

Hagan hears Chowan's economic pleas

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

During her Albemarle regional swing, U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., took time Thursday to visit one of Chowan County's most economically depressed industries — boat builders.

On Thursday Hagan stopped by Calyber Boatworks with owner Trevor Sherrick providing her with a tour of his facility that in-

cludes plans for change. In addition to luxury boats, Sherrick's warehouse shelters efforts of his diversification during this lean economy. It's his plans to diversify that had Hagan applauding and Sherrick asking for her help.

"I just want options to create more jobs," Sherrick said.



Hagan

He told Hagan that he needs funding to buy machinery to mass produce some of his new products that would immediately create more jobs. Sherrick added that he has not had much success with conventional banks loans, since lending remains down.

"We can't wave a magic wand, but we can make calls and answer questions," Hagan said.

Members of her traveling entourage were quick to recommend the availability of grants that might fit Sherrick's needs. Hagan said that "connecting people with grants" is one of the goals of her trip.

Sherrick, a boat builder for 20 years, has transferred his talents into building fiberglass F-16 cockpit simulators for the military.

He has also dedicated his time to creating energy efficient and environmentally friendly products. He has already generated a great deal of interests in his green technology, including some materials that could be used for signage with the N.C. Department of Transportation. Other products could be used for new construction.

See HAGAN, 2A

Ministry changes lives



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

The Rev. Edna Lawrence watches her 4-year-old granddaughter Adriana practice using a computer after church, Sunday. Lawrence's love for children prompted her to become a public school teacher; her love for the Lord led her to answer God's call to the ministry.

Lawrence answers the call

(In honor of Black History Month, the Chowan Herald is featuring an African American in each edition during the month of February. Those featured include locals who have made significant contributions to their community.)

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

At the beginning of 2010, Tauran Godfrey knew he wanted to do something to strengthen his faith.

So, he started visiting a local church, New Kadesh A.M.E. Zion. And he's been coming to church ever since.

Godfrey, 23, credits the church's pastor, the Rev. Edna Lawrence, with his growing faith. He says her influence, too, has brought him increased self-esteem as he tries to live a Christian life.

"She (Lawrence) persuades you to believe in yourself and take a stand for God," Godfrey said.

"I'm just thankful that God can use me at my age to help others find Him."

The Rev. Edna Lawrence

Pastor, New Kadesh A.M.E. Zion

Lawrence, 57, who is one of only a few women pastors in the area, said she was grateful Godfrey's faith had grown. But she declined to take the credit.

"I'm just thankful that God can use me at my age to help others find Him," she said.

Among those God has allowed her to reach is her own 28-year-old son, Adrian Lawrence, who began attending services at Kadesh in 2002.

"I keep coming back because, when I feel strengthened, en-

riched," he said. "I know I can face whatever the week ahead may hold for me."

Edna Lawrence said she feels both young men have the potential to impact many other lives with their faith in God.

"I feel they're going to be great leaders for the Lord in this church and out in the community, because they've started walking with the Lord so early in their lives," she said.

It was her father, the Rev. Anthony Hathaway, who served as her inspiration and supported her desire to become a minister, Edna Hathaway said.

"He taught me a lot, and it was good to have his wisdom when it came to learning how to pastor a church," Edna Lawrence said.

"When I was called to be a minister, my father was pastor at Pleasant Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, and I studied under him."

See LAWRENCE, 3A

Candidates try to keep politics out of Sheriff's Office

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Decision 2010

Chowan County voters are faced with the unique situation of choosing between an incumbent sheriff and one of his veteran deputies as the county's next top cop. For the next nine months, however, the candidates are challenged with keeping politics out of county law enforcement.

With Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin, 40, seeking reelection for a second term and deputy Tim Brabble, 45, attempting to unseat his boss, the sheriff's office is poised to house political friction. Because Goodwin is a Democrat and Brabble a Republican, the tenuous situation could become more strained since the race will not be decided until November, unless either encounters party competition before Friday's noon elections filing deadline.

Although Goodwin and

Brabble have outlined a few ground rules designed to keep politics from disrupting the sheriff's office, the task could be more difficult as the campaigns progress.

Goowin



Goowin

"(Brabble) has to be careful what he says and how he says it — in terms of being derogatory toward the office," Goodwin said.

"I told all my guys that it's business as usual," Goodwin added. "Everyone has been told to keep doing the job they're

See CANDIDATES, 3A



STAFF PHOTO BY ASHLEY MISSERI

Deputy Tim Brabble files for the seat of Chowan County Sheriff, Friday. His wife, Beth, (behind him) and Rebecca Lowe, Chowan elections director, are watching.

Two Edentonians vie for state seats

No local races yet to qualify for primary

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Two Edenton Republicans are vying for state races.

Add Rich Halbert to the swelling list of locals seeking political office. Halbert joins Bob Steinburg as the second Edentonian set to unseat incumbent Democrats seeking re-election.

Halbert announced his intentions to file before Friday's noon deadline. He seeks the N.C. 4th District Senate seat currently held by Ed Jones, D-Halifax.

"I believe, like 54 percent of all North Carolinians,

that our state is headed in the wrong direction," Halbert said in a press release. "During the last legislative session Senator Jones voted to raise our taxes by \$1.1 billion during the highest unemployment in memory and the worst recession in more than 70 years."

Halbert is retired and a resident of the Edenton Cotton Mill Village.

Steinburg made it official Tuesday, filing to challenge state Rep. Tim Spear, D-Washington, in the 2nd House District. Steinburg is chairman of the local

See SEATS, 2A

Woman's Club split over book publication

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

A vote next month will determine the fate of a recently completed book on Chowan County architecture and history.

At issue is whether the Edenton Woman's Club, which commissioned the work as a companion volume to "Edenton: An Architectural History,"

published in 1992, can and should fund publication of the second book.

The club first began discussing publication of the set of books in the mid-1980s. In 1985, architectural historian Bradley Barker was hired to begin the project. He withdrew in 1989 and today his unpublished manuscript is on file at N.C. Archives and History.

Both the Edenton book and the one just completed were eventually authored by another architectural historian, Thomas Butchko. The club reached an agreement with Butchko in 1999 to write the second

book. In 2001, Butchko was hired as full-time curator of Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, but continued to work on the manuscript for the second book.

In 2006, Butchko began experiencing health problems as he worked to complete that book. At his recommendation, another architectural historian, Nancy Van Dolsen, was brought in that year to complete the remaining work on the book under his supervision.

Butchko died of cancer last year. Chowan County ad-

vanced the club about \$40,000 to pay Butchko and Van Dolsen for their work with the understanding that the money would be repaid once the book was published and went on sale.

However, club member Anne Rowe said that once the county's budget shortfall was discovered, the club voted to go ahead and repay the funds immediately.

"We just felt it was the ethical thing to do," Rowe said. That left \$19,000 accumulated from the sale of

See SPLIT, 3A



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SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTH CAROLINA CHOWAN COUNTY 3RD ANNUAL POLAR PLUNGE SAT., FEBRUARY 27 11:00 am Registration Begins: \$25.00; \$5 Discount for Students
Downtown Edenton 12:00 pm CHOWAN COUNTY POLAR PLUNGE Waterfront Park
SILENT AUCTION KID'S TENT Beach Classics by 95.9FM AWARDS • FOOD COSTUME CONTEST
Preregister at www.site.chowanpolarplunge.com
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