

# CHOWAN HERALD

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

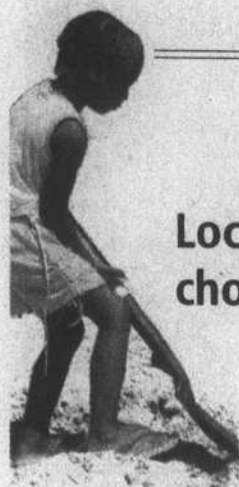
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Sincere Mullen —  
An early arrival  
INSIDE, A3



Anna Miln  
continues helping  
students

INSIDE, A10



## Local family gets chosen for Habitat house

COMMUNITY, C1

## Father's Day photo contest winner

COMMUNITY, C5



## Copeland explains county tax increase

### Public invited to share comments at Monday's hearing

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

A public hearing on next year's proposed county budget will take place Monday.

The proposal includes a 1.5 cent property tax increase, which County Manager Cliff Copeland says would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home an additional \$30 per year.

### How many dollars would the tax increase generate?

The 1.5 cent tax increase would bring in \$201,655. A one cent increase would equal \$134,437, and a half cent, \$67,218.

### Why is the tax increase necessary?

Copeland says the tax increase is needed to help balance the budget. In his budget message, he notes that sales tax revenue "remains extremely flat" while expenses continue to rise.

Some local residents have questioned whether the county could cut expenses to avoid raising taxes.

### Why are expenses rising?

■ For one, a 5 percent in-

crease in healthcare benefits will cost the county \$2,800 during the 2007-08 fiscal year.

■ County employees are scheduled to receive a 2 percent cost of living raise.

■ There is also a \$76,000 in-

### Public Hearing

**When** — Monday  
night at 6 p.m.

**Where** — The 1767  
Chowan Courthouse

**Who Can Speak** —  
Anyone

**To See the Budget** —  
[www.chowancounty-nc.gov](http://www.chowancounty-nc.gov)

crease in the workman's compensation and the general liability funds included in the budget.

■ Also, a 5 percent increase in funding for the Edenton-Chowan Schools totals almost \$179,000. The school system had requested an increase of about \$535,000.

### What are some of the big ticket items?

■ \$300,000 to complete funding for the new addition to the Shepard-Pruden Library.

■ \$500,000 as part of the matching grant for develop-

See BUDGET, Page A2 >



Photo Illustration by Debbie Collins

The ninth annual Edenton Music and Water Festival at Colonial Park will begin Saturday morning at 8:30 with kayak/canoe races. Afternoon entertainment will feature, among others, the Gale Street Baptist Church Choir, above. Saturday's expected high is 83 degrees with a 10 percent chance of rain.

## Music and Water festival Saturday

### In the water

8:30 a.m. Canoe/kayak USCA race & eco-tour registration  
10 a.m. Race start for sanctioned races  
10:15 a.m. Eco-tour paddle led by Kitty Hawk Sports  
12 - 4 p.m. Paddling demos, Eastern 4-H Center  
1:30 p.m. Paddle with the Periauger  
2 p.m. Sunfish sailboat races  
4 p.m. Guided paddle with Kitty Hawk Sports

Winds 10 -15 knots, diminishing to 5-10 knots. Waves 1 ft.

### At the park

12 - 2:30 p.m. Jazz, folk, traditional, originals  
2:30 - 5:30 p.m. Gospel, bluegrass, country, classic folk rock  
5:30 - dusk Classic rock & roll, contemporary Christian

Artists lineup includes Mary Rocab, Strings Attached, Peter Boehling, Other Voices, Ancient Men, Gale Street Baptist Choir. There will also be food, educational and craft vendors on site.

## Local remembered for brilliant mind, big heart

### Life of tennis star, active youth, rising junior cut short

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

John A. Holmes High School tennis coach Allen Hornthal says former player George Parrish will be remembered for more than his victories on the courts.

Parrish died in a car wreck last Thursday morning while apparently on the way home. His car ran off the road into a water-filled ditch and burst into flames, officials said.

The cause of death in the accident was drowning, a spokesperson at the medical

examiner's office in Greenville said.

Parrish was buried Saturday at Beaver Hill Cemetery in Edenton. He was 20.

"It's been tough on these young kids," Hornthal said. "They've all had to do some growing up this last week, and deal with things that young people don't often have to deal with."

Parrish and his twin brother Dan graduated from Holmes in 2005. They came to the high school while still in eighth grade at Chowan Middle School.

Both were sharp-minded youth, Hornthal said.

Parrish was a rising junior at N.C. State University, where he majored in business administration

### ELSEWHERE

George Parrish obituary.  
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"He was one of the smartest kids I ever coached," Hornthal said. "Just a brilliant mind."

Parrish also had a strong will, Hornthal said.

"You can't coach heart," he said, "and George had one of the biggest hearts of any kid I've ever coached."

◆ ◆ ◆  
Then there was the young man's zest for life.

"George loved life and always made things interesting," Hornthal said. "He was a lot of fun to be around."

Parrish wrecked his 2002 Volvo at 2:23 a.m. last Thursday, state Highway Patrol First Sgt. C.D. Gould said.

Parrish had been traveling east on N.C. Highway 32 as he approached the intersection with N.C. Highway 37.

"He crossed the center line as he entered the curve, lost control, and overcorrected," Gould said.

The car spun around 180 degrees, the rear end striking a culvert, setting the vehicle ablaze, Gould said. The car came to rest upside-down in a water-filled ditch.

"From what I understand," Gould said, "he was dead at the scene."

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## Despite odor, drinking water gets okay from hydrologist

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

A retired hydrologist says local drinking water is fine to consume, despite its unpleasant odor.

And John Powell hopes that Edenton and Chowan County officials keep the water safe as proposed new residential developments arrive in years to come.

Powell, who spent much of his career with the U.S. Geological Survey, told 20 local residents Saturday that town and county water supplies are perfectly safe to drink.

"We're actually doing good," Powell told the members of the Citizens Environmental Stewardship Group.

During his 90-minute presentation, Powell — an

Edenton resident since 2003 — discussed the reasons behind the unpleasant smell and taste of local tap-water.

The facts are simple, according to Powell. The underground water comes from aquifers containing some saltwater, which contains chloride ions.

The ions are high in the aquifers under the town and county, residing in decades-old water that has seeped underground. Ions have strong taste and odor.

"It's probably been that way since who-knows when," Powell said of the high ion levels.

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Local water-treatment plants, especially Edenton's, use chemicals to



Powell

treat the water that comes from our taps, Powell said.

Those chemicals also add taste and odor that most people frown at.

While it's safe to drink now, group

members questioned if a projected 40-percent population hike over the next decade could strain the aquifers' supplies.

Powell said there is no sure-fire answer.

But he did say Edenton and Chowan officials should team up with Bertie County officials (Edenton's main aquifer's water supply originates in Bertie) to ensure the supplies stay drinkable.

"We're all in this together," Powell said, "and need to partner-up and figure out how to do things."

County Manager Cliff Copeland said Chowan officials are confident that new subdivisions — including 1,500-home Sandy Point — won't strain the local water supply.

"Obviously, the County would never have approved the new subdivisions without an adequate supply," Copeland said, "and rest assured there will be an adequate supply for future generations."

◆ ◆ ◆  
Chowan County and Edenton both implemented tap-on fees for new water customers a couple years ago.

Those fees should generate money to upgrade — and potentially build new



— water systems in future years, Copeland and Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said.

"We estimate the [impact] fee will generate about \$10 million to \$11 million," Copeland said. "We are already in discussions about the design of a

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