

brary, which was temporarily closed on Jan. 15, has been relying on a bookmobile to keep services open to the public.

The bookmobile is open from 10 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m., on Tuesdays in the parking lot across the street from the library, and the same hours at the Northern would have thought there was a train on Wednesdays.

sounding like a freight train then he Chowan Community Center station in his driveway Monday morn-

ing.

leaving treetops broken in half like pine straw across lawns, houses and the nearby golf course.

Patty Madry with emergency services looks at damage sustained by James and Pat Carnrite's Country Club Drive home after

Griffin was in the back bedroom at the time; his wife in the den just outside the bathroom that is now totally siderable damage.

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Patty Madry, Chowan County emergency management coordinator, and Tony Siebers with National Weather Service in Wakefield were on the scene Monday to make sure gas lines and homes were as stable as possible. Madry confirmed that the county had never seen a wind storm/ tornado of this magnitude, not in the past 27 years (her tenure) anyway.

County Sheriff's Department, and the Chowan County Emergency Management Office.

Hurricane forced move

The U.S. Department of Agriculture approved a nearly \$11 million, 40-year loan to the town and county after Hurricane Isabel flooded the current police department offices and 911 Dispatch Center on Water Street in 2003. "We had to leave here twice" during Isabel, said Franklin Jackson, director of the Chowan Central Communications Center, which dispatches calls for local police and sheriff's offices; the Edenton, Center Hill-Crossroads and Belvidere Fire departments; and emergency calls for the town and county's electric and water departments. The 911 center was evacuated for a dozen hours during the hurricane but moved to a mobile command center and no calls were lost.

Library staff members are working in a College of the Albemarle classroom.

Loan to help cost

The county received a \$1.8 million loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in March 2006. The original construction contract was for \$2.871 million.

Other costs include: \$228,000 in architectural fees, \$10,700 in legal fees, \$92,00 for loan interest, \$152,000 for a contingency fund and \$8,000 for contracted services such as surveys, tree removal and bank fees.

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At about 6 a.m., a straight line wind storm, which is basically a tornado without the swirling winds, came in off the Albemarle Sound.

David Griffin said that if he had

never heard the story about a tornado

Due to the lack of friction over the water, the winds gathered strength, whipping across Country Club Drive, destroyed.

a wind storm ripped off the tops of pine trees in the yard. Two other homes were lamaged during the storm.

"It was so quiet afterwards, like the rain had sucked the wind out," Griffin said. His neighbor's house was left untouched. But two doors down the street two others - a Hayes rental and the Carnrite's home - sustained con-

- by Earline White

Kenny Goodwin, incum-

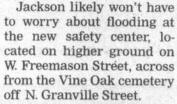
representing the first dis-

trict, seat 2. Alex Stallings

Goodwin

Chowan

Earline White/The Chowan Herald



While the new center is expected to open officially on April 10, Jackson said his goal is to relocate his staff of 11, including eight fulltime and two part-time dispatchers, by April 4.

"We'll be moving things at different times so 911 will never go down," Jackson said. His department handled an average 274 calls a day in January, including 64 calls to dispatch fire, rescue and law enforcement personnel.

Room to grow

Not surprising, each department is looking forward to vacating the cramped

See CENTER, Page A2 >

Run for commissioner heats up

By Vernon Fueston / Contributing Writer

John Mitchener, Earl Willis to run

John Mitchener, former member of the Edenton-Chowan school board, will run for election to the board of commissioners' at-large seat.

He will compete for the position against Fred Spruill. Mitchener, 66, is a native of . Chowan

County. Mitchener A graduate of

Yale Divinity School, Mitchener served for two years in the army and is a Vietnam veteran. He is married with three children.

He is a pharmacist and developer specializing in the revitalization of downtown properties.

"I am running for this position to serve the whole county," Mitchener said. "Chowan County has supported our family pharmacy for three generations. This is one way to say "thank you."

Mitchener cited several See MITCHENER, Page A2

Earl Willis will run for the 3rd District county commission seat currently held by Ralph Cole.

Willis, a native of Wanchese, N.C.,

is a retired history and government teacher with 32 years of service in the Perqui-

Willis mans County schools. He

is a Vietnam era veteran and graduate of East Carolina University.

Willis said he is running because of his commitment to a healthy two-party system of politics in the coun-

"It's a continuation of my teaching government and history. I believe it's imperative to have a healthy two party system. I had a lot of people approach me about running for office, and I felt it was time to practice what I preached."

Willis does not feel his See WILLIS, Page A2 >

week for a second term repbent county commissioner resenting Chowan County's with one year's experience, 2nd district. Gardner is runfiled for reelection to a seat ning unopposed. A 7th generation Chowan

Bill Gardner, Jr. filed this

County native, Gardner graduated from Virginia Episcopal School and earned a bachelor's degree from the

University of North Carolina at Wilmington. He works as an insurance broker for the Chowan County Farm Bureau.

"I want to ensure that essential services pertaining to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Chowan County are provided in the most efficient manner possible," Gardner said.

He cited the county's new public safety center, a single complex housing police, sheriff's department, 911 service, and EMS's in one location, as an example.

He sees a number of dif-See GARDNER, Page A2 ≻

of John A. Holmes High School, and a lifelong local farmer. He is 35 and married with two children. Goodwin said he seeks re-

election, "to help do what's best for the county." He cites recent discussions with the school system regarding improvements to John A. Holmes High School as one of the board's most important

accomplishments. As for challenges ahead, Goodwin sees continued sound management as the board's most important goal. "We need to provide See GOODWIN, Page A2 >

Pancake Supper/Auction Friday, February 22, 2008

will oppose him in the election. Goodwin is a native of County, graduate

Gardner, Goodwin file for re-election

Gardner