



Chowan County Fair gets under way **B1**
50¢

Judge dismisses schools' lawsuit

Fired administrator vows to fight

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

A Superior Court judge has dismissed three lawsuits filed against Edenton-Chowan school officials by a former administrator. The former John A. Holmes assistant principal vows to seek other legal remedies.

Judge Jerry R. Tillett dismissed Mary Lyons Felton's suits at a Sept. 13 hearing in Gates County, a month after he gave Felton more time to retain an attorney. Tillett declined to rule on the schools' motion to dismiss during an Aug. 16 hearing in Currituck County, instead, allowing Felton time to retain counsel.

She still had not hired an attorney by the Sept. 13 hearing, prompting Tillett to grant the dismissals. Those dismissals include suits against Superintendent Allan Smith, the Board of Education, and

"The time, energy, and resources expended responding to these claims — claims that had no merit — could have been more effectively directed in service to our students."

Allan Smith
Superintendent,
Edenton-Chowan
Schools

See **LAWSUIT, 4A**

Steamers to field 2011 team

Fund-raising goal falls short

By **CHIC RIEBEL**
The Daily Advance

The Edenton Steamers were hoping for a big crowd at Saturday's benefit concert by the Rocky Hock Opry Band at Hicks Field.

They saw it as the last push to help them raise the \$50,000 they said they would need before the team would commit to playing in the Coastal Plain League for the 2011 season.

But the concert didn't

See **STEAMERS, 4A**



PHOTO COURTESY LENNY PLUMMER

Live music, marked part of Saturday night's Rocky Hock Opry benefit for the Edenton Steamers. The team announced after the show that it would resume play next season.

Woman indicted for ex's murder

Trial set for Jan. 10

From staff reports

An Edenton woman and her then-police officer boyfriend accused of killing an Ahoskie man nearly three years ago will both stand trial Jan. 10 for first degree murder, according

to court records.

A trial date for Janet Denise Harrell, 36, and Raymond Christian Jede, 41, was set during a hearing Friday morning in Northampton County, according to court records.

On Monday, Harrell was indicted on first-degree murder charges for the

Oct. 4, 2007 fatal shooting of her ex-husband Donald Bradley Smithwick. Harrell had been charged with being an accessory after the fact to Smithwick's kidnapping and robbery.

Jede, a former police officer in Hertford and Kitty Hawk, was first arrested for Smithwick's

kidnapping and robbery on the same day he went missing and held in a Hertford County jail under a \$10 million bond. Just days later, Jedele was charged with Smithwick's slaying.

Friday's hearing revealed that Jedele will be

See **MURDER, 4A**



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Books designated as banned from reading are seen on display in the Garden of Readin' at the Edenton Coffee House. The used bookstore is sporting yellow caution tape around a group of books banned across the United States.

Banned-book list surprises readers

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain. Beach Music by Pat Conroy. Leaves of Grass by Walt Whitman. The Twilight series by Stephanie Myers.

These books, some considered classic literature and some produced in more recent years, have one important link. All of them, and hundreds more,

