

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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## Ninth graders, teachers team up for success in coming school year

BY GLENDA JAKUBOWSKI  
Edenton-Chowan Schools

Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education members heard about plans to change the ninth grade high school experience at their February meeting.

John A. Holmes principal Bill Moore, hosting the meeting in the school's media center, said incoming freshmen will be placed in one of two teams, with core classes taught upstairs in the main building.

"There are more lockers up there, and we know that ninth graders use

their lockers more than the other students," Moore said. "Also the school nurse and resource officer are located on the second floor - it makes sense to put the teams there."

Experts have identified ninth grade as a "make or break" year for students. School systems throughout the country have begun to address issues particular to ninth graders in an effort to ensure the students' high school success, Moore said.

The ninth grade students will be taught by teachers who have volunteered for the role, both because they are intrigued by the teaming concept



Moore

will be taken with the mixed high school population.

Moore cited statistics to back up the

and because they have a special love for the younger students, Moore said. The students also will take a character development class designed to build real world social expertise. Elective classes

advantages of the team concept for ninth graders, including significant drops in tardiness and a 50 percent drop in fights among students. Other advantages include easier sharing of information among team teachers, flexibility in blocking class time, a common planning time for teachers, interdisciplinary learning, and more flexibility for parents wishing to meet with teachers.

"Parents can meet with teachers during the school day now, if they wish," Moore said. "Before, they had to wait until after school."

Ninth grade students will earn the

same number of credits during the year as they did under the previous configuration, Moore said.

Also under study for the high school's future are an AP Spanish course and a "credit recovery" program designed to help students who have not done well in portions of a course they otherwise successfully completed.

In other board news, the system's Teachers of the Year, Administrator of the Year, and National Board Certified Teachers were honored with a

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## Harriss: Vaughans named Main Street champs

From Staff Reports

On Thursday, January 26, Mayor Roland and Peggy Ann Vaughan were honored as 2005 Main Street Champions at the North Carolina Main Street



Peggy Anne and Roland Vaughan

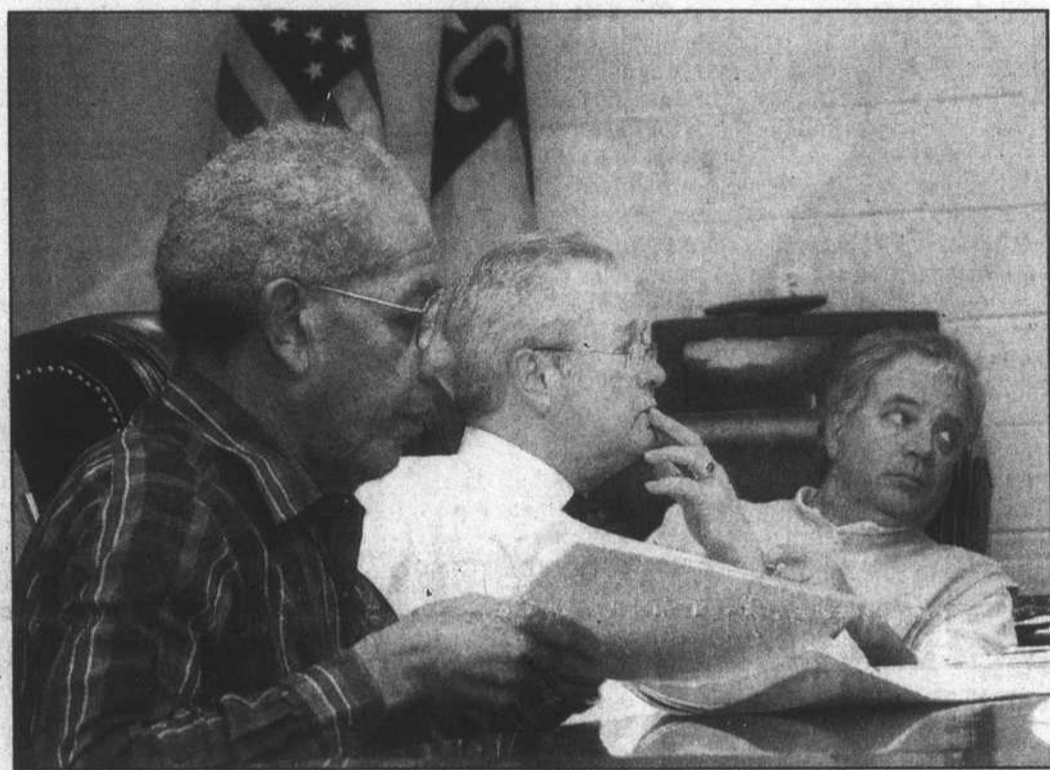
Annual Awards Dinner in Salisbury, NC. The Vaughans were selected for this special recognition

by Destination Downtown Edenton in appreciation for their exceptional contributions to the downtown revitalization process. Along with Champions from 31 other communities, the Vaughans were presented certificates commemorating their designation by NC Assistant Secretary of Commerce Cleve Simpson, Division of Community Assistance Director Gloria Nance-Sims and Office of Urban Development Director Rodney L. Swink, FASLA.

Each of the state's active Main Street programs is given the opportunity annually to recognize a local Main Street Champion. The dedication and hard work of countless volunteers is required to make a local Main Street program successful, and the Main Street

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## Planning for growth



Sean Jackson/The Chowan Herald

Councilors Willis Privott, Jimmy Stallings and Steve Biggs listen intently during discussions on future growth as a Vision Statement containing goals for the future is fine-tuned.

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

With new housing sprouting up in and around Edenton — and with more poised to come in the near future — town councilors have added the growth issue to their annually revised Vision Statement.

