



Voters to get at least 2 new faces

Filing begins at noon Monday

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

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

Commissioners Eddy Goodwin and Ralph Cole have announced they will not seek re-election. Incumbents Keith Nixon and Emmett Winborne have yet to formally decide, although both appear to be leaning toward repeat campaigns.

Two Republican candidates have already

emerged to contend for Goodwin's District 2 seat, guaranteeing a GOP primary showdown in May. Alex Kehayes and Tim Phelps said they're pursuing the impending vacancy. After both applauded the board's economic recovery after fiscal mismanagement forced Chowan on the brink of bankruptcy

four years ago, each hopes to be the one to continue the renewed responsibility.

"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 encourage economic de-

velopment.

"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 management. 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-Chowan — Currituck and Perquimans — bucked the

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College credit program helps curb dropouts, PAGE 3A

statewide trend and reported increases.

Overall, 170 Albemarle-area 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

CHAMBER HONORS AWARD RECIPIENTS



STAFF PHOTOS BY RITCHIE STARNES

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

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Five 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."

See CHAMBER, 4A



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

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.

Karen Tynch, child nutrition

director for the Edenton-Chowan 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 when school starts again.

"We already do more (in terms 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

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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