

THE CHOWAN HERALD

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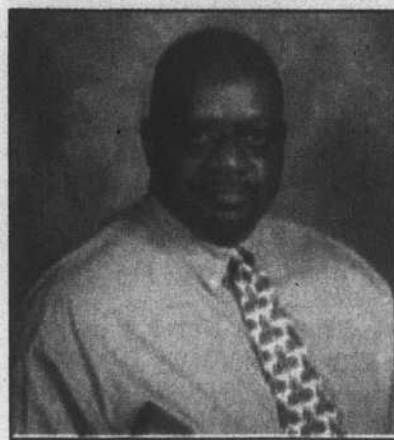
Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Single Copies 50¢

Warm up to the big game with a... **SUPER** Community Page C1 **CHILI BONE**

February is... **Black History Month** Learning, Page B6

Johnny Williams remembered as dedicated to students



Johnny B. Williams

John "Johnny" B. Williams, Principal of John A. Holmes High School, passed away unexpectedly Thursday night at Chowan Hospital. Williams, who had served as principal of John A. Holmes since July, 2000 was 48 years old.

"Our school family and students grieve this tremendous loss," said Dr. Allan Smith, Superintendent of Edenton-Chowan Schools.

"John was dedicated to the success of every student at John A. Holmes. His love and concern for his students and faculty was evident through his energy and commitment he exhibited

daily," Smith added.

According to Glenda Jakubowski, spokeswoman for the Edenton-Chowan school system, Williams attended a school function during the last hours of his life. After the event ended, rather than returning home, he drove himself to the emergency room at Chowan Hospital. Jakubowski said Williams died at the hospital of an apparent heart attack later that evening.

Prior to becoming Principal of John A. Holmes High School, Johnny Williams served as Principal of Robertsonville Middle School in Martin

County, 1998-2000; Assistant Principal of Ayden-Grifton High School, 1997-1998; Assistant Principal of Lee County Sr. High School, 1992-1997; and as a middle school teacher at Turrentine Middle School in Burlington, NC.

In addition to his distinguished career as an educator, Williams also served in the United States Army as Captain at Fort Bragg, NC, 1983-1985 and as a commissioned officer, 1979-1985.

Williams is a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University (NC A&T) where he held two Masters de-

grees, one in Educational Administration and the other in Social Science Education. Williams also earned a Bachelor of Science from NC A&T in Social Science Education.

He and his wife Helen reside in Elizabeth City. He and his wife have five children and five grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at 3 p.m. Monday afternoon in the COA Community Center Auditorium, Elizabeth City, NC. A family funeral followed later in the week in Sanford, NC.



Chowan Herald file photo

Walkers carry the official banner around the track at last year's hugely successful Relay here.

Relay Kickoff is tomorrow

The Chowan/Perquimans Relay for Life will hold a Kickoff Celebration on Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. at the Edenton United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

The celebration is intended to bring together committee members, team captains, civic leaders, sponsors and anyone else in the community who would like to get involved in the fight to find a cure for cancer.

Everyone is encouraged to come help kickoff the 2005 American Cancer Society Relay for Life which takes place each year at Holmes High School in Edenton.

Please RSVP by calling Mistie Ali, 482-3006, Sandra Tunstall, 482-1700 or Tracy Berk at 217-7040.



Staff photo by Earline White

On hand at the 2005 Chamber Banquet were (l to r) **Don Faircloth**, 2004 Chamber President, **Jonathan Davidson** who was recognized as the "Young Business Person of the Year", **Jim Blount** who received the "Business Person of the Year" award, **Rev. Jim Huskins** the "Humanitarian of the Year", **Lynn C. Perry** the "Volunteer of the Year" and 2005 Chamber President, **Win Dale**.

