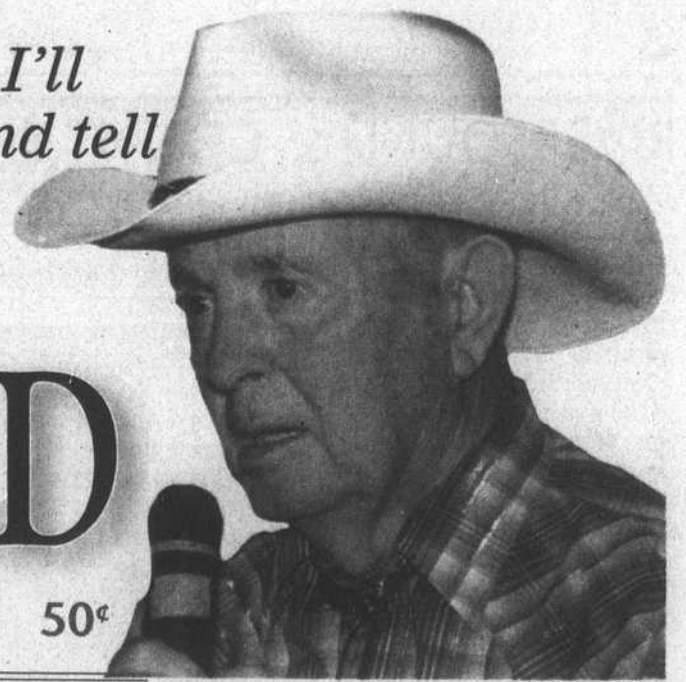


Good ole fashioned down-home fun at Dave's Red Barn C1

"There's no nasty dancing here or I'll come right on down off the stage and tell you to stop." — David Harrell



CHOWAN HERALD

482-4418

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

50¢

Proposed budget to raise real estate taxes, electric rates in town

By Earline White
Managing Editor

Chowan County is proposing to spend \$1 million less next year, according to a budget presentation given Monday night by County Manager Cliff Copeland. "There will be no tax increase this year," he said. The reason behind the decrease is two-fold, Copeland explained. "First, the money to

Upcoming
Public hearing about budget
Monday June 16, 6 p.m.

pay for the library renovation/expansion project — \$600,000 — was included in last year's budget. And second, the \$300,000 normally sent to the state for the county's Medicaid relief is now retained in the local budget following legislation to relieve counties

of the burden." Among the top priorities in the county's budget for next year are interest payments for the library and the \$500,000 grant match for the Red Banks athletic complex project. The largest request on behalf of the countywide departments came from the school system, requesting a 14 percent increase

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By Earline White
Managing Editor

The town's proposed budget for next year includes a seven-percent increase in electric rates as well as a three-cent real estate tax increase from \$.29 to \$.32 per \$100. The town expects to spend about \$300,000 more in fiscal year 08/09 than it did last year. The financial impact of

Upcoming
Public hearing about budget
Tuesday June 10, 6 p.m.

the tax increase for residents could be anywhere from a \$21 increase for a home on Boswell Street (\$70,073 tax value) to a \$213 increase for a home (\$712,158) on East Water Street. Town manager Anne Marie Knighton said that

the proceeds from the tax increase will be used to pay for the principal and interest on the police department's portion of the new public safety center. "I'm all for the new police department even if it does mean raising taxes," Jenny Carrow said. "The officers are underpaid for the job they do in the first place. So anything that helps them

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Parties still weighing options on candidates

Neither party has decided who will run in November

By Vernon Fueston
Contributing Writer

Democrats failed to meet a self-imposed deadline of June 1 to announce a candidate, or lack of one, for a seat on the board of commissioners currently held by Bill Gardner, Jr. Republicans also have not agreed on a candidate to replace Darryl Stallings by press time. Stallings withdrew from the race shortly before Election Day. County Democrats are considering mounting a challenge to Republican candidate Eddy Goodwin, even though they had not filed a candidate by the deadline for the primaries. Goodwin won the Republican primary against Bill Gardner, Jr., the incumbent, 323/208. The winner of that primary was to run unopposed in November. In a news release last week, Democratic chairwoman Martha Badger announced that leaders from her party were considering

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EDENTON STEAMERS ARE 3-1



Justin Falls/The Daily Advance

From left, Steamers' left fielder R.J. Harris gives catcher Ty Boyles a high five after Monday's winning game against the Peninsula Pilots. With seven hits, the Steamers made eight runs, six of which were in the third inning. The Steamers are 3-1.

