



Deputy challenges sheriff

SEE PAGE 1B

Basnight, Spear deny succession rumor



Basnight Spear Steinburg

Columnist: Spear to replace senator

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

EDENTON — State Sen. Marc Basnight and state Rep. Tim Spear both denied this week

assertions by a local columnist that the longtime state Senate leader will vacate his seat next year to make way for Spear to succeed him.

Spear, D-Washington, told the Chowan Herald on Friday that there's no truth to Bob Steinburg's claim in a recent column that he intends to seek

Basnight's seat once the Senate president pro tempore steps down next year because of his rare and degenerative nerve disorder.

"I have never expressed any interest to serve in Basnight's Senate seat," Spear, who plans to seek re-election to his House seat, said Friday.

Schorr Johnson, a Basnight spokesman, also denied Steinburg's assertion that the Dare County Democrat plans to leave his seat next year.

"That is absolutely not true," Johnson said. "He is planning to seek re-election. He plans on

See SPEAR on Page 2A

Banquet Honors



PHOTO BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

(L-R) Jadelle Wagner and Jean Brown pose after Brown presented Wagner as Downtown Destination's Main Street Champion at Thursday's Chamber of Commerce 2010 Annual Meeting & Banquet. Wagner is manager of Peebles department store. Brown is president of Destination Downtown.

Four tapped for Chamber's annual awards

From staff reports

The Edenton - Chowan Chamber of Commerce held its annual awards banquet Thursday night, honoring four from the community for their outstanding contributions.

Olin Sykes was awarded the Business Person of the Year. Debra Lee of downtown Edenton's Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) presented Sykes with the honor, citing his business commitment to the community where he owns and operates an accounting firm for the last 25 years.



Sykes

Five of Sykes 18 employees have been with him since he formed his business. "That says a lot about his business," Lee added.

Sykes previously served as president of the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary. He has also been ac-

Our group picked Olin because of his long-standing business and the various organizations that he has served," Lee said.

Five of Sykes 18 employees have been with him since he formed his business. "That says a lot about his business," Lee added.

Sykes previously served as president of the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary. He has also been ac-

tive with the Edenton - Chowan Community Foundation and the Edenton - Chowan Development Cooperation.

Jadelle Wagner was tapped as Destination Downtown's Main Street Champion.

"We couldn't think of anyone more deserving," said Jean Brown, Downtown Destination president. "She works tirelessly to make sure her business and downtown are successful."

Her distinction qualifies her for the state honor.

Wagner is manager of Peebles department store.

Bob Germain was chosen as Volunteer of the Year.

"He serves as a volunteer on multiple organizations throughout the county," said Mike Jackson, who presented him with the award.

Germain has volunteered on behalf of the James Iredell House and Historic Edenton Visitor Center as well as Kiwanis.

The Humanitarian of the Year honor went to Lucille Pesceovich for her countless contributions to the community.

"It did not surprise me when

See AWARDS on Page 3A

Copeland email raises questions

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

An email between former County Manager Cliff Copeland and the developer of a sound side project raises questions about a potential conflict of interest between the two men.

Copies of email exchanges from Copeland's former electronic account obtained by the Chowan Herald via a public information request, suggest that the beleaguered former employee might have been too cozy with Sam Young, developer of the 900-acre Sandy



Copeland

See COPELAND on Page 2A

County manager appointed to vacant seat

From staff reports

Chowan County Manager Peter Rascoe has been appointed to fill a vacant seat on the state's Clean Water Management Trust Fund Board of Trustees, marking his second stint on the board.

Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight appointed Edenton's Rascoe, to the state board effective immediately. In 2005, then House Speaker Jim Black asked him to serve a four-year term with the trust fund.

"Peter's strong commitment to the state's water resources is evidenced by his willing to continue to serve as one of our trustees, as well as by his previous work with several of our conservation and preservation partners," said CWMTF Executive Director Richard Rogers in a press release.

Prior to his 2005 appointment to the CWMTF board, Rascoe served on the board of directors of the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust and the Friends of the Museum of the Albemarle.

The Clean Water Management Trust Fund Board of Trustees

to the state board effective immediately. In 2005, then House Speaker Jim Black asked him to serve a four-year term with the trust fund.

"Peter's strong commitment to the state's water resources is evidenced by his willing to continue to serve as one of our trustees, as well as by his previous work with several of our conservation and preservation partners," said CWMTF Executive Director Richard Rogers in a press release.

Prior to his 2005 appointment to the CWMTF board, Rascoe served on the board of directors of the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust and the Friends of the Museum of the Albemarle.

The Clean Water Management Trust Fund Board of Trustees

See RASCOE on Page 2A

Man pleads guilty to stabbing women in 2009

From staff reports

Midway through James Bemby's Superior Court trial Monday on charges of at-

tempted murder, he reached a plea agreement with prosecutors that guarantees the defendant more than 13 years and as many as 17 1/2 years in prison.

Chowan County jurors didn't have to decide the fate of Bemby, charged with the two counts of attempted murder for the May 23, 2009, stabbing of a woman and her daughter.

Prosecutors agreed to allow Bemby, 43, to plead guilty to two counts of a lesser felony of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious injury.

Each conviction carries no less than 80 months and no more than 105 months, or between 160 and 210 months, behind bars.

Bemby stabbed Eliza-

beth Bowe 15 times near the corner of Martin Luther King Drive and Cox Avenue. Bemby had first attempted to attack Bowe's daughter, Alicia, but the younger woman fled the scene in a car, court records show. Bemby grabbed hold of the fleeing car and later fell in the street. Bemby then proceeded to stab Elizabeth Bowe.

As Alicia Bowe returned to help her mother, Bemby then attacked the woman, police say.

Bemby was also charged with two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

Bemby had attacked Alicia Bowe one month earlier at a family gathering, said Edenton Police Cpl. Steve White.



©2009 The Chowan Herald All Rights Reserved

SURPRISE HER!
Give Her Exactly What She Wants...

SASLOW'S
JEWELERS



Eastern North Carolina's
Finest Jewelry Store