



# ACES TENNIS TEAM IS CONFERENCE CHAMP

SEE STORY B1

# CHOWAN HERALD

482-4418

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

50¢

## Parties drum up voters for upcoming elections

A2

Chamber takes stance on sales tax increase referendum A2

## Parties to hold voter's forum

Voters will have the chance to ask questions of all 10 candidates running for the Chowan County Board of Commissioners at a forum scheduled Tuesday.

Each candidate will be given the chance to make a three-minute statement, Oct. 21, before taking questions from the audience in Edenton's Swain Auditorium.

The forum is sponsored by both the Democratic and Republican Parties of Chowan County and will be moderated by Vernon Fueston, a contributing writer for the Chowan Herald.

This year's election has taken several interesting turns.

None of the candidates knew about the county's financial crisis before filing for this fall's election. This is also the first election in memory where all the seats are contested.

Chowan County's Republicans filed for all available seats for the first time in memory and one candidate is running as unaffiliated.

In a joint statement, the Democratic and Republican Parties said the evening was all about the voters.

"This forum is for the citizens of Chowan County," the statement said. "The two parties wanted to give this chance to the voters to ask these candidates about where they stand on the issues."

The forum will be held from 7 to 9 p.m.

### INDEX

- A Local**
  - Crime .....A4
  - Land Transfers.....A6
  - Editorial .....A7
- B Sports**
  - Recreation News.....B1
  - Outdoors.....B2
  - Nascar .....B3
- C Community News**
  - Upcoming Events.....C2
  - Society .....C4
  - School.....C5
  - Obituaries .....C6
  - Church .....C7, 8
- D Classifieds**
  - Buy/Sell/Trade .....D1
  - Service Directory .....D2
  - Employment.....D4

## ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL



VERNON FUESTON

Cindy Rickenbaker laughs as Kelly Hudzina's pup is anointed at the Blessing of the Animals held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church last week by the Rev. Thomas Rickenbaker.

## New benefits to help unemployed

By Rebecca Bunch  
Staff Writer

Twenty to twenty-five percent of those without jobs locally may qualify for new, state-regulated extended benefits.

Currently, there are almost 700 residents without work.

Checks containing those extended benefits are expected to be available starting this week.

The 'umbrella' is being activated under state law because the North Carolina jobless rate has reached an average of 6.5% for the last three months.

According to Ricky Coltrain, manager of the local Employment Security Commission office, the situation probably won't improve anytime soon.

"We are just in a cycle that does not look like it will end in the near future," he said.

Coltrain said it appears the high unemployment will extend into 2009.

Right now, he said, there is not a lot of local hiring going on.

### Signing up

Those who are without jobs first receive checks for a maximum 26 weeks.

Then, under federal guidelines, those benefits may be extended for 13 weeks if an applicant still has not found work.

This new program, which is state regulated, will be covered by state and federal funds.

It allows for up to 13 weeks of unemployment checks beyond the 39 weeks currently available.

Those checks are limited to 50 percent of the amount for which the person qualified under regular unemployment guidelines.

### New requirements

But there are special stipulations that must be met first.

According to a news release issued by the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, those include:

■ In addition to being able and available for work, anyone attempting to receive these special benefits is required to seek work on two different days at two different places of employment;

■ And, the person must maintain a written record of whom they contacted seeking work; that record must be presented in person at the nearest ESC office.

Anyone interested in learning more about extended benefits can visit [www.ncesc.com](http://www.ncesc.com).

## Town requests new study on bypass

By Vernon Fueston  
Contributing Writer

Responding to citizen complaints, Edenton's town council has asked the DOT to revisit the basic assumptions used to justify a three-mile bypass of the town.

If the DOT conducts the study, it would probably delay the project for six to nine months, according to Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton.

Knighton had announced the town would seek another meeting with DOT officials, but said the town decided the new study was the best method to address concerns.

She said her decision was made after meeting with DOT officials in Raleigh.

