

## Plans to sell liquor at Sandy Point were foiled

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

County email records show that there was an undercurrent to bring liquor by the drink to Sandy Point until efforts ran aground. After the 900-acre Sandy Point was the beneficiary of special legislation and a Chowan County land use plan alteration that



Copeland

Sam Young sought to add liquor by the drink to the

changed the set-back restrictions along the Albemarle Sound to accommodate higher density, developer

project. Chowan County does not permit the sell of mixed drinks. When Young was informed that he would need to pursue a private club, such as a sports club for shooting or tennis, he balked. Young wrote in a Jan. 24, 2008 email to Cliff Copeland and Peter Rascoe, "We are going to have to

get more creative. In the first instance, we will not be able to satisfy the limitation/criteria, to wit: "... an establishment's gross receipts for club activities shall be greater than its gross receipts for alcoholic beverages." There will be more whiskey sold than bullets or balls." Young added that plans called for Sandy Point to

include several establishments that would sell whiskey. Rascoe said Young's email caused him to put the brakes on any planning research on the developer's behalf. "It was obvious that I had done all that the county could do on a planning question," Rascoe said. "Anything more would

have to be done by the developer." Rascoe had presented Young and Copeland with the rules for meeting the requirements of a spots club like Albemarle Plantation in Perquimans County. State regulations require a sports club's gross receipts for club activities

See LIQUOR, 4A

## County behind on collecting late taxes

From staff reports

Collection of Chowan County tax delinquencies has stalled. County Manager Peter Rascoe told the Board of Commissioners during its Feb. 5 meeting that the slow collections were primarily due to a lack of personnel. "We're getting somewhat behind on collecting tax delinquencies each month," Rascoe said. "We're starting to get an accumulation of tax delinquency that we haven't had." He indicated that the county needs to address funding administrative support. Rascoe said the addition of a tax collector clerk could offset the problem, particularly with such duties as wage garnishment. Despite the rise, Rascoe said collections have generally not been a problem. "Overall, it's been good, but delinquencies are creeping up because we're getting behind administratively," Rascoe said.

## Filing period for elections opens

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

Two incumbents and three political newcomers filed for election Monday, the start of the filing period for May's primary. John Mitchener, Chris Brabble, and Jeff Smith filed to run for county commissioner. Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin filed for a second term while Michael McArthur is seeking a fifth term

See FILING, 2A



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## Snow "Fisher" man



SUBMITTED PHOTO

David and Jessica Buchanan pay homage to the area's fishing heritage by building this snow "fisherman" during a snow fall that occurred nearly two weeks ago. The area dodged a second dose of snow accumulation on Saturday.

## Officials to decide on child support

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

Chowan County commissioners will soon decide whether to outsource its child support enforcement, a move that could eliminate five jobs. The county could opt to privatize the services, joining the preference of other area counties looking for ways to reduce operating costs. Chowan is one of the few that run a program independent of a state regional office that several other area counties use. County Manager Peter Rascoe informed commissioners at the board's Feb. 1 meeting that while initial figures supported the move toward privatization, he said new data from Clifton Hardison, director of Department of Social Services, indicated that the matter warrants further evaluation. "It appears the numbers are closer than they were two weeks ago," Rascoe said. "We're making sure that we're counting every dollar that we're recouping." Rascoe said a meeting scheduled for Thursday should shed more light on the issue with the Board of Commissioners faced with



Rascoe

See CHILD, 2A

## Assistant principal reaches at-risk students

Editor's note: In honor of Black History Month, the Chowan Herald will feature an African American in each edition during the month of February. Those featured include locals who have made significant contributions to their community.

### Gatling makes difference with pupils at Chowan Middle

By REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

For parents like Virginia Elliott, knowing that Phillip Gatling is on the job means they know their children are in good hands. Gatling, assistant principal at Chowan Middle School, has earned a reputation for developing a rapport with at-risk students and helping them succeed in school. Along the way, he teaches them life skills too. "He's willing to work with kids and give



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Phillip Gatling, assistant principal at Chowan Middle, shows off a banner outside the school that reads "Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be the Best You Can Be!" has done a wonderful job," Elliott said. "My daughter and I were just talking about that earlier today." Gatling has a lot of motivation to try and reach these kids. He knows that for some of them, he may be one of the few positive male role models in their lives. Gatling said often the boys he befriends have fathers who are either in jail or have been killed due to violence. He knows that winning their trust will not be easy but relishes the challenge. Gloria Horton, a teacher at the school, said his focus on helping students learn self-esteem as well as appropriate behavior at school and at home has definitely brought results.

them a chance," Elliott said, "and I admire him for that." Elliott currently has one child still at the middle school and another who has moved on to John A. Holmes High School. She said he still keeps tabs on both of them and lets her know what he finds out. "Since he has been there (at Chowan), he

See GATLING, 4A

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