

Conservatives plan tea party to protest tax increases

By Vernon Fueston
Staff Writer

Edenton conservatives will hold a tea party protest on the Chowan County's courthouse steps expressing their displeasure with increased government spending and the taxes they say are sure to follow.

Bob Steinburg, Chowan County's Republican Party chairman said Americans for Prosperity is sponsoring the

event in North Carolina. The group will be holding similar "tea parties" across the state on April 15.

Other movements are planning simultaneous protests in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Steinburg said. The group has 10 rallies planned around the state.

Edenton's selection as a protest site has roots in North Carolina history. Penelope Barker organized a tea party at the home of Elizabeth King

in 1774, protesting the British tax on tea.

The event, where 51 women signed a pact not to purchase tea, was the first political action by women in the colonies and predated the Boston Tea Party.

Steinburg said the event is not just a Republican protest.

"We're all taxpayers," he said. "Basically, what we are trying to do is increase awareness across the state and locally about taxation without

representation in North Carolina.

"Our state government over the years has put its financial house in dreadful shape. Money is being wasted and this has been a pattern. If you look at this and what's been going on in Chowan County, this is a chance to show folks we've had it. Enough is enough."

Steinburg said he is incensed by Governor Perdue's plan to spend an additional \$680 million of state money as

a way to stimulate the state's economy. But he also said the federal government will not escape notice during the rallies.

"People are fed up," Steinburg said. "This is also about earmarks, spending sprees and all kinds of fiscal irresponsibility on the national, state and local level."

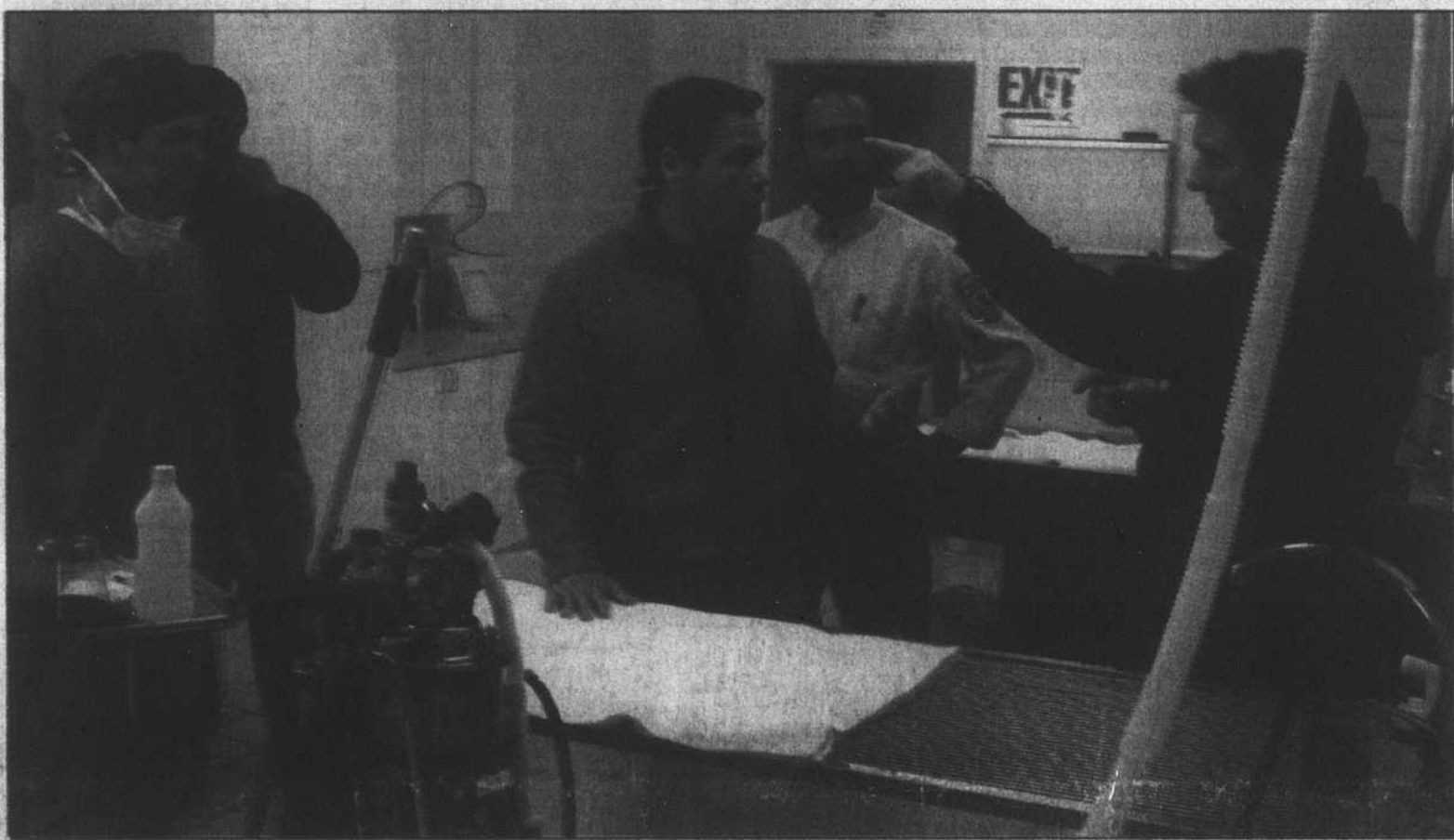
The tea party will be held on the steps of the Chowan County Courthouse on April 15 at 5 p.m.