She told council members, "By stepping back, this does not jeopardize the project."

Councilman Willis M. Privott asked Knighton if the DOT was willing to consider changing the route.

Knighton said they would only reconsider the need for the project.

A traffic study done by the state's department of transportation in the mid 1990's had concluded that through traffic, including trucks from Edenton's airport industrial park complex, would reach an unacceptable level by 2020.

That finding was the basis of a plan to extend N.C. 94 and re-route traffic to one of three locations on the north end of the town near U.S. 17.

But citizens have pointed

to a reduction in truck traffic through the town after the closing of some manufacturing businesses and shifts in the shipping patterns of others near the town's airport.

The project's supporters contend the town hopes to attract new businesses to replace those lost in recent years.

They also insist the project was never only about truck traffic.

A resolution by the town council said that, "citizens (have) voiced concerns over the need for the road, especially given that truck traffic has declined recently."

The resolution goes on to request the "NCDOT conduct an up to date comprehensive traffic forecast to account for the recent decline in truck traffic and evaluate whether the original need for the project still exists."



Knighton

## DISTRICT TWO



Brown

**Gwendolyn Brown**  
DOB: May 1, 1966; Age: 42  
Political Offices Held: None  
Occupation: Child nutrition manager, After School Plus director, Community juvenile restitution worker  
Party: Unaffiliated



Goodwin

**Edward Goodwin**  
DOB: Sept. 4, 1952; Age: 56  
Political Offices Held: None  
Occupation: Retired Naval Criminal Investigative Service agent, farmer, owner/operator of a software firm  
Party: Republican

## Child advocate to face retired federal agent

By Vernon Fueston  
Contributing Writer

Second district voters will decide Nov. 4 between a retired federal agent with business and farming experience and a long-time community and youth worker.

The race also has some unique twists. Edward (Eddy) Goodwin defeated an incumbent fellow Republican in April's primaries and assumed he would be running unopposed in the election.

Gwendolyn B. Brown filed to run against Goodwin as an unaffiliated candidate at the urging of Chowan's Democratic leadership two months later.

Her announcement came days before the county's citizens were stunned with the news that their surplus funds had dropped below legally mandated levels.

### General qualifications

Goodwin cited his life-long ties to the area as well as his government and business experience as qualifications for his run.

He was born and educated in Chowan County but left as a draftee during the Vietnam War, later joining the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS).

"Having lived and worked all over the world, I decided to move back here," Goodwin said. "That shows how much I love this place."

Retired now from federal service, Goodwin is a farmer and also operates a software development company in Virginia that he started a year and a half ago with three employees. Today it employs 52.

Gwendolyn B. Brown hopes voters will consider her long-time commitment to community service in Chowan County.

Brown has worked for years with Chowan's youth, professionally and as an activist.

As a volunteer, she served 15 years as chairwoman for the Old Hertford Road Community Committee. The group has worked at getting stop signs installed, setting up community watch programs and building playgrounds.

As coordinator of the recreation department's Operation Santa program, she has helped bring a day with Santa Claus to over 300 children for 10 years.

### Issues in the campaign

Brown said the county commission has a bad reputation in the community right now.

See ELECTION, Page A2 >

6 89076 44813 0  
©2006 The Chowan Herald  
All Rights Reserved

**LifeSpan Women's Health Fair - Thursday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> LifeSpan 2 pm - 6 pm @ Edenton United Methodist Church**  
 Free Screenings to include blood pressure, blood glucose, cholesterol, body fat analysis, bone density, spine health, hearing and skin cancer.  
 \* Skin cancer screenings will be available from 2:00 until 4:00 pm to the first 25 who register. \* Hearing screenings will be available from 4:00 until 6:00pm.  
 Edenton United Methodist Church is located next to Chowan Hospital. For more information, call 482-6273. [www.chowan.uhseal.com](http://www.chowan.uhseal.com)