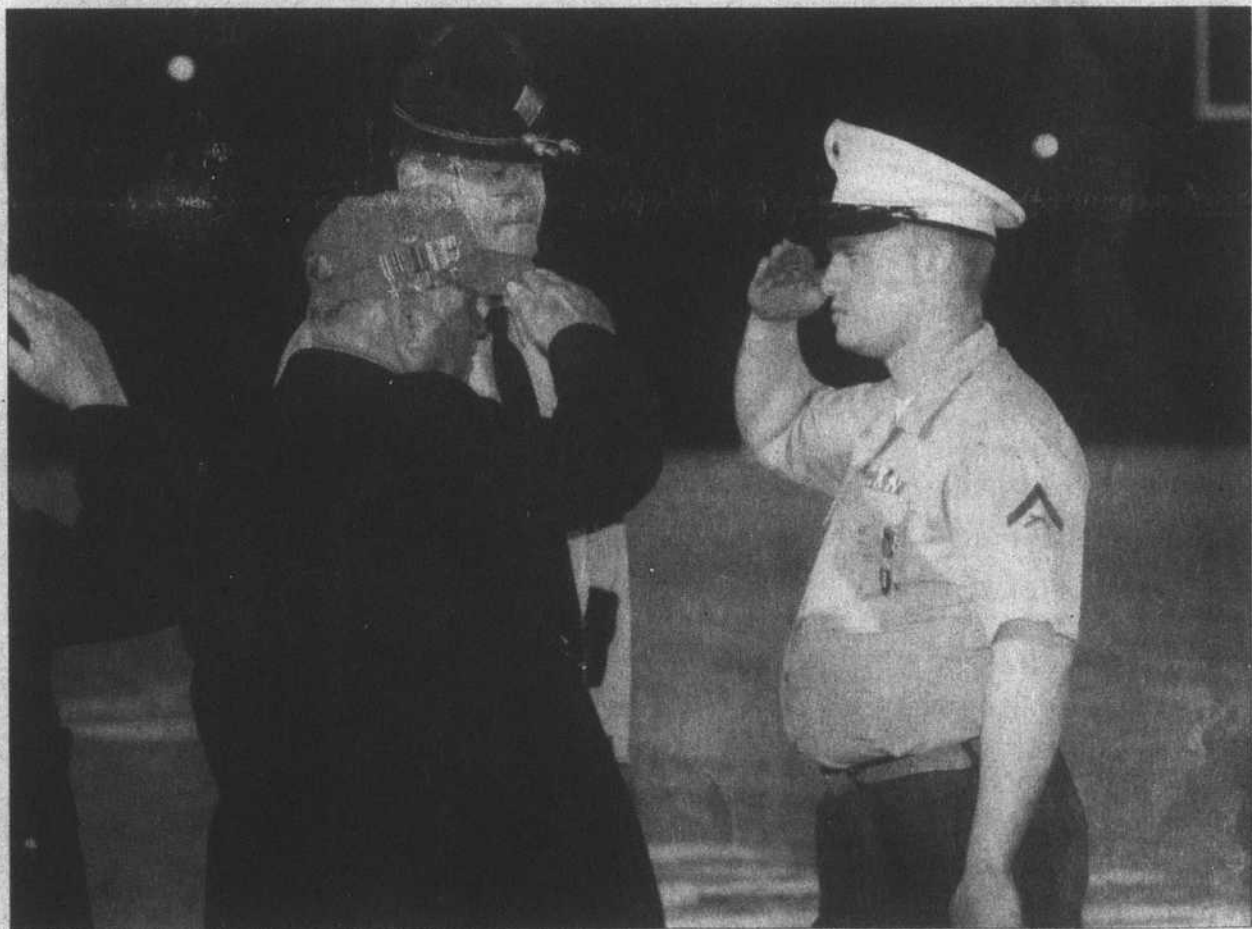
appear on a list produced by the American Library Association of books that have been banned in the United States.

This week, the Shepard-Pruden Library and the Garden of Readin' Used Bookstore housed at the Edenton Coffee House, are joining together to try and educate local readers on this important issue.

Terri Fox, who owns the bookstore, said she's had some surprised customers once they've started looking at her posted list of books that have been banned.

See **BOOKS, 4A**

Wounded Marine, Purple Heart



STAFF PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

Marine Bobby Brown (right) is saluted by Ben Reinhart (left) after Reinhart pinned Brown with the Purple Heart at Friday night's football game between Edenton and Bertie. N.C. Highway Patrolman Tom Griffin looks on. Brown was awarded the medal for his injuries suffered in a grenade explosion while serving in Iraq.

Study: County work forces grow

Civitas: Chowan gets 'F' for too many employees

By **REGGIE PONDER**
The Daily Advance

A newly released study on county government work force growth in North Carolina over the past decade gives three area counties "C" grades and a fourth county a "D," but blasts Chowan County with an "F" for expanding its work force by more than 20 times the county's population growth.

According to the study by the conservative Civitas Institute, Chowan's government work force grew from 103 to 147 between 2000 and 2009, an increase of 42.7

"You have to take that somewhat with a grain of salt. I think it's a little skewed because it was done over a 10-year period."

Eddy Goodwin

Chairman, Chowan Board of Commissioners

percent. During the same period, the county's population grew from 14,526 to 14,818, only 2 percent.

Meanwhile, private sector employment in Chowan decreased 12.9 percent during those years. According to the Civitas study, the

number of private sector jobs in Chowan as of July 2009 were 4,116 — down from 4,728 in 2000.

Chowan Board of Commissioners Chairman Eddy Goodwin said Friday that Chowan's bad grade in the report "doesn't surprise

me at all" since it covers the entire past decade.

But Goodwin said studies such as the Civitas Institute analysis don't place enough emphasis on more recent years.

"You have to take that somewhat with a grain of salt," he said. "I think it's a little skewed because it was done over a 10-year period."

Things are beginning to turn around in Chowan, he said.

"I've been the chairman of the county commissioners for two years and our

See **STUDY, 6A**



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35TH ANNUAL PEANUT FESTIVAL
SAT., OCT. 2, 2010

"Battle of the Bands" Competition at 5 PM
John A. Holmes Athletic Complex
\$7 per person | children age six and under get in free

Chicken & BBQ plates
11 AM - 2 PM
& 4 PM - 7 PM
\$8 per plate



Join the 7th Annual 5K Peanut Run at 8 AM
/ reg. 7AM, Queen Anne Park, downtown Edenton