



## Goodwin announces secretary of state bid

**GOP chairman forgoes 2nd term**

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**  
Editor

Board of Commissioners Chairman Eddy Goodwin announced Friday that he plans to forgo a second term for Chowan County in favor of a 2012 bid for secretary of state. Goodwin, 59, said he had

given the decision careful consideration before opting to pursue the state office. He said he would inform the Board of Commissioners of his decision at its Tuesday night scheduled meeting.



Goodwin

Because of the first-time commissioner's efforts to bring Chowan back to fiscal solvency he hopes the achievement will catapult him as the first Republican secretary of state, Goodwin said. Part of his election platform will be to call for a restructuring of the state's efforts to attract new business.

"I think the secretary of state needs to be overhauled from top to bot-

tom," Goodwin said. "We need to be a business-friendly environment. We don't need corporate welfare."

Critical of North Carolina's current efforts to attract new industry, Goodwin said the state should determine why companies prefer to call other states home.

"Let's find out why we haven't been successful recruiting new business,"

Goodwin said. "Is it taxes? Regulations? Payroll issues? What's making businesses go away?"

Instead of throwing cash subsidies at selective companies, Goodwin favors systematic changes that can be applied to both small and large businesses. He said a free market system better serves businesses and taxpayers.

As to suspect recruiting efforts, Goodwin

questioned the rationale behind offering select businesses financial incentives, including here in Edenton with grants for Walgreens, Wendy's, and Kellogg.

"Why give them money to locate here? They were coming anyway," Goodwin added.

As the first Republican and four-time chairman

See **GOODWIN**, 3A

## Economy to blame for area homeless

By **PETER WILLIAMS**  
Staff Writer

Scores of Albemarle-area children are homeless, and school officials say the economy is to blame.

Most of the five schools districts report the numbers this year are holding steady or are on the rise.

Nationally, an advocacy group devoted to eliminating homelessness estimated one in 50 kids are homeless. The local figures seem to be far lower than that. There were about 200 homeless students in the five-county area in late November and early December. There are about 15,600 students in the area.

School officials say the numbers fluctuate year-to-year and even week-to-week and few if any are living in a car or anything like that. The vast majority are living with family or friends.

Currituck County reported that 95 percent of the homeless students are doubling up with other families because of economic hardship. In early December, Currituck reported 76 homeless students, an increase of 20 over last year but just three more than in 2009-10. Their numbers have crept up slowly from seven in 2006-07.

"The remaining 5 percent of our homeless students are either independent students or unaccompanied youth who are living with friends and doing what is called 'couch surfing,'" said Sandy Kinzel, the assistant superintendent in Currituck. "Most of our doubled up situations are due to families losing their employment and/or their own housing."

Just across the county line, Camden school officials estimate that about six of the district's 1,900 students are homeless by the federal definition. That number has held steady for the past five years.

Schools are bound by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act on how they deal with students. It provides money to deal with the problem, but many counties don't qualify because their numbers are so small.

"Chowan County does not receive (funds) due to the small numbers of

See **HOMELESS**, 2A

## Lamb answers Q & A

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**  
Editor

Chowan County's newest county manager officially assumed duties Tuesday. Plans call for the former Bertie County manager to take the oath of office during Tuesday night's Board of Commissioners meeting. Zee B. Lamb, also a licensed attorney, was hired Nov. 10 following a unanimous vote by Chowan commissioners.

In Lamb, Chowan lands an experienced county manager who has held numerous municipal posts, including four terms as a commissioner in Pasquotank County.

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

At the request of the Chowan Herald, Lamb obliged to complete a 10-question Q & A as a way to introduce himself to county residents.



FILE PHOTO

Zee B. Lamb assumed duties of Chowan County's county manager, Tuesday.

### 1) Outside of your career, how do you spend your leisure time?

I enjoy spending my leisure time with my family. Like other parents with children or grandchildren, my personal leisure time is quite limited. We enjoy traveling, boating activities, and spending time at the beach where my parents and siblings live. We also enjoy attending college football and basketball games.

