

CHOWAN HERALD

Cotton blossom found

482-4418

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

50¢



HEATHER LISSEY

The first cotton blossom of the year was reported by Ricky Toppin of Rocky Hock. He found the bloom June 26. From left, Garland Toppin, Ricky Toppin and Ricky Toppin, Jr.

Chowan taps into reserve account

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

Only two days into the new budget year, Chowan County was forced to dip into its reserve funds during an emergency meeting to prevent the county from being overdrawn at the bank.

Chowan County Commissioners voted unanimously

to borrow \$125,000 from the county's reserve funds to cover the expense of federal and state employee payroll withholding taxes, and retirement benefits, for the month of June.

County Manager Peter Rascoe said the action was necessary because of a "keying error" that county finance officer Lisa Jones made, and

discovered, as the county was closing out the month of June.

That error left the county effectively "out of cash," said Rascoe, and its bank account would have been overdrawn at 2 p.m. Thursday if the action had not been taken.

"These expenses and the revenues to cover them were budgeted, so it's purely a cash-

flow problem, and not one of any type of budget oversight," Rascoe emphasized.

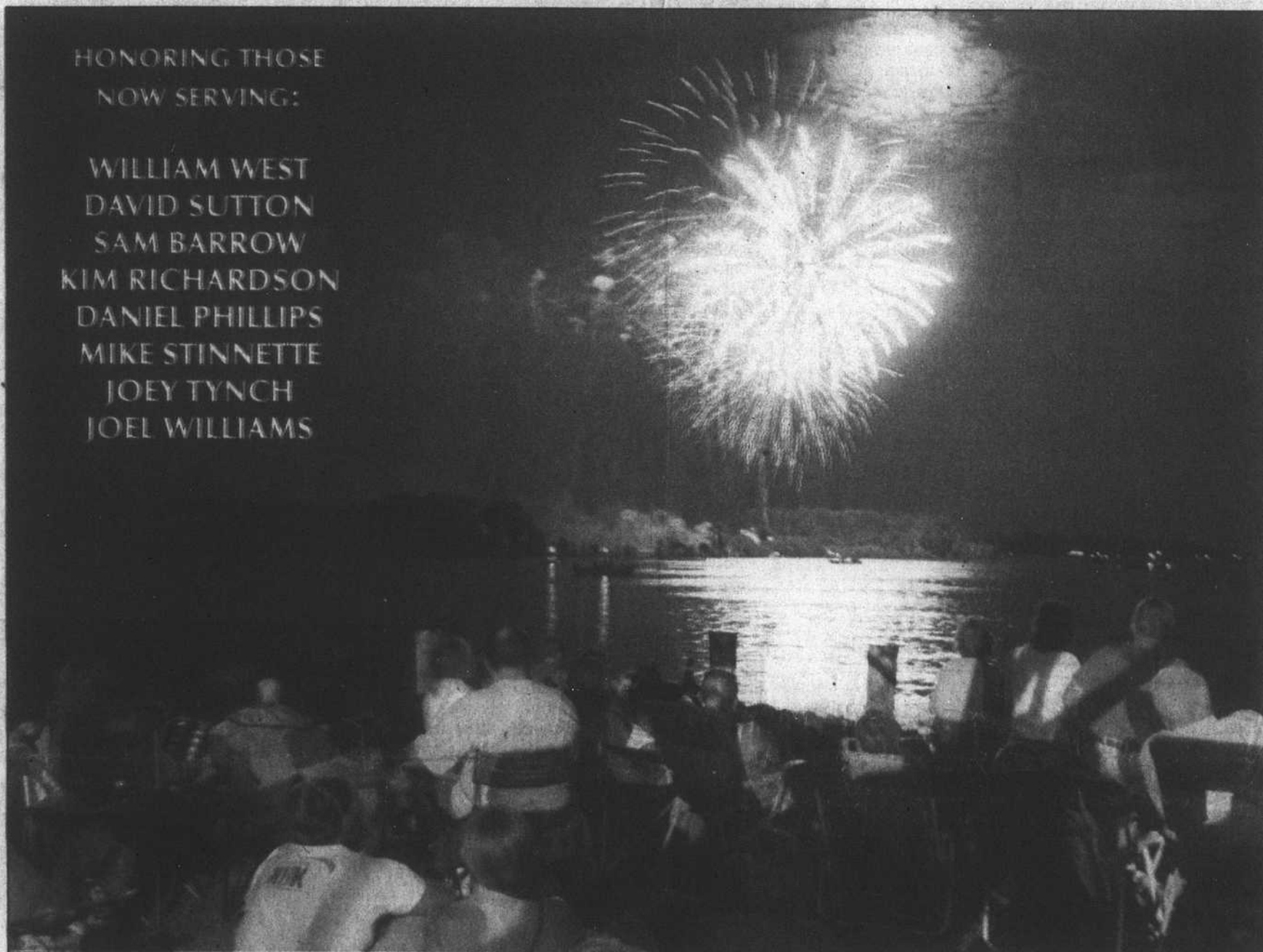
Commissioner Kenny Goodwin suggested that the board adopt a 90-day timetable for repaying the funds, but in the end, the motion passed said only that the funds would be repaid as quickly as possible.