State looks to prepare students for life beyond testing

Writing for real life among issues to be voted on Thursday

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

State educators are considering changes that would more effectively prepare high school students to succeed in school and beyond. Gone would be such a heavy reliance on test scores. In its place would come a focus on improving graduation rates as well as readying students to succeed as they move into college and jobs. Local school board member John Guard, a retired educator, said he believed the high school was still following a "very industrialized" model of educating students that needed overhauling. "Times have changed," he said. "I think it's time for a change (at John A. Holmes), too."

A new emphasis is also being placed on writing skills across all grade levels, Dr. Allan Smith, superintendent of schools, said. "This is a very critical skill that requires intensive instruction," he said. The recommendations are contained in a draft document entitled "A Framework for Change," based on the findings of a Blue Ribbon Commission on Testing and Accountability named by the state school board last May. The state board is expected to vote on those proposed changes tomorrow. The change in the writing curriculum calls for replacing the current writing assessments used in grades 4, 7 and 10 with a focus on grades K-12 that "includes authentic and on demand writing assignments appropriate to each grade level." (While on demand writing, as its name implies, requires students to complete short-term writing assignments, authentic writing can take weeks and involves

"Times have changed. I think it's time for a change (at John A. Holmes), too." — John Guard



a student using critical thinking skills to write, edit and rewrite a piece of work over a period of time.) Smith briefed the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education on the proposed changes during their monthly meeting Monday night. In other business, the board: ■ Recognized 20-year employees and retirees including Mary Daniels, Allen Harrell, Mary Granby, Maria Jordan, Sheila Evans, Elizabeth Freeman, Brad Bass, Karen Tynch, Grace Bean, Gail Bain, Ralph Hunter, Gloria Forehand, Andy Downing, Pensie Welch, Johnny Barrow, Lynn Bundy, Jay Swicegood, Nancy Rahal, Laura Rankins, Jennet Stallings,

Anne Ziemba, Rever Bonner, Marjorie Hollowell, and Suzanne Palmer. ■ Heard an update on the proposed budget released by the state House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education (at presstime, the subcommittee was scheduled to vote on the state education budget yesterday with a vote on the House floor expected later this week). ■ Voted to approve planned 2008-09 frozen/optional teacher workdays. ■ Gave its approval to plans for federally funded initiatives such as career tech, exceptional children's and Title I programs (those serving disadvantaged students) during the 2008-09 school year. ■ Voted to accept the 2008-09 student handbooks for White Oak and D.F. Walker schools (handbooks for Chowan Middle and John A. Holmes were approved at last month's meeting).

Riversound rezoning tabled

Issues broached include density, wetlands, drainage

By Earline White
Managing Editor

Riversound developer Elliott Harwell was dumbfounded Monday night after the county commissioners tabled Harwell's request for rezoning. Harwell said he had not anticipated such a move. Phase II of the Drummond's Point Road subdivision includes 300-plus lots along the Yeopim River that are encroached by wetlands. Commissioners Louis Belfield and Harry Lee Winslow's major issue with the project concerned the tight clay soil on which the sewage system is to be located. Winslow quoted a 1986 survey by USDA and documents by local conservationist Scott Alons to explain his worries — slow drainage. The area is already prone to flooding because of the Roanoke soil, Winslow explained. How will the wastewater system, which will release 80,000 gallons of water back into the soil, drain without flooding the area, Winslow asked. Commissioner Bill Gardner shared his concerns about the density of the subdivision which could potentially harm the surrounding environment. Several residents including Virginia Wood, Francis and Jeanie Inglis, Richard Flora and Les Kersey spoke against the project citing slow drainage of the soil, disturbing the wetlands and density issues. "What plans are being made to support 800 more vehicles on Drummond's Point Road," Flora asked. Resident Ellen Colodney, whose interests were relayed to the commissioners via a letter, said even though the developer claims that each lot can be accessed without

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