

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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## Spear to fill House vacancy

From Staff Reports

Retired Washington County Clerk of Superior Court Tim Spear was tapped by area Democrats on Jan. 19 to fill the state House seat vacated by Bill Culpepper earlier this month.

Spear, 54, was chosen by delegates from the four-county House District 4 to fill Culpepper's term, which expires in December.

Stan White, Dare County Board of Commissioners chairman, had also vied to replace Culpepper, of Edenton, who took a post on the state Utilities Commission on Jan. 3.

"I feel overwhelmed by the support I have received and very humbled by the fact that people have placed their confidence and trust in me to

See SPEAR On Page A3

## Airport upgrade takes flight

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

It was roughly five years in the making, but the Northeastern Regional Airport stands to upgrade its landing-assistance equipment in the near future.

The Edenton Town Council on Monday took a step closer to striking a deal with the Federal Aviation Administration

See AIRPORT On Page A2

## Chowan 4-H'ers recognized for service

BY EARLINE WHITE  
The Chowan Herald

Those dedicated to clearer thinking, greater loyalty and larger service to their club, community, and country turned out for the Chowan County 4-H Achievement and Leader Appreciation Banquet Monday night at the Agriculture Center on Granville Street. It was the first event held under the direction of the new 4-H agent, Ginger Morelock, who presided over the ceremony.

"These activities that you do in this program carry on to all aspects of life and prepare you for your future," Mike Will-



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Local 4-H'ers were honored with awards Monday evening during the annual Chowan County 4-H Achievement and Leader Appreciation Banquet. More than 60 parents, 4-H leaders and participants from all corners of the community were recognized.

iams, County Extension Director said in his welcome to the group.

Over 60 parents, 4-H leaders and participants from all reaches of Chowan County were honored for their roles in the organization.

"We come together this year, a year of transition, to celebrate accomplishments and the loyal leaders who guide them," Morelock said. "It has been a pleasure to work with this group and I look forward to working with them in the future."

Among those recognized this year were the Cloverbuds who participated in the 2005 Livestock Show: Christen

Belch, Houston Bunch, Cody Byrum, Anna Evans, Jonathan Floyd, Katie Lane, Micala Lane, Alanna Parks, Kaitlyn Smith, Nathaniel Stallings, Benjamin Ullom, Grace Ward, Sarah Ward, and Scottie White.

Those 4-Hers recognized for their participation in County/District Activities included: Kyle Squires, Crystal Blake, Diana Mason, Sydney Mason, Kelsey Lichtenwalner, Sarah Hupp, Alyssa Miller, and Holly White.

Outstanding 4-Hers recognized for their contributions to and accomplishments in the

See 4-H On Page A2

## Current events



Sean Jackson/The Chowan Herald

Edenton Electric Department lineman Arnold Brothers, repairs a limb-damaged line at the intersection of Court and East Queen streets on Jan. 18. The power outage was caused by high winds, and left parts of downtown Edenton without electricity for roughly an hour.

## Phelps, Hornthal are honorees at Chamber banquet

Copeland receives first-ever Citizen of Year award

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

Tim Phelps and Dr. Allen Hornthal nabbed the top honors at the annual Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce banquet on Jan. 19.

Phelps, owner of Tim Phelps & Co. construction company, was awarded the John A. Mitchener Jr. Business Person of the Year honor. Hornthal was named the William P. "Spec" Jones Volunteer of the year, also for 2005.

Phelps gave his wife Debra and his 16 employees the credit for his award.

"I'm very fortunate to have 16 wonderful people help us," Phelps said.

Phelps also said Mike Faircloth, owner of Edenton Construction Company, inspired him to launch his own company.

"He gave me insight into what a construction company could be," Phelps said of



Sean Jackson/Chowan Herald

Dr. Allan Hornthal, left, is congratulated by Rev. Tom Rickenbaker, after receiving the Volunteer of the Year award. Business Person of the Year honors went to Tim Phelps.

Faircloth, whom he worked with briefly in the 1980s.

Hornthal, who coaches both boys and girls tennis at John A. Holmes High School, appeared to be surprised by the honor.

"I was led here on false pretenses," he said jokingly after being introduced by Rev. Tom Rickenbaker.

Hornthal said he was approached a few years ago by

See BANQUET On Page A2

## County approves new optical scan voting machines

Copeland: New machine to end long lines at polls

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

For the first time in more than three decades, Chowan County voters won't pull a lever to cast a ballot at the polls in May primary and November general elections.

Instead, they'll use the new optical scan machines the county agreed to purchase last week. Just two days before a state-mandated deadline for all North Carolina counties to buy new machines, county commissioners agreed to use \$123,000 in federal funding to buy 17 pieces of new voting equipment from Election Systems & Software.

County Manager Cliff Copeland

expects voters to have a smoother trip to the polls in the future.

"This (new) machine will basically eliminate lines at the polls," Copeland said Jan. 19, the day after commissioners approved a recommendation by the county elections board to acquire nine tabulators and eight AutoMark machines for handicapped voters.

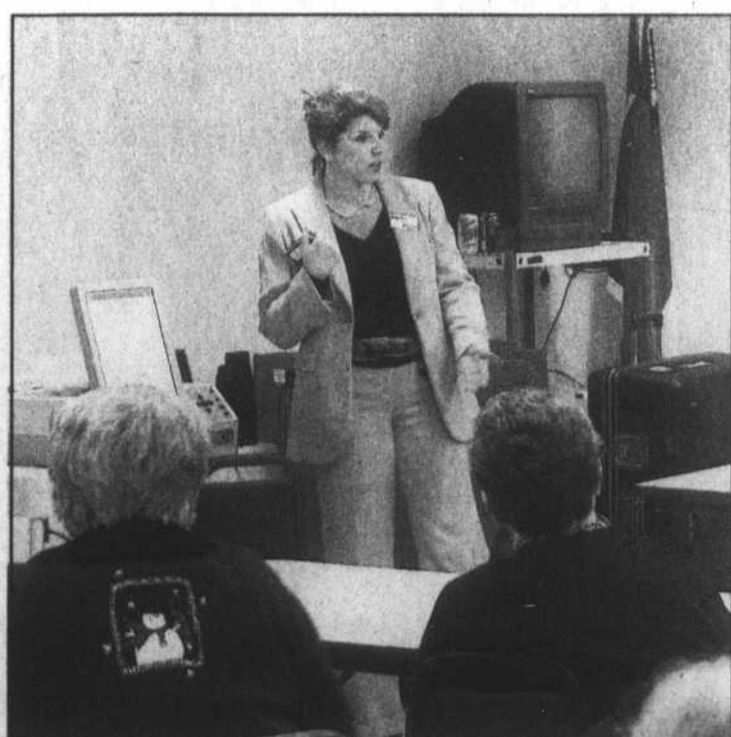
Elections board director Rebecca Lowe said the new machines will also allow for a quicker tabulation of results at the county's six voting precincts.

But what is the county to do with its obsolete machines? They won't be discarded just yet.

"We won't dispose of the old machines until we get the new ones in hand," Copeland said.

The county will likely hold on to at least one of the machines for

See EQUIPMENT On Page A2



Kristin Mavromatif, regional sales manager for Election System & Software, displays the new handicap accessible voting machines that, combined with the optical scan tabulating equipment (not shown), will be available to voters for the first time in the May primary elections.

Sean Jackson/Chowan Herald

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### Contact us

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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

