



Chowan hires Bertie's manager

Lamb takes pay cut here

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Chowan commissioners' search for a new county manager ended Thursday just across the Chowan River.

Commissioners voted unanimously to hire Bertie County Manager Zee Lamb for Chowan's vacant county manager's job.

Lamb, who is scheduled to start work Jan. 1, will replace interim County

Manager John E. Whitehurst. Whitehurst was hired in September after commissioners fired Paul Parker.

Lamb's employment contract with Chowan calls for \$116,000 in annual compensation, plus the use of a county-owned home as a residence. He'll also be paid \$600 per month in travel-related expenses.

In Lamb, Chowan lands an experienced county manager and a trained attorney who also served three terms as a county commissioner in Pasquotank County from 1988-

1997, before leaving for a job in Raleigh.

He served as chairman 1994-96 and vice chairman 1992-94. Lamb, 53, also served as counsel for the Office of Lieutenant Governor from 1997-1998, and as attorney for the State Board of Elections from 1998-2000.

Chowan commissioners called Lamb, 53, an ideal fit for Chowan.

"If you look at his resume, credentials, and references, he's the right man for the job. And he's been a commissioner, so he knows what it's like

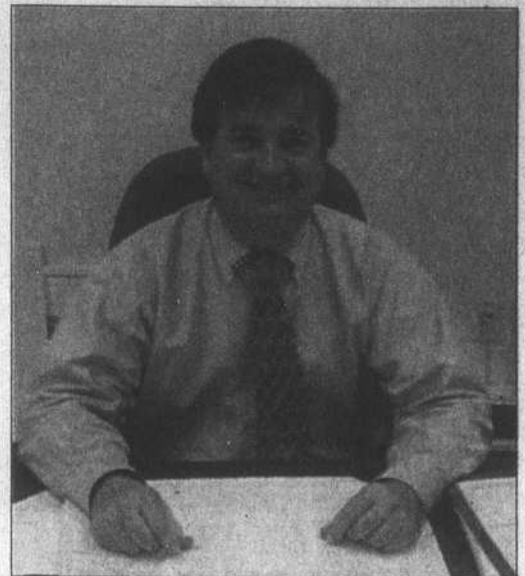
from the other side of the house," said Chowan County Board of Commissioners Chairman Eddy Goodwin.

Commissioner John Mitchener also praised Lamb's hiring.

"He's dedicated to county government," Mitchener said. "This is not a climbing stone for him. He moved Bertie County ahead in many ways, particularly in financial services."

Part of Lamb's resume package includes graphs

See LAMB, 3A



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Bertie County Manager Zee Lamb was hired as Chowan's new county manager.

County fires finance officer

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Thursday morning to fire its finance officer - the same day it voted to hire a new county manager.

Commissioner John Mitchener made the motion to terminate Lisa Jones for failure to perform her assigned duties thereby ending her 26-year tenure as a county employee. Commissioners declined to comment on the firing, citing personnel confidentiality. Instead, they deferred questions to the county's attorney John Morrison.

"It was a situation whereby the board felt she was not meeting expectations, Morrison said. "That's within the discretion of the board."

Morrison explained that the county's finance officer is an at-will employee and works at the pleasure of the board. Other at-will employees include the county clerk and county attorney.

After beginning her county employment with the Department of Social Services on June 15, 1985, Jones transferred to the finance office on Sept. 16, 1998, according to the county's human resources. She was sworn in as the finance officer on July 12, 2004. Jones was earning an annual salary of \$66,107.

Jones began her stint as finance officer under former county manager Cliff Copeland. Once Copeland's leadership took Chowan to the brink of bankruptcy and after his sudden retirement in 2008, taxpayers questioned what and when Jones knew of the county's impending financial peril.

See JONES, 4A

BUTTERFIELD SKEPTICAL OF 'SUPER' PANEL



STAFF PHOTOS BY THOMAS J. TURNEY

Congressman G.K. Butterfield of the 1st District of North Carolina speaks at a town hall meeting at the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library, Nov. 09.

Congressman addresses Edenton

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Don't look for the nation's economic woes to get any better anytime soon, U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield, D-NC, said Nov. 9.

"It's going to be a rough ride for the next four or five years," Butterfield said.

Speaking at a town hall meeting at the Shepard-Pruden Library in Edenton, Butterfield said he wanted to make sure local government officials as well as school personnel and law enforcement officials in the



John Mitchener (right) talks with Congressman G.K. Butterfield after the latter spoke at the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library, Nov. 09.
See BUTTERFIELD, 4A

Alcohol led to fatal crash

From staff reports

Alcohol contributed to the single-car fatality that killed a 30-year-old Chowan County woman, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol.

Jessica Marie Haynes of 202 Chowan Trail was killed when the car she was riding as a passenger slammed broadside into a tree at 3 a.m. Saturday, said Trooper Steven C. Heath. Driver Myrna Jimenez, 39, of Edenton, lost control of her car while driving south on Rocky Hock Road toward N.C. 32, Heath said.

Trooper Kevin Briggs said Tuesday that alcohol contributed to the fatal crash. Jimenez has been charged with driving while impaired, Briggs said. Her blood alcohol level was not immediately available, pending further analysis. Other charges are also pending, Briggs said.

Also injured in the crash was passenger Alfonso Sandoval, 48, of Belvidere. He was airlifted to Pitt Memorial Hospital with critical injuries.

Jimenez was taken to Chowan Hospital with minor injuries.

Jimenez serves as a bilingual translator for court proceedings at the Chowan County Courthouse.

The crash occurred in a curve near Bennetts Creek where ditches flank both sides of the road.

Aces face state champs and state's top player

By CHIC RIEBEL
Sports Editor

Remember a few weeks ago when Northeastern and Edenton met in the biggest game in Edenton in nearly a decade?

Well, now that showdown doesn't even rate as the game of the season.

That's because Friday night the undefeated Aces will host two-time defending state 2A champ Tarboro in a state playoff quarterfinal that would get the blood pumping in any fan.

Not only will the Vikings

Friday's Game
Tarboro (9-2) at Aces (11-0),
7:30 p.m.

(9-2) come in with one of the best reputations in the state to challenge the Cinderella Aces (11-0), who were 3-8 and last in the Northeastern Coastal Conference a year ago, they will bring along a player the

See ACES, 6A



FILE PHOTO
Tarboro's Todd Gurley dodges an attempted tackle by Carver's Terrell Thompson during the NCHSAA 2A State Championship game, Dec. 11.



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ROCKY HOCK OPRY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH, 7:30 PM E.A. SWAIN AUDITORIUM
Sponsored by the Rocky Hock Ruritan's Relay for Life Team Tickets \$10.00 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH, 7:30 PM EDENTON, NC
Tickets Available at various locations or call 252-221-4875 or 252-340-3438. Email rockyhock opry@live.com