

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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Clerk of Court Mike McArthur, right, and his wife, Becky, left, applaud as Glorious Elliott accepts the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award.

STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN JACKSON



## Elliott's career a series of firsts

Named law enforcement officer of the year at banquet

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

Glorious Elliott simply treats others as she wants to be treated. And that's likely a reason she was honored by her peers last week.

Elliott was named Chowan County's law enforcement officer of the year on Oct. 20 during an annual event at the Edward G. Bond Post 40 of the American Legion. About 250 people — from cops to judges — attended the Legion-

sponsored appreciation banquet.

"I'm just very thankful for all that God has allowed me to do," Elliott said, near tears as she clutched her award plaque.

She's managed to accomplish a number of things over the years. Elliott, 54, has worked in the state justice system for more than 26 years, including the last 11 in probation/parole. She was recently named supervisor for Chowan.

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*"I'm just very thankful for all that God has allowed me to do"*

-Glorious Elliott

## Utility deposit to go up

Maximum would go to \$400

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

The Edenton Town Council's Utilities Committee forged ahead to raise the maximum deposit for electric service Monday night, also asking staff to resume allowing new customers to use a guarantor, and also asked that deposits no longer be returned after a year.

The increase would push maximum deposits to a \$400 maximum, up from \$200. Town staff said Monday that the \$200 deposit level often doesn't cover power bills — that soar to \$300 or more for some residents — left unpaid when some residents move out of town.

Deposits are calculated through a 12-month average incurred by a dwelling's former tenant. That amount is then used to determine a two-month total, which becomes the deposit. For example, a \$75 monthly electric bill average would require a \$150 deposit, officials said.

Councilman Jerry Parks, who opposed the deposit hike earlier this month and did so again Monday, said a \$400 deposit could hinder the ability of a "young couple" to find an affordable place to live. Coupled with rent deposits, it could lead to some new tenants facing a \$1,000 move-in cost.

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*"Everybody was screaming...it was scary"*

-Catherine Faison, student

## Responding to disaster

Chowan Hospital fly into action after a horrific accident near Hertford Monday

Above Catherine Faison, 13, recovers in a wheelchair while talking to her mom Ann Faison at a Chowan Hospital waiting room on Monday.



This Daily Advance photo shows the vehicles engulfed in flames

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

Shaken children recalled the terrifying events that brought them to Chowan Hospital Monday as hospital staffers rushed to treat and comfort them.

Four people were killed and dozens of Perquimans County Middle School students were injured after a truck crashed into a school bus on U.S. Highway 17 near Hertford that morning.

The bus was rear-ended by a truck driven by a worker with Byrd Brothers Inc. of Wilson, sending the bus into a ditch, over a guardrail, and back into the ditch before it was engulfed by flames. About 40 students were aboard bus No. 102 when the accident occurred around 7:10 a.m. Mon-

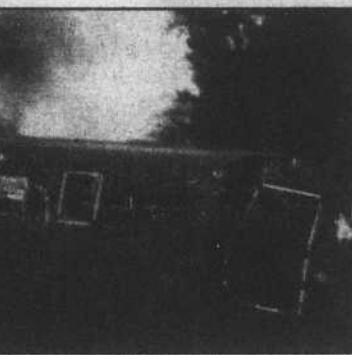
day less than two miles from Perquimans County High School in Hertford. The middle school is in Winfall.

The driver of the truck was reportedly airlifted to Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville where he was treated for injuries.

Eighth-grader Doug Whitbeck said students were "crushed" into one another and seats after the collision sent their bus careening off the highway.

"Everybody inside the bus was screaming," the 14-year-old youth from Snug Harbor said.

Like other students, Whitbeck was tossed around as the bus slammed into a ditch and flames flared from the front of the bus. He lost his shoes as he jumped over seats and escaped



through a backdoor window broken out by a passing motorist — a Good Samaritan whose quick thinking allowed kids to flee the burning wreckage.

Catherine Faison was talking to a friend shortly before the wreck.