During a meeting at the town-owned Northeast Partnership building on Jan. 31, councilors high-lighted their goals for the new year. Handling the projected population influx, and its increased need for public services, was one of the hot topics at the four-hour session.

The big question, Councilman Steve Biggs said, is: "What are we going to do?"

The town could have to expand its utility services, including water and sewer, an issue officials have discussed over the past year. In addition, new retail businesses may also follow the new residents, Biggs, an economic developer, said Monday. Councilors are also discussing how to manage any new business development while maintaining the town's quality of life, Biggs said.

Mayor Roland Vaughan, one of five council members who joined Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton for the

afternoon meeting, said the town's future would unquestionably be affected by a larger population. Especially businesses.

"I think the challenge for Edenton is how we can accommodate the new growth so the businesses in Edenton get the first look from these people who come out to spend their disposable income," he said.

Biggs agreed, adding that modern shoppers like convenient, nearby places to shop. "We're now the kind of people," Biggs said, "we want (everything) now."

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## County election filing period opens Monday

Sheriff says he has no plans to seek re-election

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

Three county commission seats and the Chowan sheriff's job will occupy the ballot slots for the May primary elections, with the filing period for those races set to open Monday (Feb. 13).

Board of Commissioners Chairman Wayne Goodwin's District 1, Seat 2 post will be joined by positions held by commissioners Louis Belfield (District 3, Seat 2) and Jimmy Alligood (District 2, Seat 2) on the May 2 primary ballot. All three commissioners are Democrats.

Sheriff Fred Spruill has said he does not intend to seek re-election, opening the door for a new Chowan County sheriff. In addition,

Chowan County Clerk of Superior Court Mike McArthur is set for another re-election bid.

The filing period opens at 12 p.m. on Monday, and will close at 12 p.m. on Feb. 28.

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education posts will not be on the May ballots, as they are non-partisan positions. The filing period for school board posts will open in July.

## Cocaine kilos confiscated

BY EARLINE WHITE  
The Chowan Herald

Two kilos of cocaine were intercepted on their way to Chowan County Thursday night at approximately 8 p.m. through a multi-agency effort based in Alamance County.

Francisco Avila of the Greensboro area was arrested and is currently being held in the Alamance County Jail under a \$60,000 secured bond for

2 counts of trafficking. The kilos found were estimated to be worth \$72,000, but could range in value from \$24,000-\$200,000 depending upon how it was broken down for street sale.

A 380 handgun, along with \$100,000 in US currency, was also seized.

Trafficking is a class D felony punishable by a mandatory

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## Chowan Hospital brings hi-tech screenings home

\$1.4 million spent on renovations, technology needs

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

No longer does the radiologist at Chowan Hospital have to place an X-ray on a light screen to diagnose what ails a patient. All Dr. Williams C. "Skip" Hope IV has to do is view the image on a computer-style monitor.

The Picture Archiving and Communication System, or PACS, is just one new facet of Chowan Hospital's revamped radiology department. A new CT scanner machine and nuclear medicine camera also provide better service to patients, to what was already a

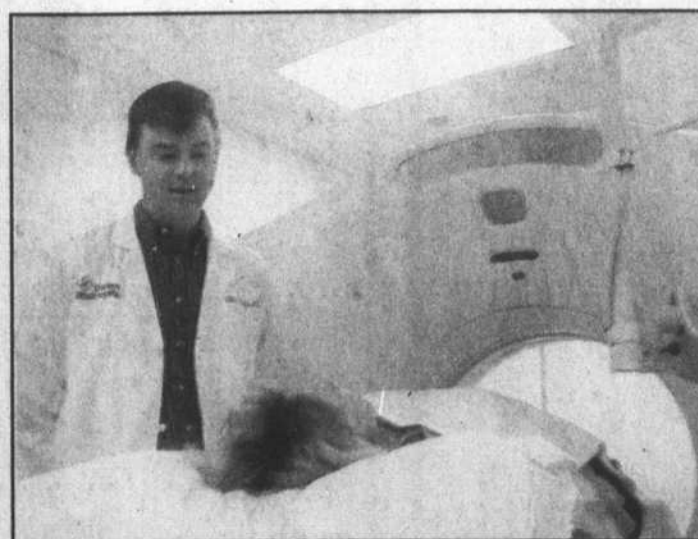
good system at the hospital, Hope said.

"I think we're real lucky in this community," Hope said, "to have this hospital, and this equipment. Most (smaller) hospitals don't have equipment like this."

Hospital president Jeff Sackrison agreed that the \$1.4 million renovation — including the purchase of new equipment — enables the hospital to better serve the community by eliminating the need for some patients to travel out of Chowan for hi-tech exams.

"This is state-of-the-art equipment," Sackrison said.

Hope and his staff work in a new radiology suite that provides comfort, swiftness, and hi-tech service. The new space includes renovated



Sean Jackson/The Chowan Herald

rooms that formerly housed administrative staff. In all, the upgrade has doubled the size of the hospital's radiology department.

Hope, the chief radiologist at Chowan and Bertie Memorial hospitals, lives in Edenton with his wife, Virginia M. Hope, and their three children.

Dr. William C. "Skip" Hope IV talks with a patient about to undergo a CT scan in the newly renovated Radiology Department at Chowan Hospital. Dr. Hope serves as chief radiologist for both Chowan and Bertie County Memorial Hospital.

He is board certified. In addition to the new scanning machines, Hope feels the PACS will boost the quality of care radiology patients receive. "It's faster, it's more efficient," he said of the PACS

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