

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

Vol. LXXIII, No. 14

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Single Copies: 50¢

## Campaign signs back on the job

Sheriff's Deputy reports new thefts; No arrests so far

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
The Chowan Herald

More than a dozen missing campaign signs are back in place, but questions remain about their recent disappearance.

According to the Chowan County Sheriff's Office, Edenton Police Detective Rhonda Copeland, a candidate for sheriff, filed a report March 18 stating that 16 of her campaign signs had been stolen. Copeland later revised that total to 100 signs.

In a news released provided to *The Chowan Herald* Tuesday morning, Sheriff Fred Spruill said an eyewitness to two of the thefts had provided authorities with a description of a suspect and a vehicle. Those thefts took place on Center Hill Road.

Spruill added that since this report was received, numerous signs - some backing Copeland, an Edenton Police Detective, and some backing her opponent in the sheriff's race, Deputy Dwayne Goodwin - have disappeared around the county. Goodwin reportedly has had 15 signs taken.

Sheriff Spruill said that during the course of his office's investigation, "a number of individuals were interviewed. We were able to determine that several individuals were having a contest to see how many signs they could collect. It was also determined that some individuals would remove signs from one area and relocate them to an area they felt would be more favorable to the candidate they personally endorsed."

The sheriff asserted that because of publicity surrounding the thefts, he doubted any additional recovery of stolen signs would occur.

Copeland told the *Chowan Herald* Tuesday that she is considering pressing charges.

Brisk demand for tickets spur interest in other products, merchants say

## Lottery sales boost traffic

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

The North Carolina lottery could aid more than public education, if early reports of booming business at Chowan County stores prove accurate.

Not only are tickets selling briskly, other items are being scooped up by customers, too, officials at Frog Crossing said late Monday afternoon.

"It's really something, I'm

telling you," business owner Joe Lee said as the 5 p.m. customers began to filter in, adding - in some cases - a handful of scratch-off lottery tickets to their purchase.

Lee and his daughter, Penny Norman, said their store on Virginia Road had sold roughly 5,000 tickets in less than five days since the North Carolina Education Lottery began on March 30.

"We didn't anticipate the

business like this," Lee added. Revenues have doubled, Lee said, with the new lottery tickets and the business's expanded hours.

Barbara Renn, whose family owns and operates Floyd's Corner just north of Frog Crossing, also said ticket sales have been brisk.

"They've been selling really good," Renn said. Floyd's

See LOTTERY On Page A2



Sean Jackson/The Chowan Herald

Margaret Welch sports a big grin as she purchases tickets at Frog Crossing. Local store owners say sales have been strong.



Air Force Staff Sgt. Ashley S. Brokop

A 42-person scout team and convoy enter the mock village at Avon Park, FL, during deployment preparation training on March 29. More than 250 service members participated in Atlantic Strike III. A similar training exercise is planned at the Northeastern Regional Airport south of Edenton this Friday evening.

## Marines to the rescue

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

Hostages held inside an abandoned lumber-mill building, their captors close by. Cobra helicopters bolting in from the south, dropping commandos in for the rescue. The roar of blades and engines mixed with gunfire. This will be the scene at the Northeastern Regional Airport south of Edenton this Friday evening, but there won't be any reason for citizens to panic.

These activities will just be part of a training exercise for the U.S. Marine Corps. About 100 Marines and role-players are expected to take part in

CH-46 & CH-53 helicopters, along with Cobra gunships and a C-130 transport will hold a mock exercise on Friday at the Chowan Regional Airport

the training exercise, Marine Capt. Will Clumpp said Monday.

Plans are for members of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit from Camp Lejeune to hone their combat skills needed in such a hostage crisis, and for residents living near the airport not to fear that an invasion is taking place virtually in their backyards.

FBI Special Agent Bob Myrick said helicopters will drop Marines near the airport, who will then head for an abandoned lumber mill complex where the hostages and their captors - think insurgents in Iraq with their captives - will be hunkered down. The

See RESCUE On Page A2

## Bankrupt businesses cost the town

Failed business and retailers leave Edenton holding the bag for \$332,000 in utilities, fines

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

Working with three local failed companies has cost Edenton roughly \$332,000 in lost revenue from electric bills, but it was the result of an attempt to help keep employees on the job, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said Monday.

The town absorbed the losses after Evans Lumber Co., Chowan Veneer, and Winn-Dixie closed down over the past couple of years without paying power costs owed to the town.

Knighton said Monday that she worked with the two lumber businesses in an effort to keep their employees on company payrolls. But that plan didn't pan out.

"In retrospect," Knighton said, "I think I was more focused on the economic development side of it than the business side."

Evans Lumber and Winn-Dixie filed for bankruptcy, leaving the town with no option but to continue provided electricity. Bankruptcy laws prohibit utility providers from disconnecting services once a business has been declared bankrupt. Chowan Veneer was making weekly payments, but when they missed a payment, the Town pulled the meter.

See TOWN On Page A2



Knighton

### INSIDE

- Calendar ..... C2
- Church ..... C7,8
- Classifieds ..... D1-4
- Editorials ..... A6
- Obituaries ..... C6
- School ..... C5
- Society ..... C3
- Sports ..... B1-4

### Contact us

Call 482-4418



6 89076 44813 0

©2006 The Chowan Herald  
All Rights Reserved

## Mid-century relic will go up for auction

BY EARLINE WHITE  
The Chowan Herald

The old White Oak School, a structure that has heard the echoes of children at work and at play for over fifty years, is to be auctioned to the highest bidder. Sale of the building was approved Monday night by the Chowan County Board of Commissioners during their regular monthly meeting.

The former school building, located on Dillard's Mill Road in northern Chowan County, was erected in 1951. It served as an elementary school for Chowan County students until the construction of the current White Oak School on Sandy Ridge Road at the turn of the millennium.

The old White Oak school was vacant only temporarily. Soon after the students and teachers had taken their textbooks to Sandy Ridge, the Chowan/Perquimans/Gates Partnership for Children moved in and utilized the facility. The Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department also continued to use the gymnasium for gymnastics classes.

But the costs to maintain the county building became burdensome and in January 2006 the Partner-



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

The former White Oak Elementary School in northern Chowan County will soon go on the auction block for a minimum of \$65,000.

ship for Children left the school for a centrally located site in Edenton.

It was the Finance Committee's recommendation that the county resources currently being used to maintain the

See AUCTION On Page A2

## Deadline nears for 'party hoppers'

BY EARLINE WHITE  
The Chowan Herald

The weeks pass quickly leading up to the primary election in May that will decide which Democrat takes the helm in the Chowan County Sheriff's Office. Time also ticks away for those registered as anything other than Democrat to vote in the May 2, 2006 election.

Any change in party affiliation, address, name, etc., must be registered with the Board of Elections prior to April 7 in order to ensure a vote in the Sheriff's race. Changes can be noted on voter registration forms, which can be obtained from the Board of Elections office on E. King Street, J. A. Holmes high school, the Department of Social Services, COA and the Shepard-Pruden Memorial

See DEADLINE On Page A2

Gateway Bank  
presents

# BOOGIE ON BROAD

Friday, April 7  
5:30 - 11 pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL DESTINATION DOWNTOWN 482-3400