

Andy's and possible pizza parlor planned near Food Lion
SEE BELOW

Chowan County to hold first two-party primary

By **Vernon Fueston**
Contributing Writer

Whether it's a sign of changing times, an increased interest in local politics, or maybe just because it's a presidential election year, an unprecedented number of candidates have filed for election to the Chowan County Board of Commissioners.

As a result, the County will hold its first primary in which two parties are represented.

This will also be the first Republican primary in memory.

Five of the county's seven seats on the board of commissioners are open in this election.

Three seats are being contested within a party.

According to Rebecca Lowe of the county's board of elections, there has not been an election within anyone's memory in which Republicans have filed for all open seats on the board of commissioners.

Democratic primaries have not been rare, but they have been the exception to the rule. Martha Badger, Chowan Democratic Party

chair, said the increase in filings shows an increased interest in the process by Democrats.

The last Democratic primaries were held in 1998 and 2002.

Primaries will determine which candidates will represent the party for three races. Keith Nixon and Fred Spruill will face off for the county's at-large

seat. Dana Soles and Darryl Stallings will compete for the right to run as Republicans for seat one in the first district.

Bill Gardner will face opposition from Edward (Eddy) Goodwin for seat one in the 2nd district. The winner of that race will not face opposition from a Democrat.

Democrats will run a primary to decide whether Emmett E. Winborne or Harry Lee Winslow will carry the party banner for the first seat in district one.

The fact that this is the first time a full slate of Republicans has filed for the board reflects changes in the political makeup of the

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Teaching jobs may be eliminated

Schools may also lose funds to pay for local programs

By **Rebecca Bunch**
Staff Writer

As many as 7.5 teacher and teacher assistant positions could be lost in the local school system next year.

Local school officials said the losses could occur because of state budget cuts governing personnel and programs.

Supt. Allan Smith said that "it is hoped if any reductions are necessary they can be accomplished through the attrition of staff."

Significant cuts in programs could include as much as \$84,000 eliminated from the Children with Disabilities Program, for example.

Smith said that state program allotments are "are subject to change, but only by a little bit."

As the school system prepares to submit its budget proposals for the 2008-09 school year to the county commissioners in time for their May meeting, Smith said that the amount of allocations the local schools typically receive remain unknown.

Those include appropriations for low-wealth areas and smaller counties.

"We are expecting big cuts there (in the Low-Wealth appropriation) based in part on the relative wealth of our county, which is becoming more affluent than it has been in the past," he said.

Federal funds that will be available for the schools are unknown at this time.

The budget submitted by President George W. Bush to the Congress, Smith said, includes a proposal to completely eliminate the Career Tech curriculum from schools and a major cut in educational technology.

"We have not seen anything from Congress," Smith added. "We will keep monitoring as we go along."

In other business

The board was briefed on the selection process for filling a vacancy in the principal's office at White Oak Elementary.

The current principal, Linda Mathias, will be leaving at the end of the school year to join her husband who has accepted a job in Mississippi.

Truck rams mobile home



Jim Fries points out the damage left after a truck hit his mobile home Sunday afternoon.

Jim Fries was sitting in his living room Sunday afternoon watching Dale Earnhardt Jr. come from behind when an explosion rocked his home.

According to Fries, a driver coming south on Broad Street jumped the ditch and continued across the yard, through the trees and into the backside of Fries' mobile home.

Tire marks coming off the road and into the yard show the event just as Fries described it.

"I thought someone had dynamited the house," Fries said Tuesday.

Fries said that the canned goods were jolted out of the cabinets; pictures thrown off the wall; the 50-gallon aquarium that housed his beloved fish was

destroyed.

"I've been telling everybody that they [the driver] must have wanted to watch the races too," Fries joked, then leaned down to rub his hip where he sustained two fractures from the jolt.

He also broke two bones in his foot.

Just days before, Fries had rearranged his living room furniture.

He said that if he hadn't the truck would have slammed into his back.

"At least they could have done it during the soap operas, not during the race," Fries laughed.

Fries is staying with his daughter Kim Francis.

Fries' landlord thinks that the mobile home can be repaired.

The highway patrolman in charge of the case could not be reached for details.

Fries has lived in two mobile homes in the same area over the past 20 years.

His former home was destroyed during Hurricane Isabel.

"The roof was torn off — the house completely destroyed," Fries said.

During the storm the wind slammed the refrigerator into him.

But he's still got his sense of humor.

"Come by during the races — that's when the action happens," he said.

