers talk about adolescent health issues that they feel are important during a rally at the Northern Chowan Community Center April 22.

kids to get in trouble were the hours between getting out of school and dinner. SOS was created as an alternative for

kids to do something after school. That program and the Governor's One-On-One is the best money the state of North

Carolina has spent," Culpepper said.

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Poison may be linked to dogs

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Chowan County Animal Control officials are still investigating the suspected poisoning of a pair of dogs on Yeopim Road on April 14.

Control officer Mary Bass said the dogs, both mixed breeds, could have died after drinking antifreeze.

"We're not 100 percent on that," Bass said, "but if I had to bet on it, I'd bet it was antifreeze . . . It's obvious they were poisoned."

Martin Mersereau, manager of PETA's domestic animal department, said antifreeze "is a tortuous tool of death" to use against a dog. The animals endure renal failure, seizures, and vomiting, he added.

"Ultimately," he said, "they succumb after a lot of suffering."

Bass said it is her understanding that antifreeze producers have begun removing the chemical that is toxic to dogs from some of their products. But many people buy antifreeze in bulk, and the for-

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MAY PLAY DAY SATURDAY MAY 1ST 10A-12M TO 10P
 Rocky Hock Grand Ole Opry
 Sunday, May 2nd 3:00 p.m. CALL 482-2131
 CRAFTS • GAMES • FOOD • FUN • ENTERTAINMENT
 ROCKY HOCK COMMUNITY BUILDING
 CRAFT BOOTH SPACES AVAILABLE CALL 221-4169 MARY LOUISE PHELPS
BARBEQUE CHICKEN
 from 3 to 7 p.m.
 \$6.00 per plate