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Culpepper is excited about new challenges

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Bill Culpepper didn't want to go out like the aging, slow, beatable Muhammad Ali did. He wanted to go out instead like Rocky Marciano. At the top of his game.



Culpepper

So Culpepper stepped down from his North Carolina House District 2 seat on Jan. 3, when he was sworn in to a post with the state Utilities Commission. The Edenton attorney had served in the legislature for 13 years, while practicing law in his hometown for more than three decades.

It was, Culpepper said last week, simply a time for a career change.

"I accomplished everything I set out to do and more," he said.

After Culpepper arranged for the House to meet at the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse last spring, he felt he'd reached the pinnacle of his political career. He'd served as chairman of the House rules committee for more than a decade. He developed a close relationship with House Speaker Jim Black, who turned the gavel over to Culpepper during the House's trip to Edenton last May.

"I consider myself to be so lucky," Culpepper said.

He'd seen other representatives stay in office too long. He didn't want to overstay his welcome. And, Culpepper says, he will still work with the politicians that were once his colleagues as issues arise.

"I'm not going to be too far from it," he said.

Gov. Mike Easley appointed Culpepper, 58, to the seven-member commission. Culpepper said he told Easley he

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Facilities needs for school system are reviewed, OK'd

Boyce: Plan represents 'broad stroke' attempt to anticipate future needs

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Tentative plans for the future of Edenton/Chowan schools, in the form of The NC Public Schools Facilities Needs Survey, have been considered and approved by the Edenton/Chowan Board of Education. The survey is mandated every five years by the

North Carolina legislature.

The Needs Survey 2005 provided a detailed look at the planning that may come into play before the year 2014. Following approval of the local school boards and County Commissioners, the plan is then submitted to the State Department of Instruction. The needs addressed in the report will not dictate funding



School Supt. Dr. Allan Smith talks about future facilities needs for the local schools during a presentation to the board of education.

Earline White photo

from the State, but give an idea of which areas to focus on in identifying future projects.

Assistant Superintendent Rob Boyce presented the plan to both the local school board and the County Commissioners, who also unanimously approved the plan.

Boyce explained, "The plan is made of three basic components - average daily membership (attendance), capacity, and cost summary. For the last 25 years the attendance rate

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Honoring Dr. King's legacy



Sean Jackson photo

Members of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Choir of Edenton sing during Monday's celebration honoring the life and legacy of the slain Civil Rights leader. The group recently changed its name from the Albemarle Community Choir in his honor.

Speakers praise use of non-violent approach

Riddick, Belfield urge mantra of love, serving others in working through struggles

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Althea Riddick grew up one of eight children in rural Gates County. But she didn't let life's struggles keep her from having a successful career in education.

Riddick, vice-president of College of The Albemarle, used her time Monday as the keynote speaker at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration in Edenton to let her roughly 250 listeners know that she has adhered to the slain civil rights leader's teachings.

In addition to striving to help end discrimination and injustice in her own world, Riddick believes King was right when he said love is humanity's greatest treasure.

"That's what we don't have enough of," Riddick

said. "Love."

A graduate of COA, and Elizabeth City State and East Carolina universities, Riddick told the crowd she planned to quote King liberally during her 16-minute address.

"I'm going to say things you've heard before," she said, "but you need to hear it" again.

King fought against the injustices he saw in a segregated South for nearly two decades before he was assassinated in 1968. Along the way he won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, helped pave the way for the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that ended discrimination at the polls, and led a historic march on Washington, D.C. He would have been 77 on Sunday.

His legacy is not one to be forgotten, Riddick said. But there are those who feel the struggles King sought to end for some Americans is no longer an issue. To those people, Riddick offered: "Then maybe you've never struggled."

Many African-Americans and other minorities in the U.S. have enjoyed successful careers and

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Watson says board is willing to hear concerns

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

A group of area county managers have presented their concerns to the Northeast Partnership's executive board regarding the agency's top official, Rick Watson.

Although he declined to discuss the details of that closed-session meeting in Edenton on Jan. 12, Watson indicated the conference was in line with the Partnership's protocol of listening to a public board's concerns about the agency.

Partnership officials, Watson said Tuesday, would be willing to meet with any board — be it a group of county managers or community college trustees — that wanted to discuss a matter with the regional economic development agency.



Watson

"We would listen to any suggestion they had," Watson said. "Any group that has a recommendation, we'd be more than happy to listen to them."

Watson's plan to leave the partnership in 2007 for a job with Moonlight Bandit Productions initially drew media scrutiny. After his October announcement that he would continue to stay on with the Partnership while helping promote Randy Parton's theater project in Roanoke Rapids, the county managers called a meeting to discuss just whom Watson would be working for during his last 18 months with the Partnership.

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'Family' facing federal drug trafficking charges

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

An ongoing crackdown on mid-to-high level drug suppliers in Chowan County has resulted in a second round of Federal indictments, this time taking in a "family" of drug dealers living on Wildcat Road.

William Bond, 60, Jermaine Andre Bland, 29, and William "Boo Boo" Marquie Bland, 25, of 506 Wildcat Road were arrested on January 4-5 for distribution of "crack" cocaine. Together the men had a combined total exceeding 170 grams of the drug.

"This joint effort by the State Bureau of Investigation, the Chowan County Sheriff's Office and the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office is just part of the continuing endeavor to rid Chowan County of drug suppliers," Investiga-

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MEET
BOB FELLER
Hall of Fame Pitcher

3rd Annual
Edenton Steamers
Fundraiser Clambake

Sunday January 29, 2006
Nixon's Catering
4pm-7:30pm
For more information
call 482-4080

