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Spear aims for office

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

After years of working with lawmakers from his vantage point in the court system, Tim Spear wants to join the ranks of the state Legislature.

Spear, a Washington County native, wants to be tapped to replace outgoing N.C. House Rep. Bill Culpepper, D-Chowan, who was set to take a job with



Spear

the state Utilities Commission this week. Spear and Dare County Board of Commissioners Chairman Stan White, both Democrats, have both publicly expressed interest in filling Culpepper's unexpired term, which is set to end in December.

Delegates from Washington, Chowan, Dare and Tyrrell counties will make that decision sometime this month, and Spear hopes he gets the nod.

"I've always had an interest in (serving in) the Legislature," Spear said during a Dec. 29 interview with *The Chowan Herald*.

He touts serving on the state Judicial Council and other state-level committees as keys to his desire to win a post in Raleigh. First appointed to the judicial advisory committee by former Gov. Jim Hunt, the 53-year-old Creswell High School grad worked with Culpepper over the years regarding court-related legislation.

"That really peaked my interest in serving in the Legislature," said Spear, who retired from his Washington County Clerk of Superior Court post in March after 23 years on the job. He has also worked with the state Wildlife Commission, Washington County Sheriff's Office, and won a seat on the Washington County school board in 1978.

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The Chowan Herald Citizen of the year



Earline White/*The Chowan Herald*

Edenton Police Detective Rhonda Copeland has been named the first recipient of the Chowan Herald's Chowan County Citizen of the Year award.

Taking a bite out of crime

Rhonda Copeland, head of Edenton Police Detective Squad, has helped keep drugs off the streets, hope alive at home

BY REBECCA BUNCH
The Chowan Herald

An Edenton police detective credited with helping to dramatically increase the number of drug-related arrests in our community has been named the recipient of the Chowan Herald's first annual Chowan County Citizen of the Year Award.

Rhonda Copeland, who heads the detective division of the Edenton Police Department, was chosen for her dedicated effort to make a real difference in our community, said Chowan Herald Publisher David Singleton. Her award will be presented on Jan. 19 during the annual Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce banquet.

Copeland said she was shocked and very happy to have been chosen as the first recipient of the award. "This is quite an honor," she said. "I just can't believe it."

Detective Copeland received her law enforcement training at the North Carolina Justice Academy in Salemburg. She began her law enforce-

ment career 16 years ago as a patrol officer for the Edenton PD. She held that position for five years before becoming a Canine/DARE officer for the department. Serving in those roles enabled her to become aware of a need for community policing and surveillance that would enable the department to make a difference in the continuing war on drugs and drug trafficking. So, she pursued a position as a detective, becoming the first officer in the department to serve in that capacity.

Copeland said she finds the work that she does gratifying and believes it is having a positive impact on the community. She also praised the two other officers - Aaron Davidson and Dwight Rawlins - who are members of the Edenton PD's detective division. "I really appreciate these two guys," she said. "They are my right hand and my left hand."

That cooperation has also extended beyond the police department to include members of the

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Holmes senior chosen as U.S. Senate delegate

John A. Holmes High School senior Ashley Klein is one of two North Carolina students chosen as delegates to the William Randolph Hearst Foundation United States Senate Youth Program.

"Ashley is an outstanding young lady and we know she will go far," said Supt. Allan Smith in congratulating her on the honor.



Ashley Klein

The annual United States Senate Youth Program, established in 1962 by U.S. Senate Resolution, will be held in Washington, D. C., from March 4-11.

Klein will join other state delegates for a week in Washington ex-

periencing their national government in action. Delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials for the Departments of State and Defense and directors of federal agencies, as well as participate in a meeting with a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Each delegate will be awarded a \$5,000 college scholarship for undergraduate studies, as well.

Edenton among nation's first with free Wi-Fi

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

From the boat slips to Queen Street, Edenton residents and visitors will now be able to partake in free wireless internet service (Wi-Fi) in the downtown area. The Edenton Wi-Fi project is the result of the work by Frank Paris and Doug Teachey of American Wi-Fi, in cooperation with the Town of Edenton and Chowan County.

"Edenton Wi-Fi is the fourth 'hot spot' (an area that allows users to access wireless internet for free) in the nation, following Morgan Hill CA, Hampton VA, and Elizabeth City," said Win Dale, Chowan County Chamber President and local driving force for the system. "What makes the Edenton Wi-Fi project so unique is that local advertisers are able to have their ads integrated into every web page a user

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Birding Trail designations latest feather in Chowan's cap

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Announced over the Christmas holidays, Bennett's Mill Pond and the Edenton National Fish Hatchery will be included on the North Carolina Birding Trail (NCBT) which began development in October 2003 in an effort to "conserve and enhance North Carolina's bird habitat by promoting sustainable bird watching activities, economic opportunities and conservation education."

"In our research we (the local selection committee) learned that last year 18 million people traveled away from their homes to view birds," Robbie Laughton, Director of Edenton/Chowan Parks and Recreation, who was an integral part of the application process, said. "And there are 1.3 million wild bird observers in the state of NC alone. Being

a part of the NC Birding Trail will definitely be a big draw to our area."

Six sites throughout the county were submitted for consideration last year; Bennetts Millpond and the Fish Hatchery met the criteria to be placed on the site trail by the Site Nomination Committee.

At the Edenton National Fish Hatchery bird watchers will enjoy viewing the resident Canada geese, Cormorants, blue Heron, eagles and seagulls, while at Bennett's Millpond one can enjoy the beauty of a Heron rookery, a variety of ducks including Mallards, Mergansers and Buffleheads, geese, swans, hawks, owls, Kingfishers, woodpeckers and bluebirds.

Laughton added, "I believe that being a part of the NC Birding Trail enhances the tourist and public opportunity to come to the county and enjoy these wonderful public re-



Sean Jackson/*The Chowan Herald*

The Edenton National Fish Hatchery and Bennett's Millpond are among the 72 coastal sites chosen.

sources. I am already excited about the ongoing environmental education programs at Bennett's Millpond under the direction of Colleen Karl (of

the Albemarle Learning Center) and the expansion to include canoeing, kayaking and nature trails at the site." Stephen Jackson, Edenton

National Fish Hatchery's new hatchery manager said, "We're very pleased to be selected as a

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