### 2) You are a licensed attorney, how did your professional path turn toward county government?

My father was first elected as a Dare County commissioner in 1976. My aunt served as a Pasquotank County commissioner and school board member. County government is in my blood. County government is my passion. I studied politi-

cal science and history as an undergraduate at Duke, and I attended graduate school in public policy studies at Duke.

In 1986, I graduated from UNC School of Law and started practicing law. In 1988, I was elected as a Pasquotank County commissioner. From 1988 until 1997, I became very active in state and national county organizations, serving on the Board of Directors of both the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) and the National Association of Counties (NACo). I served on many different local, state and national committees by recommendation of the NCACC and NACo.

When I resigned as a county commissioner in early 1997, I went to work in Raleigh as a state government attorney. By 2000, I decided I wanted to return to county government, and

### Profile

Zee B. Lamb, age 53, married to Nancy B. Lamb, chief assistant district attorney, First Judicial District, State of NC. Three children, son Zee Robert, 23, a student at UNC-Chapel Hill, and two daughters, Anna Kate, 20, a student at Duke and Caroline Grace, 17, a high school senior at the NC School of Science and Math.

applied for the Bertie County manager job where I worked for over 11 years until last month.

I love county government, county management and living in the northeast, so I have chosen a career path where I can enjoy my job and able to be close to my parents and family.

See **LAMB**, 4A

## Report: Lack of fuel cause of crash

Pilot upgraded to fair condition

By **WILLIAM F. WEST**  
Staff Writer

MERRY HILL — A lack of fuel was the apparent cause of a recent airplane crash in Bertie County, federal investigators have determined.

Michael B. Taylor's plane, a 1978 single-engine Piper, was activated to pull fuel from the left fuel tank to the engine, but there was no fuel found in the left tank at the crash scene, the National Transportation Safety Board said in a preliminary report.

There was no odor of fuel and no evidence of fuel stains around the tank, the report said.

The right fuel tank also was empty, although some fuel had left blight on vegetation beneath the right fuel cap, the report said.

The NTSB found no evidence of anything having been wrong with the plane's cockpit controls prior to the crash.

The crash occurred on Dec. 16 at Midway, between Windsor and Edenton and near the intersection of U.S. Highway 17 and N.C. Highway 45.

Taylor was taken to Pitt County Memorial Hospital, where he has been upgraded from critical to fair condition.

Taylor reportedly lived approximately 150 yards from where the plane crashed. He had been storing the plane at Plymouth Municipal Airport in Washington County.

The NTSB report said he

See **CRASH**, 3A

## McDonald's host Bingo Babes on Wednesdays

Women play for points, prizes

By **REBECCA BUNCH**  
Staff Writer

For the past two years Jan Criddle of Edenton has spent Wednesday afternoons hanging out at McDonald's. But her thoughts haven't been on burgers and fries.

Instead, Criddle watches a Bingo board filled with numbers. With red and pink colored chips in hand she listens intently as a variety of numbers are called out.

This particular Wednesday is no exception.

121, 062, G54, are called as are good-natured jibes such as "Whaddya got?" and "Ya'll better hush" should the murmured conversations between players get a bit too loud.

Criddle, a careful and attentive

player, said she began playing Bingo years ago at the American Legion. Criddle shakes her head and smiles when asked about how her luck has run over the years.

"Just average, I'd say," Criddle says. "No better than that."

Criddle does acknowledge, though, that if it comes down to a choice between talent and luck when it comes to winning, it's lady luck's favor she'd most like to have.

"I really do think luck makes all the difference," Criddle says.

If the thrill of winning doesn't bring her back to the game each week, what does?

"Just the chance to get out and be with friends," Criddle says.

Criddle says she misses her sister, who sometimes joins in the action. "She's gone to Florida for the winter, poor thing," Criddle says with a wicked grin.



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Jan Criddle checks her Bingo board during a game at McDonald's in Edenton. "The Bingo Babes," as the women in the group are collectively known, meet each Wednesday afternoon to try their luck and make new friends.

See **BINGO**, 4A