Chamber recognizes outstanding local citizens with special awards

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Hundreds of movers and shakers in Chowan County gathered at the 2005 Chamber of Commerce annual banquet bringing together those forces that advance the county in economic and tourism development. Held at the Chowan Golf and Country Club Thursday night, the group assembled to recognize the "Young Business Person of the Year", "Volunteer of the Year", "Humanitarian of the Year", and "Business Person of the Year", all for 2004.

Bill Chesson presented Jonathan Davidson, a senior at Holmes as the "Young Business Person". Davidson has shown commitment, dedication, responsibility and competency in his many roles at the State Employees Credit Union in Edenton. He has also become an

integral part of the company as the vehicle loan appraiser. According to his employer, Ginny Rowe at the SECU, "Jonathan is very personable, polite and professional with tremendous potential." Davidson is an outstanding student as well showing leadership through his roles in various clubs and organizations.

Lynn C. Perry, former fire chief of Edenton Fire Department was selected as "William P. 'Spec' Jones Volunteer of the Year". Introduced by Chief Greg Bonner, everyone laughed as Perry accepted his award and said, "You know I retired, but you can see that I didn't go home and sit down." Perry has volunteered 457 hours since 1997; all for the benefit of humanity. Perry volunteers at the James Iredell Historic Site, with the American Red Cross, as a book buddy

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Farmer's Foods grocery chain coming to town



Herald file photo/Bud Weagly

Shoppers file the checkout aisle at the local Winn-Dixie last fall. Soon Farmer's Foods will occupy that space at the shopping center.

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Edenton residents will once again have a choice when it comes to shopping. Officially slated to close its doors on February 9th, Winn-Dixie's lease will then be taken over by Farmer's Foods, a Chase City, Virginia-based regional independent grocery chain with stores throughout central Virginia. Farmer's Foods is scheduled to open on Monday, February 14th according to a press release dated Feb. 1.

Farmer's Foods has successfully competed with industry giants such as Wal-Mart and other major chains since 1985, utilizing cutting edge industry technologies which help to lower cost and maintain a competitive edge. With the addition of the Edenton location, Farmer's Foods will have 8 locations and "others coming along quickly" according to COO, Ron George. Most Farmer's Foods stores employ 60 to 90 full and part time people. George said that the management plans to keep all the employees of Winn-Dixie that they can

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Tommy John speaks at Clambake



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Spanish 3 students go extra mile



Town Council interviews prospective new members

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

The three candidates vying to fill the Edenton Town Council's vacant Ward 3 seat were questioned by their potential colleagues on Jan. 18 during a 90-minute special meeting in council's chambers.

The current board asked Phyllis Britton, Peggy Brabble and Ellis Lawrence about their views on taxes, streets, race-relations, rumor-handling abilities, and the town's Vision Statement, among other issues.

Council is expected to select a new Ward 3 representative during its Feb.

8 meeting, Mayor Roland Vaughan said.

Britton led off the interviews, which were taped and later provided to *The Chowan Herald* by the town. Herself a retired town employee, Britton was asked by Councilman Steve Biggs what she considers to be the most important issues facing residents and elected officials.

Jobs, Britton said. Bringing new business and industry to town is the chief way to enhance employment opportunities, she said.

"I'm not talking about a Wal-Mart or anything like that," she added. "Just something that will bring some

jobs here."

In Brabble's opinion, drug use — especially among youths — is one of the issues the town needs to address. However, she added, the Edenton Police Department shouldn't be saddled with fighting any drug problems on its own.

"I think everybody needs to get involved in this," battle against drugs, said Brabble, who followed Britton during the informal interview process.

Lawrence, who went last, said balancing tourism and industry-recruitment is the biggest challenge the town will face in the future.

A boost in good, affordable housing would also benefit the town, Brabble and Britton said.

Councilors also asked the candidates — who all sent letters to the town expressing interest in filling the vacant post — how they would handle disgruntled neighbors and friends upset with an issue they had supported or rejected.

"I'm going to have to go the right way," Britton said of choosing accountability over popularity.

Brabble said citizens should try to inform themselves on issues and

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