— by Earline White

Commercial developments on the way

By **Connie Sage**
Contributing Writer

An Andy's Cheesesteaks and Cheeseburgers restaurant, a dry cleaners with drive-thru drop-off service, a gift shop and maybe even a pizza parlor are planned to open here this summer.

Construction is to start next month for the Shoppes at Edenton Village, located on nearly two acres near the Edenton Village Shopping Center, anchored by Food Lion.

Two 6,000-square-foot buildings, one with retail stores and the second for offices, are planned, said Marshall Williford of Edenton, a partner in Coastal Plains Development Group.

Both buildings would be to the front and right of Food Lion, next to Dr. Jerry Bradley's office on Coke Avenue.

A 2,000-square-foot Andy's will be the first tenant, Williford said, and Albemarle Cleaners & Laundry will move its retail op-

eration to the site.

Negotiations are underway with two pizza restaurant chains, including Domino's Pizza, for a 1,000-square-foot pizza delivery shop, he said.

A cell phone store and a gift shop, both already in business locally, also plan to move to the new center.

The second phase is an adjacent office building, which Williford said will house a local contractor's offices, an engineering firm, and a meeting/boardroom that will be available for rent.

Andy's, a North Carolina chain, was started by Kenny Moore in Goldsboro in 1991 and now has some 100 restaurants, including grills in Hertford and Elizabeth City.

Food in the sit-down restaurant is prepared to order.

"It's the type of concept we don't have," Williford said. "When we lost Snookers we lost that type of atmosphere. (Andy's) demographics show it's a perfect fit."

Albemarle Cleaners will keep its plant on 209 W. Church St., said owner Frank Edmondson, but the new facility will offer customers both walk-in and drive-thru drop-off and pick-up service, along with shoe repair and alterations.

The acreage already is zoned for a shopping center so it does not have to have Planning Board approval.

"The only thing we have to do now is get administrative approval on the final engineers' drawings," Williford said. "We're pretty much in place." Williford, a native of Windsor, and his wife, Teri, bought the Pembroke Fishing Center property on Pembroke Creek and eventually plan to expand that operation.

"We love to call Edenton home and we plan to be here a long, long time and help develop the town properly and serve the needs of the town," Williford said.

Retirement community considered near Chowan Crossing

By **Connie Sage**
Contributing Writer

Beechwood's developer is exploring plans to turn the new subdivision into a continuing care retirement community, which he said would be the first of its kind in North-eastern North Carolina.

Instead of a traditional subdivision, Beechwood would be built as a "fully integrated retirement community," said Sumit Gupta, owner of Beechwood Developers Inc. of Nags Head.

Located behind the Chowan Crossing Shopping Center and its anchor stores Rose's and Farmers Foods, Beechwood currently is slated to have 225 homes on 52 acres.

Pending local and state approval, the continuing care community would be built on the property's total 80 acres.

Phase I of the project, which would include 50-to-60 single family homes and townhouses, would still be consistent with Beechwood's original proposals, Gupta said.

The town approved the developer's original plans in 2005 and state permits were issued last summer. A road has been cut next to the Duck-Thru, and ponds have been dug, Gupta said.

Construction of the first Phase I model home, in the back section of Beechwood, is to begin in the next 60 days, he said. Townhome prices will be in the low-to-mid-\$200,000 range, he said.

While not restricted to owners ages 55 and over, most homes likely would be bought by seniors drawn to the subdivision's one-story, low-maintenance structures, Gupta said.

If allowed by the state, Phase II would include senior apartments and patio homes, an assisted living facility, nursing home, clubhouse, cafeteria and wellness center.

"A lot of retirees are looking past Edenton," said Gupta, because there is no central community that combines both independent and assisted or nursing home care.

"It's a big step for us," Gupta said. "We're putting our faith into what we're hearing people want and moving forward."

A small clubhouse, walking and bike paths, and one large lake also are planned, not three smaller ponds as originally envisioned.

Gupta said most developers wouldn't consider a continuing care retirement community, or "CCRC," here because the town's population of 5,000 is too small and the "numbers don't work."

"I look at it differently," he said. "This will be the only community around the whole region," including Elizabeth City, Washington and the Outer Banks.

The proposed retirement life-care complex would be modeled after the Twin Lakes Retirement Community, a 25-year-old facility on the border of Elon and Burlington, N.C.

Twin Lakes offers independent retirement living in freestanding garden homes,

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Edenton (Injured Bully Rider) Fundraiser
Pick-up at Top Notch Service Center located on Hwy 32 near Centerhill Cross Roads
Friday, March 14, 2008
11:00am - 2:00pm
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