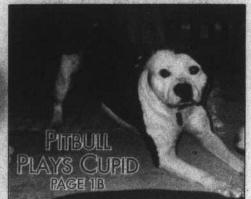
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Wednesday, February 8, 2012

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Voters to get at least 2 new faces

Filing begins at noon Monday

By RITCHIE E. STARNES

Chowan County voters will have at least two new faces on the Board of Commissioners come November.

Commissioners Goodwin and Ralph Cole have announced they will cumbents Keith Nixon and campaigns.

Eddy emerged to contend for four years ago, each hopes velopment. Goodwin's District 2 seat, guaranteeing a GOP prinot seek re-election. In- mary showdown in May. Alex Kehayes and Tim Emmett Winborne have Phelps said they're pursuvet to formally decide, ingthe impending vacancy. although both appear to After both applauded the be leaning toward repeat board's economic recovery after fiscal mismanage-Two Republican can- ment forced Chowan on already the brink of bankruptcy

to be the one to continue the renewed responsibil-

"I'd like to keep us on the same track - fiscally responsible - in overseeing the operations of the county," Kehayes said.

The 69-year-old retired doctor said he wants to

"Everyone is concerned about jobs," Kehayes said. "I want to know if we can do anything in terms of infrastructure to make this a location where businesses want to come to."

Phelps, 49, hopes to apply his business savvy toward the county's manencourage economic de- agement. A building con-

tractor with more than 30 years construction experience and a former president of the local Chamber of Commerce, Phelps too wants to be a part of Chowan's continued fiscal rise.

"Growth and prosperity is what I want for all

See CANDIDATES, 3A

More students drop out

170 area pupils have quit-school

By PETER WILLIAMS The Daily Advance

More students dropped out of high school in the five-county Albemarle region last year than the year before, with the Edenton-**Chowan Schools reporting** the biggest increase - 16 students, or a whopping 57 percent jump.

Two school districts -Elizabeth City-Pasquotank and Camden - actually reported fewer dropouts in 2010-11 than the previous year. However, two other districts besides Edenton-Chowar - Currituck and Perquimans - bucked the

Inside

College credit program helps curb dropouts, PAGE 3A

statewide trend and reported increases.

Overall, 170 Albemarlearea students left high school without graduating in 2010-11, statistics released by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction this week show. The year before, 155 students dropped out of area schools.

In the case of Edenton-Chowan, the number of dropouts soared from 28 in 2009-10 to 44 last year - from 3.43 percent of the student body to 5.66 percent, nearly twice the state rate of 3.43 percent.

Not all of those dropping out of the Edenton-Chowan Schools have given up on education, however. In fact, more than half - 23 - left school and are currently enrolled in adult education courses at a community college. Only 15 dropped out because of attendance problems.

"We try and make sure every child graduates, but for some students high school is not the best fit for them," school district spokeswoman Michelle Maddox said. "The way we view it, at least they are staying in school."

Statewide, 15,342 high school students dropped

See DROPOUTS, 3A



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CHAMBER HONORS AWARD RECIPIENTS



Leslie Jordan walks to the podium to accept her award as the William "Spec" Jones Volunteer of the Year for 2011 at the Edenton-Chowan Chamber Awards Banquet at the Chowan Golf & Country Club, Thursday,

Ellis tapped Business Person of the Year

Staff Writer

ive of the area's top contributors to the community's betterment were honored at the annual Chamber of Commerce Awards banquet held Thursday evening at the Chowan Golf & Country Club.

Edenton attorney Travis Ellis, who served as chamber president in 2010, was awarded the John A. Mitchener Jr. Business Person of the Year. Two retired fire chiefs, the Barker House manager, a Destination Downtown Edenton promotion committee, and a dedicated volunteer were all recipients of Chamber recognition.

Presenter Donna Hollowell Winborne noted that Ellis decided on a career in the legal profession early in life.

He (Ellis) decided on his career in sixth grade," Winborne said, "and has never wavered (in his choice)."

"He is dedicated, selfless, and a true leader," Winborne added. "Travis is unassuming and does not expect anything in return for all he gives."



Attorney Travis Ellis was named the recipient of the 2011 John A. See CHAMBER, 4A Mitchener Jr. Business Person of the Year award, Thursday.

DOT awards

From staff reports

N.C. Department of Transportation Secretary Gene Conti has awarded a \$1 million contract to replace a bridge on N.C. 32 over Queen Anne Creek in Chowan County.

Palmetto Infrastructure Inc. of Greenville, S.C. was awarded the contract and construction can begin as early as Feb. 27.

The contract calls for replacement of the old bridge, and is scheduled to be completed by Sept 7.

Initial plans call for a 74-day detour during the summer while DOT replaces the bridge over Queen Anne Creek. By closing the road, instead of building a temporary bridge as some local residents prefer, DOT will save nearly twice as much as the costs of the new bridge.

J.D. Jennings, DOT division engineer, previously said the road closure option would save \$1.2 million in construction costs. In addition to more costs, a temporary bridge for continued traffic during construction would add two more years to the project, Jennings said. Emergency responders and routine police patrols will be forced to use the gated-community of Hayes Plantation as an alternate route. Plans call for a siren-activated gate at Soundside Road for emergency vehicles. Those vehicles will also be forced to use the wooden bridge entrance at Colonial Park.

The detour will also impact the Northeastern Regional Airport as well as the surrounding residential and industrial areas.

This is one of 39 contracts totaling \$203.2 million awarded by Conti for highway and bridge projects across North Carolina. NCDOT awarded the contracts to the lowest bidders, as required by state law. The bids received on the projects awarded came in about 2.9 percent, or about \$6.2 million, below DOT estimates. Since January 2009, DOT has awarded 511 highway contracts totaling \$3.8 billion.

Edenton-Chowan school lunch prices to rise

By REBECCA BUNCH Staff Writer

The cost of school lunch could rise by as much as 15 to 30 cents next year due to changes in federal nutritional guidelines set to go into effect.

Schools, told the school board at its monthly meeting Monday night that the increase would be necessary due to a required rise in the amount of fruit and vegetables

served to students at lunch daily. That change will go into effect Karen Tynch, child nutrition when school starts again.

director for the Edenton-Chowan of serving nutritional meals) than the current requirements," Tynch told the board. "But this change is going to make us have to spend more money."

For example, lunches currently served to students in grades K-12 require that they receive one-half

"We already do more (in terms to three-fourths of a cup of fruit and vegetables combined per day. Under the new plan, schools will be required to provide each student three-fourths to a cup of vegetables per day, plus one-half to a cup of fruit each day.

See LUNCHES, 2A

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