



Concerns grow over salary disparities

Sheriff earns county's top salary

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

A candidate for the Chowan County Board of Commissioners used a forum last week to attack the sheriff's annual salary, adding that his high pay re-

mains the byproduct of a past good ol' boy network.

Republican challenger Robert Hutchins singled out Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin's annual salary as a residue



Goodwin



Hutchins

figures were incorrect, his remarks represent a grow-

ing bone of contention that some Chowan department heads are over paid, compared to surrounding counties.

Since Chowan County's financial meltdown, there have been no merit raises, according to county officials. Before then, however, former County Manager Cliff Copeland handed out generous increases to his

department heads.

"Just looking at the series of events, it appears (Copeland) gave them liberally and often," said Paul Parker, interim county manager.

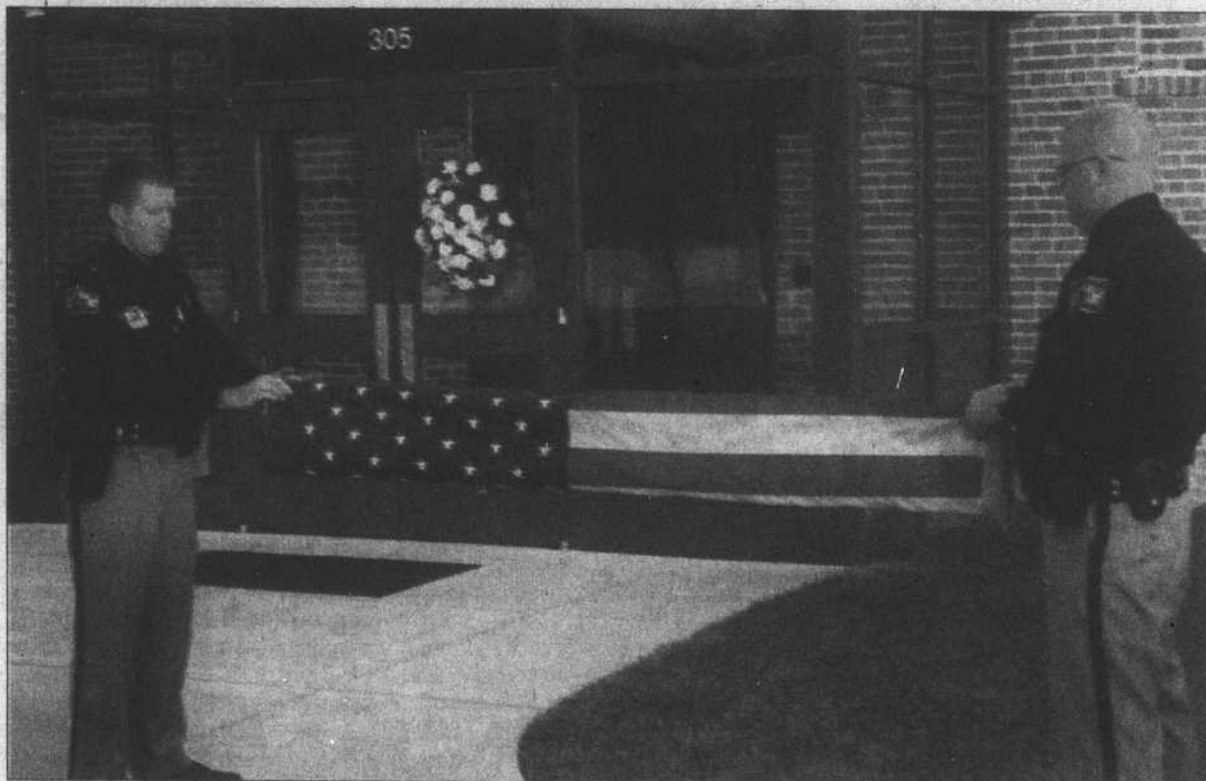
When Goodwin was first elected sheriff in 2006, his salary went from \$48,363 annually to \$77,500. Chowan's base salary for the office of sheriff is \$55,000, which is

also the rate the Board of Elections uses to calculate the sheriff's filing fee, records show.

Copeland later gave Goodwin a salary increase, bumping his annual salary to its current amount of \$83,002 — the highest salary among all current county employees. Goodwin

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CHOWAN MOURNS SUDDEN LOSS



STAFF PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

Chowan County sheriff's deputies John McArthur (left) and Allen Browder rehearse folding the American flag outside the Public Safety Center in preparation of Tuesday's funeral of C. Franklin Jackson. A wreath hangs on the building's entrance in memory of the 46-year-old communications director who was killed Saturday in a hunting accident.

911 director dies in hunting accident

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Chowan County's 911 Communications director was killed in a hunting accident with his family Saturday afternoon, the first day guns were permitted for deer season.

