

# CHOWAN HERALD

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The pain of putting down pets

COMMUNITY, C1

Kaye Spivey makes life easier at Britthaven

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## Budget seeks to add new teachers

Positions would replace those lost during cutbacks

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Editor

"Heavy emphasis on personnel."

That's how Dr. Allan Smith, superintendent of the Edenton-Chowan Schools, describes the school system's proposed budget for the 2007-2008 school year.

It would have the school system expanding spending by \$180,723 to meet a state-mandated 5 percent salary increase for teachers and a 2.5 percent raise for other school staff.

The school system will also have to spend an additional \$53,078 to meet a state-mandated rise in health benefits.

With those items out of the way, the school system's budget also reflects its "continuing commitment" to gradually raising teacher supplements to the state average of 5 percent, Smith noted.

"Teacher supplements in the Edenton-Chowan Schools have historically been in the lowest quartile in comparison to other school systems across the state," Smith noted in his annual budget message.

"Last year the supplements were increased from two percent to two and a half percent. This is not sufficient and we must do better," he said.

"An increase to five percent is estimated to require an additional \$231,142 in recurring dollars. We are committed to increasing supplements each year until the goal of at least the state average is achieved."

The 2007-2008 proposed budget calls for the school system to increase the supplements by at least 1 percent — from 2.5 percent to 3.5 — at an estimated cost of \$92,457, Smith said.

Priorities in the budget proposal also include three teaching positions.

"However," Smith said, "it should be noted that two of the three are to replace positions lost two years ago (a middle school reading teacher, and a high school English teacher)."

"The third position, for an elementary cultural arts instructor, has been included to partially meet the state-mandated physical activity and

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## Student charged with having gun on campus

Copeland allegedly brought stolen .40 caliber to Holmes

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

Chowan County Sheriff's Office officials have confiscated a second handgun after an inci-

dent where a student brought a weapon to John A. Holmes High School last week.

"The second gun was recovered as part of an ongoing investigation," Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin said.

"It, too, is one of the guns taken from Bob's Gun Shop and Coins last Wednesday night," Goodwin added but declined to comment on where or how the

gun was recovered.

A number of guns taken from Bob's Guns on Highway 17 remain unrecovered since the break in. Their value is an estimated \$3,000.

Terrence Copeland, 18, of 1204 Sandy Terrace in Lynnhaven Trailer Park, was caught behaving in a peculiar manner on video surveillance at Holmes Thursday morning, prompting

deputy and school resource officer Kenny Townsend to call Copeland in for questioning.

An unloaded .40-caliber handgun was found in Copeland's possession along with an empty ammunition clip.

"Copeland's suspicious activity was caught on camera and he was pretty much taken into cus-



Copeland

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## Calling it quits

After 101 years, Mitchener's Pharmacy closing its doors



An era will soon end at Mitchener's Pharmacy. The business was opened in 1906 and moved to its current location in 1914 by "Doc" Mitchener, grandfather of the current owner.

Contributed

John Mitchener III

BY EARLINE WHITE  
Staff Writer

For three generations the Mitchener family has known the most intimate details of our lives — what soap we use, what medications we take, from what ailments our children suffer.

After 101 years in the business, Mitchener's Pharmacy will end a chapter in Broad Street history, closing its double glass doors May 21 when the business will transfer to CVS in Edenton.

Mitchener plans to work at the local CVS branch until December, helping make the transition of his life-long customers easier.

Mitchener, 66, says that despite the business' profitability, it is simply time to move on.

### A tradition

John A. Mitchener, III, has seen the face of downtown Broad Street change dramatically in the years he has spent behind the counter inside the store.

He began his career at the young age of 10 when he and his brothers worked in their father's pharmacy tending the comic book rack every Saturday.

That was back when the parking lot (known then as the backyard) was the stopping ground for mules and carts.

And on a hot July afternoon, the "gifts" of the animals permeated the entire community, Mitchener laughs. A man carried blocks of ice into the cellar for shaving (for drinks at the fountain). Through the front and back door old friends

entered, discussing the issues of the day — weather, sports, bunions. Trees lined the middle of Broad Street, and the northern end of the shopping district stopped with Mitchener's Pharmacy.

Since then a lot has changed — race relations have improved, Medicaid rules have given pharmacists across the country headaches, and the state health department regulations on soda fountains have strengthened.

Mitchener worries about the future of rural downtowns, where foot traffic is diminishing due to lack of essential services, such as grocery stores and pharmacies, like his own.

But as far as the business' fu-

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## Town eyes new, stiffer graffiti law

Property owners, businesses could face removal costs

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

Town officials want to send a message that gang-related graffiti won't be tolerated here, and they want local businesses victimized by the spray paint-wielding culprits to help.

The Edenton Town Council is considering a new ordinance that would force the graffiti to be removed in a timely matter. Council discussed the issue last month, after reviewing graffiti ordinances from the cities of Rocky Mount and Tarboro.

Town Attorney Hood Ellis is drafting a local ordinance, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said. Council could approve the new ordinance at its May 29 meeting, she added.

"The thing we like about the Rocky Mount ordinance is it makes it unlawful for anybody to place graffiti on public or private property," Knighton said.

The town already charges such offenders with vandalism, but the new ordinance would be more specific about the nature of the unlawful action. The individual charged would be responsible for the cleanup. If that person is under 18 years old, then his or her parent or guardian would be responsible for the cleanup, Knighton said.

In addition, if no charges are filed against a suspected individual for placing graffiti on public or private property, the owner of the building would be responsible for removing the graffiti, Knighton told local officials Monday.

Property owners would have seven to 10 days to remove the graffiti. After that period expires, the town would remove it at a charge to the property owner, Knighton said.

Knighton

## Local artist shares her talent to raise funds for Relay

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Editor

Local artist Ashlee Birkhead finds special joy in her art when she thinks of cancer survivors — after all, her beloved grandparents are among them.

Now, she's decided to do something very special to

help others beat the disease during the annual Chowan-Perquimans Relay for Life which takes place this weekend.

Birkhead is donating a framed print of her most popular work, a blue crab, for a raffle to benefit Relay.

One lucky winner will get to enjoy Ashlee's signed and

### ELSEWHERE

Local graduate foregoes gifts for donations to fight cancer  
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numbered drawing, beautifully framed with natural barn wood by her lifelong

friend, Butch Byrum.

Birkhead, who works part-time at the *Chowan Herald*, happens to have Down Syndrome.

Recently she and her mother, artist and teacher Susan Birkhead, sat down to talk about this special piece of art.

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Birkhead, Byrum and her painting

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