

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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## Rocky Hock bridge will be replaced



Sean Jackson/The Chowan Herald

BY EARLINE WHITE  
The Chowan Herald

The N.C. Board of Transportation recently awarded a contract to replace the bridge over Rocky Hock Creek along Rocky Hock Road.

The \$820,000 contract was awarded to Carolina Bridge Company Inc. of Orangeburg, S.C. Work and work is scheduled to begin in July with completion set for November.

"Bridges throughout this area are a vital part of our state's transportation system,"

See BRIDGE On Page A2



Sean Jackson/The Chowan Herald

NC Highway 32 from Valhalla to Smalls Cross Roads will be closed starting June 12 while NCDOT replaces drainage pipes under the roadway.

## Section of Hwy. 32 to be closed

From staff reports

Beginning June 12, NC Highway 32 from Valhalla to Smalls Cross Roads will be closed while the NC Dept. of Transportation replaces approximately 4 drainage pipes under the roadway.

"Several pipes need to be

See CLOSED On Page A2

## Holmes graduation is Friday night

If the weather forecast holds, Friday evening will mark John A. Holmes High School's Class of 2006 commencement, beginning at 7 p.m. Graduating students must report to the Holmes Commons by 6 p.m.

If the weather doesn't cooperate, the commencement will take place on Saturday at 10 a.m., on the Athletic Complex if it's sunny, or in Swain Auditorium if it's not. About 150 seniors are expected to graduate.

The guest speaker for the event will be Chowan County



Alex Boehling



Ashley Klein

Commissioner Ralph Cole, introduced by Salutatorian Ashley Klein. Valedictorian Alex Boehling also will speak.

Rehearsal for the ceremony is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Fri-

day, and is required in order to participate in the evening Commencement. Seniors will receive four tickets each at the Friday rehearsal. If Friday evening's skies remain clear, the tickets will not be necessary, as the Athletic Complex likely can seat any number of guests a graduate invites. But if the ceremony moves to Swain on

Saturday morning, guests will need tickets to enter the auditorium.

If the commencement ceremony needs to be rescheduled to Saturday, graduating seniors should meet in the Commons area at 9 a.m.

If it's still raining on Saturday morning, commencement will move to Swain Auditorium at 10 a.m. The Swain Auditorium will open to the public at 9 a.m. Guests should park in the courthouse lot or in city lots; all Swain parking spaces

See GRADUATION Page A2

## Graduates recognized

A salute to the seniors in the Class of 2006 at John A. Holmes High School and Lawrence Academy can be found in on Pages 5-C, 6-C and 7-C of this week's paper. *The Chowan Herald* would like to express its appreciation to all those who sponsored this special tribute.

For younger readers, we have included a Kids Corner on page 3-D of this edition.

## A Glorious Sunset



Rebecca Lowe

The beauty of the Chowan River is reflected in this photo taken at dusk just as the sun was setting. Golden and orange hues cast a glow across the water as a lone cypress tree stands watch. The sky reflects shades of pink and blue dotted with white clouds that also add beauty to the horizon.

## Proposed tax hikes part of town, county budget drafts



Sean Jackson/The Chowan Herald

County Manager Cliff Copeland is assisted by county clerk Nancy Morgan as he discusses the proposed budget during Monday night's meeting.

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton and Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland have both called for property tax hikes in their proposed budgets sent to councilors and commissioners late last week.

Both Knighton and Copeland cited such projected increases as spending for fuel and insurance costs as reasons for calling for the rise in the tax rates. Copeland said increases in worker's compensation costs, \$231,000 in additional EMS spending, and \$300,000 in matching funds for a recreational facility grant also

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### Contact us

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## Teacher won't be returning to class this fall

BOE declines to renew contract of educator under investigation

BY SEAN JACKSON  
The Chowan Herald

A John A. Holmes High School teacher under investigation by Edenton police for alleged pornographic material on his home computer, as well as an alleged incident involving a female student, did not have his contract renewed for the next school year by the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education on Monday night.

The teacher in question will not be returning to the classroom at Holmes in the fall, Superintendent Allan Smith said Tuesday morning.

"The board voted (unani-

mously) to not renew his contract for next year," Smith said, adding that teachers who do not have "career status" with public schools in North Carolina have their contracts renewed on a year-to-year basis.

The teacher's official last day as an Edenton-Chowan school system employee is June 13, spokesperson Glenda Jakubowski said Tuesday. He was suspended from the school system in mid-May when the investigation began. He began working at Holmes in the fall.

The teacher's home computer was confiscated by police following an incident at a local restaurant on May 13, when he allegedly approached a female student from Holmes and engaged in what officials have characterized as potentially inappropriate conduct.

Police Det. Sgt. Rhonda Copeland said Monday that officials at a State Bureau of Investigation lab in Raleigh were still conducting tests on the teacher's home computer which had initially been taken to an SBI lab in Greenville following the May 13 incident.

"We're still waiting on (getting) information back on that (computer)," Copeland said. "We hope to hear something back this week."

As of press time, the teacher had not been charged with any crimes.

Copeland has not ruled out the possibility that the teacher could be charged, pending the outcome of the search for child pornography material on his home computer.

Smith said Monday that he was aware of the police inves-

tigation and search of the teacher's computer. He declined to comment when asked by *The Chowan Herald* about any concerns he might have about the search for child pornography on the teacher's computer.

"It wouldn't be appropriate for me to respond; there's an investigation going on," Smith said.

Smith also declined to comment on why the school board essentially terminated the teacher before the investigation was finished.

"I can't get into those personnel issues," he said.

Several attempts to contact the teacher have been unsuccessful. He did not reply to an email left at his email address at Holmes last month and he has an unlisted phone number.

## Minor injuries sustained in accident

BY EARLINE WHITE  
The Chowan Herald

A multi-car accident slowed early morning traffic on Hwy. 32 for nearly an hour Friday.

At approximately 7:50 a.m. Cody Madrey, 18, of Tyner was heading south in a 1992 Chevrolet truck when he stopped in the lane of traffic for a school bus near Frog's Crossing. Christopher English of Edenton, a teacher at John A. Holmes High School, stopped his white Blazer behind Madrey's truck. Dana

See ACCIDENT Page A2

JUNE 9 & 10, 2006 - 7:30 PM

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