

Property sales bolster county finances

One deal includes sale of 2.5 acres for \$275K

"Hopefully, by the end of the fiscal year, the fund balance will be increasing because of these efforts."
— Peter Rascoe, Chowan County Manager

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Two recent real estate deals should help bolster Chowan County's fund balance. On Friday County Man-

ager Peter Rascoe explained that two county transactions would help shore up the fund balance by the end of the fiscal year.

Rascoe briefed the Board of Commissioners Dec. 7 about

the land sales.

The most prosperous deal was slated to close Thursday (Dec. 10). Chowan sold 2.5 acres of land on Virginia Road for \$275,000. Located beside the Walgreen's currently

under construction, Rascoe said the property, which had no debt service payment, is slated to be a medical office.

"Hopefully, by the end of the fiscal year, the fund balance will be increasing because of

these efforts," Rascoe said.

On Dec. 1, Chowan sold the Albemarle Learning Center to the Boys and Girls Club. The transaction includes 8 acres and a building. By selling the property, the county

increased its general fund \$32,095 while paying off two debts related to the site.

"That was good news for the county because there are

See SALES on Page 6A

Financial struggles reach pets

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

Another ripple effect of the down-trodden economy can be found at local animal shelters where more pet owners are surrendering their animals because they can no longer afford to care for them.

"And we have more (animals) coming every day."

Ginny White
Chowan animal control officer

That's the case at the Tri-County Animal Shelter in Edenton where 638 dogs and 1,069 cats have been euthanized between January and October. Tri-County Animal Shelter serves Chowan, Gates and Perquimans counties. In Chowan, the only county of the three required to record owner surrenders, 232 pets were turned in during the 10-month period.

"These are people who've lost their homes after losing their jobs," said Ginny White, an animal control officer who works at the shelter. "They've had to move in with family, or leave their houses and move into apartments where pets aren't allowed."

As bleak as the numbers are, the situation was worse in 2008, when the economy nosedived, White said.

Overall, there were 3,099 animals taken to the shelter during 2008. Between January and Oct. 30 of this year,

See PETS on Page 6A



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

The souring economy has led to an increase in the number of pet surrenders at area animal shelters. As a result, more dogs and cats, like the ones pictured here at the Tri-County Animal Shelter, are being euthanized.

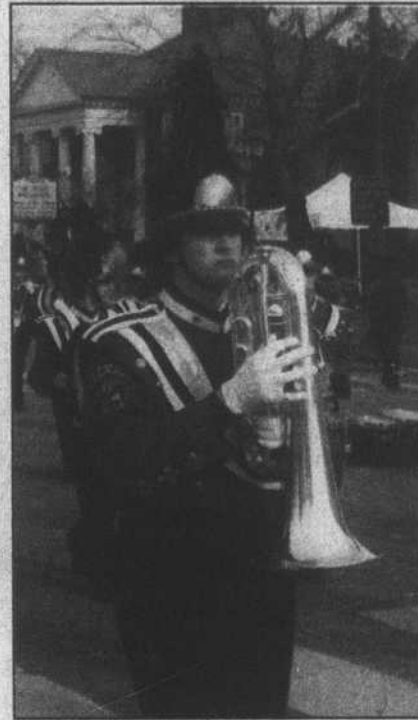


©2009 The Chowan Herald All Rights Reserved

Here comes Santa Claus



Santa rides aboard a fire truck during the Edenton's Christmas parade, Saturday. Top right: A member of the John A. Holmes High School marching band is seen marching in the parade with his band mates, Saturday. Bottom right: Spectators line the streets to watch the parade as it proceeds pass them. See more photos from the parade on page 8B.



Christmas parade, Candlelight Tour headline holiday weekend events

An Old Fashion Christmas was the theme of Saturday's parade and between the seasonal temperatures and the assorted holiday floats, organizers deemed the weekend a success.

The annual Christmas Candlelight Tour kicked off the weekend celebration with more than 1,300 visitors partaking in the event that gains in recognition with each passing year.

"The number of visitors was close to what we had last year," said Becky Winslow, organizer. "I'm amazed because I know how the economy is."

Winslow said she saw many of the same visitors this year as in the past. "People try to keep the tour on their calendar," Winslow said.

Folks from across the Carolinas and Virginia frequent the annual tour of Edenton's historic district.

Winslow said tracking data indicates that visitors from Virginia appear to be the most represented. She theorizes that visitors tend to make daylong trips.

Parade goers stretched from Roses on Virginia Road through downtown along Broad Street. Spectators were treated to four high school march-

See PARADE on Page 9A

Chowan to consider mental health options

Staff Reports

Chowan County officials will join the ranks of neighboring counties as they consider how to proceed with providing mental health care.

Representatives from East Carolina Behavioral Health will pitch its services to the Chowan County Board of Commissioners at next month's meeting. Like all 10 of the counties that have been using the Albemarle Mental Health Center before an audit revealed the agency was in financial peril, Chowan has until July 1 to decide who will provide the county mental health services. Costs will likely be as critical of an issue as the quality of services, particularly for a county still reeling from its own financial struggles.

Chowan had been paying \$2 per capita for its mental health services, or \$34,000. That's twice as much as two years ago, but less than the amount of services received, said County Manager Peter Rascoe.

"We will be seeking to do the same thing," Rascoe said Monday. "Hopefully, we'll be paying the same this year."

Pasquotank County Manager Randy Keaton and Camden County Manager Randell Woodruff both told county commissioners in their respective counties on Dec. 7 that ECBH appears to be the only practical choice for mental health services in the coming fiscal year.

The state Division of Mental Health con-

See OPTIONS on Page 9A

Cost of power to remain unchanged

By Rebecca Bunch
Staff Writer

Edenton residents will not experience a rate increase anytime soon.

Electricities has no plans to raise the rates it charges Edenton and other municipal members. No rate hikes is welcome news in a community where the jobless rate hovers just under 12 percent, said Mayor Roland Vaughan.

"The town is pleased to see

that the agency has been able to increase working capital to a level where it is hoped that wholesale rates can remain stable for the next several years," Vaughan said.

Electricities' Chief Executive Officer Graham Edwards offered that assurance during the Dec. 8 Town Council meeting.

"Are you confident enough that we can plan our budget around that?" asked Councilman Willis Privott.

See POWER on Page 6A

DA won't pursue murder charges

By DIANA MAZZELLA
Staff Writer
The Daily Advance

The woman who was first charged with conspiring to kill her ex-husband will not face new charges.

District Attorney Frank Parrish ruled there was insufficient evidence to indict Dawn Teachey in connection with the 2005 shooting of Thomas K. Harvin III, of Edenton.



Harvin Parrish

On April 7, 2005, Harvin was ambushed outside Teachey's Camden County home by Stacey Bayles, a woman identified in court documents as Teachey's girlfriend.

According to law enforcement officials, Bayles shot Harvin in the face with a .22-caliber handgun, but during their struggle, Harvin took the pistol away and shot Bayles. She later died.

Parrish cleared Harvin of any wrongdoing in Bayles' shooting. But the district attorney later charged Teachey with conspiring to kill her ex-husband.

Parrish dismissed the charge, however, prior to the start of Teachey's trial.

Harvin later filed a civil lawsuit against Teachey, and in August, Superior Court Judge Jerry R. Tillett ruled in his favor, finding that Teachey acted as part of a civil conspiracy to murder her ex-husband. The judge awarded Harvin \$126,000 in damages.

Following the civil

See CHARGES on Page 9A