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Fabulous Fourth = Family Food Fun

HONORING THOSE
NOW SERVING:

WILLIAM WEST
DAVID SUTTON
SAM BARROW
KIM RICHARDSON
DANIEL PHILLIPS
MIKE STINETTE
JOEY TYNCH
JOEL WILLIAMS



More than 1,500 people gathered at, in or near Edenton Bay for the annual Edenton-Chowan Optimist Fabulous Fourth of July celebration.

The day's festivities kicked off with the Edenton Tea Party Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution's reading of the Declaration of Independence by Harvey Binns on the

courthouse green. A biographical sketch of local historic figure Joseph Hewes was given by Bob Adams.

That afternoon, activities geared up at Colonial Park. The Marine Corps League Edenton Unit raised the flag. A reading of names of those locals who are currently serving abroad for our freedom struck a cord throughout the crowd.

Food, entertainment by Steve Hardy's Original Beach Party, arts, crafts and more ran until dark when everyone stared into the sky for the lighted display.

A fabulous time was had by all.

photos by Earline White & Rebecca Bunch



Binns

Council seats up for grabs

Filing period for Nov. municipal election ends Friday, July 17

Three Edenton Town Council seats are up for grabs this November. As of press time, only one of the three incumbents had filed for re-election in the upcoming municipal election.

Councilman-at-large incumbent Jerry L. Parks, third ward incumbent Phyllis Britton and fourth ward incumbent Willis Privott are up for re-election. All were appointed to fill unexpired terms after previous council members' resignations.

Parks was appointed in 1991; Britton in 2005; Privott in 1980.

Privott filed for re-election Tuesday.

The filing period opened Friday, July 3 and will close Friday, July 17.

So far only one resident has filed to run in November. Retired construction worker George Grother, 65, filed Monday for the at-large seat. Grother has lived in the area for nine years. He volunteers at the Food Bank, with Habitat for Humanity and is a Book Buddy at Walker.

"There needs to be fresh blood, a fresh approach," Grother said. He added that the budget, housing and especially jobs were areas that he would like to concentrate on.

Absentee voting by mail will be Oct. 2-Oct. 27. Registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 9. Early voting starts Oct. 15; ends Oct. 31.

County hires new personnel

By Dee Langston
Contributor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners named Deputy Sheriff Cordell Palmer as the county's new emergency management coordinator Monday night, during its first meeting in the county's public safety center on West Freemason Street.

Palmer will take on some of the duties of Doug Belch, the county's former public safety director, who retired June 30 after 28 years with the county. Belch served as the county's emergency management coordinator and as its fire marshal and employee safety officer.

Palmer's new position is a collateral role, explained County Manager Peter Rascoe during a telephone inter-

Are students being prepared for a high-level science curriculum?

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

Questions about whether students at Holmes High School would benefit from a change in the science curriculum will have to wait for another day.

School board members on Monday night sent back the

list of recommendations that had been compiled by the science faculty at the school, and suggested the teachers take another look at them.

The study was prompted by concerns on the part of some board members that students are not being as well prepared for post-high school studies as they should be.

But teachers are concerned about the whether some students could successfully complete chemistry classes.

Teacher Steve Karl, who presented the recommendations on behalf of the Holmes faculty, said their ideas were

based on a desire to help all students achieve to their fullest potential.

He expressed concern that students who signed up for a chemistry class without the proper foundation in related science and math courses could find it difficult to make a passing grade.

"What we're suggesting would not cut anybody out," he said. "I think what we're trying to do is make sure they're ready."

BEST OPTIONS

The report from Karl fol-

lowed ongoing discussions among school board members, particularly Gil Burroughs, a retired chemistry and physics teacher, about whether the current curriculum was meeting the needs of students who, for example, might not take honors chemistry but would need to understand the basics were they to take EMT or other types of medical training at a community college.

That led to a concern, according to Dr. Allan Smith, superintendent of schools, about whether the school system needed to restore physi-

cal science or some other type of similar course to give students a more solid foundation before they entered a chemistry class.

That requirement was eliminated by the state some years ago, Smith said.

COURSE OF STUDY

The teachers' recommendations suggested two things with regard to students struggling to pass higher-level science courses:

• If students have achieved an acceptable level of compe-

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