"The next thing I knew, I was on the ground," the 13-year-old seventh-grader said.

Both Faison and Whitbeck were resting in wheelchairs a few hours after the accident, joining family and friends in a Chowan Hospital waiting room.

She also recalled the frightful situation as the bus caught fire and appeared ready to explode.

"When we got off the bus," she said, "everybody was cry-

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## NE Partnership CEO resigns to work for Parton

Watson will stay on board until early 2007; will oversee business venture in Roanoke Rapids

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
The Chowan Herald

Rick Watson, who has served as president and CEO of the Edenton-based North Carolina's Northeast Partnership, Inc., has resigned. His resignation will become effective in early 2007, according to a press release issued Monday. Watson is leaving to manage the North Carolina business interests of Randy Parton, brother of country music superstar Dolly Parton.

Jack Runion, chairman of the board of directors, made the announcement.

"During his nearly ten years with the North Carolina's Northeast Partnership, Rick has made many valuable contributions to the growth and development of the northeast region," Runion said. "We are sorry to see him leave, but fortunate that he will stay on to bring several important projects and initiatives to fruition."

Those projects include a automotive research track in Northampton County and a Hyde County egg processing



Rick Watson

facility, as well as the Parton development itself.

During telephone conversations Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, Watson said he had thoroughly enjoyed his association with the Partnership but felt that it was time to move on. He said that he had been thinking of retiring and had made a private decision to do so in the near future prior to receiving the offer to manage the Partons' North Carolina operation.

Watson said that about six weeks ago, Randy Parton and his wife, Deb, had asked him to consider coming to work for them. According to the Partnership's press release, Watson met with the executive committee of the Partnership two weeks later to discuss the

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**Fall Back!**  
Daylight Savings  
Time ends Sunday,  
October 30.

## Statewide child abuse report is mixed bag

Chowan fares well in study, public awareness improves reporting

BY EARLINE WHITE  
The Chowan Herald

Sandwiched into a generally positive report released by the NC Child Advocacy Institute and the NC Institute of Medicine was a statistic that child service advocates found surprising — according to the 2005 NC Child Health Report Card, more children in our state are dying from abuse and neglect.

Thirty-one children died of abuse in 2004, a 50 percent increase in the past 7 years. How-

ever, overall child fatalities (those resulting from accidents, illnesses, and homicides for example), have declined 20 percent since the early 90s.

The majority of factors considered in the report released last week show an encouraging trend; more children are being immunized, insured, fewer infants are dying, fewer teens are becoming pregnant. Yet the number of abuse and neglect cases resulting in deaths has been increasing since 1999.

Ben Rose, Director of

Chowan County Social Services (DSS) said that while our county had no fatalities, he partially agrees with the report card's findings. "I would say we are seeing an increase in reports and most likely investigations, mostly in the area of neglect (not abuse)."

Child Protective Services recognizes neglect as it relates to the child who does not receive proper care or supervision or discipline. Inappropriate discipline that does not result in a serious or life threat-

ening injury falls under the neglect statute. Spanking, for example, is legal in NC and used as an appropriate discipline technique. Therefore DSS does not typically investigate spanking claims unless visible injuries are noted.

"Abuse or neglect has no systematic symptom," Rose added. "It can occur over the entire socio-economic spectrum. With that said though, there is definitely a trend in

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## Chowan Children by the numbers

Infant mortality	
1990-1994	12.2%
1998-2002	9.1%
NC Average	8.7%
Teen pregnancies (ages 15-17)	
1999	24
2002	15
Dropout Rate	
1989-90	2.7%
2001-02	5.4%
NC Average	5.2%

-NC Children's Index 2004

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The James Iredell Association and The Edenton Historical Commission  
Proceeds to benefit the  
Bandon Plantation Smokehouse Restoration Project  
American Legion Building West Queen Street, Edenton, NC  
October 29-30, 2005

Edenton  
Antiques  
Show & Sale

Admission - \$5.00  
Saturday, October 29  
10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.  
Sunday, October 30  
12:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
For Information Call 252-482-8604