IF YOU GO

WHAT:
Edenton Tea Party Pt. II
WHEN:
April 15, 5 p.m.
WHERE:
1767 Chowan Co. Courthouse

Similar parties are being held across the state.

Animal Planet star shoots film in Chowan



VERNON FUESTON/THE CHOWAN HERALD

Dr. Christian Ford, Jeff Corwin, Wildlife officer Christopher Lucash and director discuss a shot during Jeff Corwin's documentary 100 Heartbeats.

Animal hospital's conservation efforts subject of film

By Vernon Fueston
Staff Writer

With a dozen staff members and technicians standing behind the camera, documentary star Jeff Corwin explains the process he will use to subdue and tranquilize the caged coyote at his feet. Mid sentence, he makes a slashing motion across his throat.

"Somebody's got a radio going in reception room," Corwin says. "Can we kill that?"

A technician scampers after the offending music and the song dies mid-note.

As the camera's roll again, Corwin describes the injection the Coyote will receive but is stopped mid sentence as an air conditioning unit kicks in just feet away.

"I guess there's nothing we can do about that," Corwin says as the crew waits for the machine to cycle off.

International documentary

Jeff Corwin is the Emmy-winning star of the Animal Planet Channel's Jeff Corwin Experience and one of the nation's most prominent and recognizable voices for wildlife conservation.

He's come to Chowan County to film a portion of his new three-continent documentary, 100 Heartbeats. He said the documentary will tell the story of 100 species facing extinction around the world.

"It's the ultimate club that you don't want to join," Corwin said, "because if you join it, your exclusive membership means you are just a heartbeat away from extinction."

Corwin has gone to South America, Africa and throughout North America to film conservationist's effort to save endangered species. On this continent, he



VERNON FUESTON/THE CHOWAN HERALD

Ford, left, during filming for Jeff Corwin's new documentary, 100 Heartbeats. Ford operated on a coyote as part of the red wolf conservation program.

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County pays back first installment

By Vernon Fueston
Staff Writer

At a regularly scheduled commission meeting Monday, Chowan's county commissioners posted a \$180,000 transfer from its fire fund back to the hospital reserve fund.

It was the first transfer replacing part of over \$19.5 million taken from the hospital fund during the tenure of its former county manger, Cliff Copeland as what he frequently described as "loans" to cover basic county expenses.

The money replenishing the hospital fund came from the county's fire fund to cover transfers it had taken to cover operating expenses.

Like most of the 20 transactions that depleted the hospital fund between 1999 and 2008, Peter Rascoe, Chowan's current county manager, said it was difficult to pin down exactly what the money was used for or exactly when it was borrowed.

He said this money, like the rest transferred by Copeland in the other 19 transactions, was used to cover regular county operating expenses.

Rascoe said the fire fund has slowly built up its balance by what he called "prudent spending," allowing it to transfer the money back.

The hospital fund was created after the sale of Chowan Hospital to University Health Systems. The county's commissioners at the time resolved to keep the money as an emergency reserve and spend only 75 percent the interest earned on the account.

Budget deficits over a four-year period depleted the fund, which had dwindled to a balance of \$585,000 before the repayment.

In other business, the commissioners canceled the planned purchase of \$208,000 in county vehicles to help balance this year's budget.

The county canceled the purchase of a \$120,000 ambulance and \$88,000 worth of sheriff's department vehicles.

Rascoe also announced that the county has received state approval to offer a discount for the early payment of property

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Moore out as Holmes principal; parents, teachers upset

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education voted Monday night to uphold the resignation of John A. Holmes High School Principal William "Bill" Moore.

The vote was taken during a closed session at the end of the board's regular monthly meeting. Those sessions are typically held to discuss per-



REBECCA BUNCH/THE CHOWAN HERALD

Deanna Chesson was one of a number of concerned parents who spoke during Monday night's meeting, asking that the administration reconsider its acceptance of Moore's resignation.

sonnel issues.

The action came despite the pleas of more than two dozen parents and students who spoke on Moore's behalf during the meeting, requesting that the board not accept his resignation and allow him to remain at the school.

Dr. Allan Smith, super-

intendent of schools, had already accepted Moore's letter of resignation, dated March 23. Moore had said his last day of work would be Tuesday, June 30.

Moore was unavailable for comment on the decision prior to presstime. His secretary told the *Chowan Herald*

late last week that he had gone to Oklahoma to be with family and friends following the death of his father.

Keeping quiet

During the hour-plus discussion at the meeting Monday night, school board

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Unemployment falls; fair held

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

For Diane Deems of Rocky Hock Friday's Job Fair offered a ray of hope that there are still good jobs out there.

Deems, who lost her job of 30 years when the Dye Plant closed, said she had been looking for another job "for a long while" after the economy tanked.

Deems was one of about 200 local residents who turned out to talk with potential employers.

Also looking for work was Michelle Lassiter who lived "right up the street," she said.

Lassiter was talking with Charlie Smith of Northrop Grumman, a Virginia-based aerospace company.

She was surprised to learn that the company would pay a starting student about \$13 an hour to attending the compa-

DID YOU KNOW?

Chowan County's unemployment rate edged down slightly in February, according to just-released figures from the state Employment Security Commission.

The number of those looking for work dropped to 12.5 percent, down from 12.8 percent last month.

ny's apprentice school.

By the time a student completes training, Smith said, he or she would be making over \$21 an hour.

"People will be kicking themselves when they find out they missed out on an opportunity like that by not coming out today," said Pastor Chris Jones, of Cape Colony Church of Christ.

Cape Colony COC offered the use of its facilities for the Job Fair.

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NOTE

Submission deadlines — photos, text, corrections, etc. — Friday 5 p.m.



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