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Steamers split pair to open season

Steamers Coverage in 'TeamSteam' Page B4

BOE eyes incorporating innovative design at Holmes

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

This summer's renovations at John A. Holmes were a springboard for discussion at Monday night's Edenton-Chowan Board of Education meeting. Board member Tom Abbott spoke on the recent NSBA Conference where community based institutions of learning were the focus.

"I am especially interested in design planning as we prepare to renovate Holmes," Abbott said. "A lot of what I

heard at the conference dealt with designs that would bring the students and the community together for cooperative learning. By keeping the facility open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and allowing the community to use the facility, we are opening the doors to grants and opportunities we would not have otherwise."

Chairman Gene Jordan who recently attended a conference with similar themes agreed with Abbott. "I fully agree that we should look at innovations like these from which we can

pool different monetary resources," Jordan said. The conference Jordan attended addressed the emergence of 'pioneer classrooms' (one where all the students come together in an arena-type setting) back into use. Though Jordan thought that pioneer classrooms were not the way to advance at Holmes, the idea of 'factory classrooms' (where they are all identical molds) may not be the best option either. In preparing for a new

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Retirees honored at Monday night's board meeting were Elizabeth Dail from White Oak; Sharon Lumsden from Chowan Middle School; and Carolyn Wilson from D.F. Walker. Each received a silver tray in recognition of their many years of service to the students in the Edenton-Chowan school system.

Staff photo by Earline White

Two suspects arrested; face drug charges

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Edenton police arrested a pair of alleged drug suspects over the weekend, one during a routine car stop, and the other while responding to a domestic disturbance.



Rankins

On Friday, police Det. Sgt. Rhonda Copeland arrested Donald Leshawn Rankins, 24, of 112 Blade Circle, Edenton and charged

him with possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of marijuana, possession of a spirituous liquor, speeding, driving with a revoked license, and improper child restraint. He was confined at Chowan County Detention Facility in lieu of \$5,500 bond. His next court date is July 27, according to police records.

According to Copeland's report, Rankins was travelling on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue around 9 p.m. He was going 47 mph in a 35 mph zone. After turning around to follow Rankins, his vehicle turned onto Vance Lane, where he proceeded to stop the vehicle in a private yard. Rankins and a small child fled the car, but Rankins returned moments later to "apologize" for running, Copeland stated in her report. She seized a .38 caliber revolver

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Sutton

SHOWING THE WAY



Staff photo by Earline White

Edenton Public Works spent most of the day last Tuesday installing new offstreet public parking signs. Jennifer Harris, Director of Edenton Main Street stated in an email to *The Chowan Herald*, "Many downtown customers and local merchants had suggested that we have a better wayfinding system to indicate off-street parking. The banners were an easy and attractive way to accommodate this request. The Town was very generous in ordering and installing the banners. The Main Street Board hopes that the banners will assist locals and tourists in finding parking. We continue to encourage downtown business owners and employees to leave Broad Street parking spaces for customers." As with all new signage, the parking banners were approved by the Edenton Main Street Design Committee, Edenton Preservation Commission and Edenton Town Council. Above, Jerome Brown of the Edenton Public Works installing a new public parking sign.

County gearing up for predicted active hurricane season

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Winds stir and the county prepares for the 2005 hurricane season, which began June 1. Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Madry informed the Chowan County Commissioners at their monthly meeting held Monday of the steps taken to prepare the emergency workers, law enforcement and others for the upcoming season, predicted to be especially active in the Atlantic region.

"We have met with Interfaith, identified 3 places for HAM operations, met with Red Cross and have identified a pet/people shelter, met with the debris contractor, with private road landowners, public utilities and are conducting hurricane exercises with staff," Madry said. "If another hurricane as strong as Isabel hit Chowan County, the impact would be five times what was originally sustained—we need to be ready." Madry also informed the Commissioners of a \$500,000 grant for the VIPER system, a state-wide communication system used by law enforcement, fire, etc that will bring state-of-the-art technology

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This Ryland home was one of many surrounded by debris after Hurricane Isabel.

HERALD FILE PHOTO

Town, county budgets offer mixed bag

Increased costs will lead to hike in county taxes

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

The Chowan County Commissioners listened as County Manager Cliff Copeland reported on the increases beyond the county's control that will lead to an unfortunate rise in taxes. "As always, this county budget must strike a balance between the need to provide these services, but as much as possible, limit the tax burden upon our citizens," Copeland said. Chowan County residents can expect to feel a slight pinch as the tax rate is increased by \$.04, a \$1.00 increase in residential fees for solid waste disposal, and an increase of \$.75/1000 gallons of water consumed in excess of 2000.

For an average home valued at

\$150,000, with the proposed 4-cent tax increase, the homeowner can expect to pay an increase of \$60 per year for their home.

Many factors have contributed to the need to increase the tax base. Hurricane Isabel wreaked havoc in 2003, and a \$47,000 increase for property liability insurance is just one of the things she left behind. In addition to the increasing needs of the emergency workers and equipment to prepare for such disasters, mandated state and federal cuts in the school system are placing a burden on local tax dollars (\$159,000 increase), Medicaid insurance continues to rise (\$48,122), as well as workers compensation.

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Sewer, water rates to rise for town residents

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Edenton Town Council's Finance Committee voiced no opposition to Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton's proposed 2005-06 fiscal year budget during a special session Monday night.

The \$3.63 million budget — which would begin July 1 if adopted by council — does not include a tax increase, but does contain a slight hike in the sewer rate, and the water rate charged to large-scale users. Committee chairman Jerry Parks said the proposed budget is "fairly optimistic ... and aggressive" considering the absence of a property tax hike.

"It's not a real glamorous budget," Knighton told the committee.

The proposed budget is roughly \$160,000 higher than the current budget that expires June 30. Council's next meeting is June 14. Knighton said the budget would likely be scheduled for adoption by council at the board's June 27 meeting.

Highlights of the budget include:

- A 2.5 percent salary increase for town employees;
- \$15,000 for potential demolition of abandoned structures;
- \$10,000 for enforcement of the town's nuisance abatement ordinance;
- \$25,000 for replacing playground equipment at Colonial Park;
- \$16,000 towards the purchase of a new fire truck;

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