

CHOWAN HERALD

482-4418

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

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Ralph Cole and Kenny Goodwin retain seats



Victoria Asbury, a John A. Holmes High School student and an election assistant, assists a voter as he casts his ballot. Vernon Fueston

ELECTION RESULTS

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|
| District 1, Seat 1 | | | |
| EMMETT E. WINBORNE | Dem. | 1,504 | 65.8% |
| DANA SOLES | Rep. | 781 | 34.2% |
| District 1, Seat 2 | | | |
| KENNY W. GOODWIN | Dem. | 1,383 | 60.6% |
| ALEX E. STALLINGS | Rep. | 898 | 39.4% |
| District 2 | | | |
| EDWARD GOODWIN | Rep. | 1,903 | 66.9% |
| GWENDOLYN B. BROWN | Unaf. | 943 | 33.1% |
| District 3 | | | |
| RALPH COLE, SR. | Dem. | 1,095 | 66.5% |
| EARL W. WILLIS | Rep. | 551 | 33.5% |
| At Large | | | |
| JOHN MITCHENER | Dem. | 3,472 | 47.4% |
| KEITH NIXON | Rep. | 3,857 | 52.6% |
| Sales Tax Increase | | | |
| YES | | 1,869 | 29.7% |
| NO | | 4,430 | 70.3% |

Republicans win 2 seats. Democrats win 3. Sales tax increase 0.25 percent overwhelmingly fails to win voter approval.

By **Vernon Fueston and Rebecca Bunch**
The Chowan Herald

Both incumbents on Chowan County's board of commissioners will retain their seats by handy margins.

Ralph Cole, Sr., retained his seat with 66.5 percent of the vote over Republican Earl W. Willis.

"When I look at the numbers it would be a slap in the face [to those who voted for me] if I didn't serve," Cole said Tuesday night.

Fellow incumbent Kenny Goodwin, a Democrat, won with 60.6 percent against Republican Alex Stallings.

Republicans will have two seats on the new board for a net a net gain of one seat.

Edward Goodwin, a Republican defeated Gwendolyn B. Brown, an unaffiliated candidate running with the endorsement of the county's Democratic leadership, with 66.9 percent of the vote.

Also winning were Emmett E. Winborne, a Democrat over Dana Soles, a Republican, with 65.8 percent.

Of 10,550 registered voters in the county, 7,509 cast a ballot for a turnout of 71.2 percent.

Despite expressed voter anger over \$20 million in lost county reserve funds, voters retained both incumbents in a five-seat race and elected three Democrats to the board of commissioners.

Voters defeated a sales tax increase of 0.25 percent proposed by the current board of commissioners with a

vote of 70.3 percent against.

Cole said the results would present a big problem for the county.

"We're going to have to go back to the drawing board," Cole said.

Many voters had seemed in a mood for a change on the commission board, but many also voted based on personal loyalties.

Theresa Alexander said, "I want to change the whole commission. They had to know what was going on. I got a bad taste in my mouth about it."

John Schuyler said personality was a deciding factor in his vote. "I've known Kenny Goodwin for 19 years."

Willie Shannonhouse, Jr. said he didn't blame the commissioners in office. "I think the one that was bad is gone, so you can't fault someone else for his errors."

Few voter said their wish to change the commission was motivated by a desire to elect a Republican slate.

"I mixed it up," Joe Calahan said. "I voted for a couple of people I hoped would make the county a better place to live."

When it came to the sales tax referendum, few voters expressed a willingness for more taxes.

"I feel we have enough taxes right now, the way the economy is," Kenneth Dunn said.

This was the first election in memory where a full slate of Republican candidates was fielded in a commission race.

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With a little help from his friends

Residents pool efforts to make home a little nicer for a blind man who works to serve others

By **Vernon Fueston**
Contributing Writer

The world, it seems, is full of quiet people who make the place a tiny bit better by working quietly around its edges.

For decades, Bill Elliott's friends have watched him toil on the Lord's errand despite his own handicaps. It's about time, they decided, for the Lord to use them to pay him back just a little.

Through handicaps
For Bill Elliott, Monday was a chance to take a break, read and relax. Just off a hectic week ministering to the spiritual needs of prison inmates with Kiros ministries, Elliott is between projects.

These are the kinds of

days Elliott likes to read. He has an extensive library, several bookcases crammed with books. But reading them takes a little more effort than it might for most of us.

Bill Elliott is legally blind and gets around on one foot. He finds a wheel chair cumbersome, so Elliott sits on the floor for the most part and scoots about his home on his hands.