C. Franklin Jackson Jr. was shot in the chest around 2 p.m. off Longridge Road in Plymouth, according to Lt. Kevin Sawyer, an investigator with the Washington County Sheriff's Office. Jackson and his son, Carlton Jackson III, were checking their weapons to ensure the rifles were unloaded and safe for travel when the younger Jackson's .30-.30-caliber rifle discharged and struck his fa-

ther, Sawyer said. The 46-year-old Franklin Jackson was taken to Washington County Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Also present at the fatal shooting were Franklin Jackson's daughter and father-in-law. The shooting occurred at a family's member residence.

An investigation by the Washington County Sheriff's Office and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission remains ongoing, Sawyer said. No one has been charged and no charges are pending at this time.



Jackson

News of Franklin Jackson's sudden death soon spread among his Chowan County peers. He had worked for the county for more than 22 years, most recently serving as the director of Chowan's 911 communications. Those who knew him called the title an understatement to his contribu-

tions. "He was one of the best in terms of information technology," said Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin, who oversees the department. "He designed the 911 center here.

"He loved his job. I could call Franklin anytime, day or night, and he would come in," Goodwin added.

See JACKSON, 4A

End-of-grade tests seen as ineffective

Superintendent: Policy 'unnecessary'

By KRISTIN PITTS
The Daily Advance

A recent decision by the State Board of Education has put an end to performance gateways that have linked grade promotion and graduation to end-of-grade and end-of-course tests.

The policy, which was implemented more than a decade ago, was removed in part because of what some board members said was the policy's ineffectiveness.

A press release from the Department of Public Instruction reveals that board members ended the policy for three reasons: the gateways policy did not make a significant difference in promotion or retention patterns; state law gives principals the authority for placing students; and, the waiver process was time consuming and had "little noticeable benefit for students."

On the local level, area superintendents hit on a few of those issues in responses to the accountability gateways change.

Edenton-Chowan Superintendent Allan Smith stopped short of calling the policy ineffective. Instead, he said the policy was unnecessary.

"The promotion and retention of a student is influenced by numerous factors," Smith said. "It would be inappropriate for a single end-of-grade or end-of course to be the sole criterion in making this determination. The state accountability policy was never intended to serve that purpose and the policy correctly left the final decision at the school level.

"Grade placement and retention of a child is a serious decision which can have long-term effects and should be reached only after all factors are considered, including summative assessments such as end-of-grade tests," he added.

Currituck County Schools Superintendent Meghan Doyle said she felt that the performance gateways in many cases put a major burden on educators.

"The gateways policy was overly burdensome on teachers if it was done correctly because of the evidence that teachers needed to collect and produce to support a promotion and in some cases a retention decision," Doyle said.

Perquimans County Schools Superintendent

See TESTING, 4A



Smith

State races stoke Legion's 1st forum

Senate, House seats draw fiery barbs

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Sparks flew at last Wednesday's Meet the Candidates forum at the American Legion Post 40.

Twelve of 13 candidates seeking an elected office that will represent Chowan County participated in the Legion's first forum. About 60 attended the event that allowed questions from the

audience, which pitted incumbents against their respective challengers. The area's state races provided the more heated debates as four candidates exchanged barbs.

Still stinging from a Perquimans County forum days earlier when state Sen. Ed Jones, D-Halifax, told voters that they should check with him first before listening to his opponent, Rich Halbert.

"When I start lying, raise your hand," Halbert barked at Jones during the opening minutes of the forum. The Edenton Republican proceeded to pepper the audience with statistics. He railed about how North Carolinas has

See FORUM, 2A

Sheriff, commission candidates air platforms

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

For the first time this election season, candidates vying to represent Chowan County faced off together in last Wednesday's Meet the Candidates forum at the American Legion Post 40.

Twelve of the 13 candidates seeking office took advantage of the Legion's first candidate forum to air their platforms. Six of the candidates on hand hope to secure three seats on the Board of Commissioners while two others pursue to become the county's top cop.

Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin, defending his incumbency against one of his own deputies, has emerged as one of the county's more interesting races.

Commission hopefuls there included Jeff Smith, Douglas Hollowell, and Robert Hutchins for Dist. 1, Seat 2 John Mitchener and Chris Brabble for Dist. 2, Seat 2, and John Sams who is dueling Ellis Lawrence for Dist. 3, Seat 2. Lawrence did not



STAFF PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

Twelve of 13 candidates vying to represent Chowan County participate in the Meet the Candidates last Wednesday at the American Legion Post 40. The forum marked the Legion's first.

attend the forum.

Roughly 60 that attended the forum listened as Republican Tim Brabble explained why he wanted to unseat his Democrat boss.

"I don't have the luxury to move

up the corporate ladder," Tim Brabble said.

"There are some things that I think I can do better," he added.

See PLATFORMS, 2A



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