When he reads, it's with the help of a 10X magnifying lens. It's a slow process, done with the book just inches from his eye, but his books are a lifeline for Elliott.



Elliott

Elliott has always had vision problems. When he was five, his doctor told him he would never be able to attend public school. But he did.

Unable to see the chalkboard, his teachers gave him handouts and his fellow students took turns reading to him. Elliott said he would have graduated with his class, but he had to drop out due to his leg.

He never has been sure what the medical condition was that took his right foot. It was always malformed and doctors believed they could cure it by breaking the bones in his foot and resetting them.

But on closer examination, doctors decided not to try the surgery. His nerves and blood circulation were poor and the foot had to be amputated.

Today, Elliott has an artificial foot he attaches to his

ankle whenever he needs to go somewhere and walk for short distances. He said he gets around pretty well with the help of a walking stick, but he can't sustain the effort for long periods.

For longer walks Elliott uses a motorized chair. But around the house, he has learned to do pretty much everything he needs to do on the floor.

Leaning on a strong arm
For Elliott, his handicaps are a gift from God that's brought him greater spiritual strength.

"I have faith in God," Elliott said. "I think the things that happen to us — they shape us and they mold us. I'm not sure I would be as close to Him now if it weren't for the things that have happened to me."

Elliott's Christian faith

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Pet Corner

So far this year, the Tri-County Animal Shelter in Tyner has euthanized 2,202 animals. Please have your pet spayed or neutered.



Currently available: a Hound mix, one-year-old; a female Rat Terrier about 4-years-old, house broken. Call 221-8514 for more information.



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Town council examines costs as revenues continue to shrink

By **Vernon Fueston**
Contributing Writer

A slowing national economy is making itself felt at Edenton's town hall.

As home sales slow and merchant's receipts shrink, town leaders are looking at cost savings and service cuts to make up the difference.

At a town council meeting Monday, Anne-Marie Knighton highlighted figures she said show a slowdown in tax revenues from real estate and sales taxes, economic sectors sensitive to a slowing economy.

Knighton warned that the slowing numbers reflect economic activity before this month's national economic difficulties. She said the council should discuss cost-cutting measures now if it wants to end the fiscal year with equal revenues and expenditures.

The hardest hit revenue item on the town's financial statement has been the land transfer tax. The town collected less than half what it had projected in land transfers taxes in the first quar-

ter of the Town's fiscal year.

Knighton suggested a budget amendment for that line item reducing projected revenue from \$110,000 to \$55,000 for the year.

Knighton also proposed amending the budget by almost \$62,000 in anticipation of decreasing property tax collections and sales tax receipts.

She said that, so far, sales tax receipts and property tax collections have not fallen below projections.

The council discussed several cost cutting options including reducing the number of days the town collects solid waste. Knighton said such a measure would not save on labor, but would save money in fuel and truck maintenance.

"We have time to make adjustments," Knighton said. "We need to freeze whatever capital (expenditures) have made it into the general



Knighton

fund."

Knighton went on to list \$60,000 worth of planned expenditures she suggested the town should cut.

She reminded the council that funds may not be available for an open police officer's position the council froze until January.

Council members floated several ideas in the meeting for saving money like reducing the work hours for town employees by 30 minutes per day. Eliminating the mailing of separate delinquency notices for electric customers was also discussed.

The matter of a pilot program to reduce residential trash collections was scheduled for action at the Nov. 10 council meeting.

The Council favorably received a recommendation to reduce residential garbage collection from twice a week to once week.

It was suggested that the pilot program could be evaluated in April when the council will be discussing the 2009-10 budget.

No action was taken on the other suggestions.

Foundation funds 'fit track'

Fighting youth obesity a growing concern

By **Rebecca Bunch**
Staff Writer

Construction is scheduled to begin next month on a project designed to enhance physical fitness among young children.

Known as Project Fit Track, the initiative will provide for the development of two interlocking paved walking tracks behind the elementary schools, according to Shannon Ray of the Northern Chowan Commu-

nity Center.

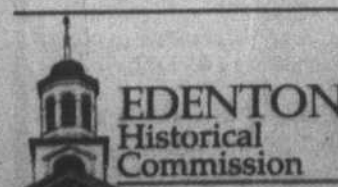
Ray is a member of the committee that developed the proposal.

Ray said the project "will increase routine physical activity for students and staff at White Oak and D.F. Walker elementary schools."

The two walking tracks will be paid for with \$7,500 provided by the Chowan Hospital Foundation.

"Fit Track funding will purchase fitness stations with signage around the track to improve cardiovascular fitness, strength, conditioning and provide educa-

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