# Sheriff: Dispatcher mishandled call

By REBECCA BUNCH Staff Writer

A weekend call about a possibly rabid animal has led to changes in the way Chowan County emergency dispatchers will respond to such calls in the future, Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin said Monday.

Arrowhead Beach resident Chris Rusbuldt said she was driving home when coons, but a fox was a rar-Friday afternoon

she saw a fox sitting in a ity, so she stopped to watch clearing on a wooded lot a it. couple of streets over from her house. Rusbuldt said that the fox's face looked

that those living in the neighborhood are used to seeing other types of wild animals such

as

rac-

CHOWANHERA

"That's when I noticed

funny," she said. Rusbuldt said the fox's lips were pulled back so that its teeth were showing. "It looked like it was grinning at me," Rusbuldt added. "I felt sure it was

attack someone in the neighborhood, Rusbuldt

said she called the county dispatch's non-emergenhome to report what she had seen.

"I didn't want to call 911 and get in trouble, since it wasn't an emergency," she said. "But I did feel that something needed to be done.'

Concerned that it might situation to the dispatcher so that someone could be sent to the site. To her

surprise, the dispatcher ny, they wanted her name told her that the local anicy number when she got mal control officers and the sheriff's office did not respond to those types of calls, Rusbuldt said.

Instead, Rusbuldt said, the dispatcher gave her the name and phone number of a pest control company in the area and suggested Rusbuldt explained the that she contact them for assistance.

> But Rusbuldt said that when she called the compa

and address so they could bill her once they made a visit to the site to trap the animal.

"I couldn't believe it," Rusbuldt said, shaking her head. "I was floored."

So Rusbuldt once again contacted the county dispatcher who again gave her the same answer - no help was available from

See SHERIFF, 5A

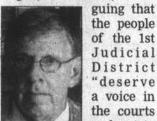
### **Attorney** wants dismissals reopened

Judge threw out 6 petitions last week

By WILLIAM F. WEST The Daily Advance

An attorney representing persons wanting the suspension or removal of District Attorney Frank Parrish is calling for a reconsideration of six petitions a Superior Court judge threw out late last week.

The attorney, Kathryn Fagan, of Manteo, is ar-



and not to summarily dismissed with no explanation."

Fagan on Tuesday filed her request with the Pasquotank County Civil Court. Neither the judge, Alma Hinton, nor Parrish's attorney, James Maxwell of Durham, could be reached for comment. Parrish could not be reached, but he has said he does not comment on matters pending before a

Hinton, in a brief order made public on Friday, dismissed the six petitions. which listed separate allegations against Parrish. She ruled that she believed Parrish did not break any state laws designed to prevent district attorneys from engaging in prosecutorial misconduct.

Also, she ruled that Parrish "had conducted himself within the bounds of his prosecutorial discretion.

Fagan, in calling for a hearing in open court, said she believed that the six petitioners have alleged much more than mere displeasure with Parrish.

"They have described time after time wherein the district attorney agreed that crimes had been committed and either

See PARRISH, 2A



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# **JAILHOUSEDEALS**



PHOTO BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

Efforts move ahead for Chowan County to contract its jail services with the Albemarle District Jail. Plans also call for the Detention Center to become part of ADJ.

#### Chowan inches closer to ADJ

Leaders prefer jail stay open

By RITCHIE E. STARNES Editor

fforts for Chowan County to join the Albemarle ■District Jail continue to progress with a possible deal by July 1.

Chowan and Pasquotank County leaders are still conducting their respective cost analysis to see if the deal is financially feasible before the start of the next fiscal year. Closing Chowan's jail or bringing it under ADJ's authority remains a key variable, but not a deal breaker.

For the past several years Chowan has eyed surrendering its jail system to ADJ, but efforts have gained the most traction over the last year. Long-term the move should net Chowan taxpayers a savings.

"For the first couple of years it would be a wash,' said Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin. "As the number of inmates increase that's when we'll start seeing a bigger savings. Anytime you deal with volume you can get things done cheaper.'

Chowan's jail was built in the late 70s and designed to hold 24 inmates. It already borders its 40-inmate capacity. If the county doesn't transition to ADJ, the county could be forced to build a new facility at roughly \$8 million.

In addition to its own inmates, Pasquotank's ADJ currently houses prisoners for Perquimans and Camden counties. ADJ has a capacity of 248 inmates and an annual operating budget just under \$5 million, according to Pasquotank County Sheriff Randy Cartwright. Its next planned

expansion calls for an extra capacity of 240 before building out at 600 inmates, but there are no plans to expand in the foreseeable future. ADJ has also been housing between 45 and 70 federal inmates, which helps to offset the jail's operating costs. At \$52 daily per inmate, ADJ's expense could improve with more partnerships.

"The more inmates the less the costs to house because of the fixed costs," Cartwright

Pasquotank's jail has already been housing Chowan's female inmates. But, to avoid closing its jail altogether, Chowan has pitched allowing ADJ use the facility for female inmates, or at the least placing the jail under ADJ's umbrella.

"We have an interest in keeping the facility open," said Chowan County Manager Zee

See ADJ, 5A

# **Schools** brace to **lose Life Coaches**

\$175K grant aids dropout program

By REBECCA BUNCH Staff Writer

With the dropout rate already a perennial concern in the Edenton-Chowan

Schools, the system now stands to lose a program aimed at addressing the problem. Superin-

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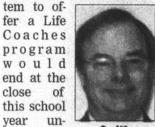
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less other funding can be secured. Smith said that despite the merits of the program he was doubtful that would be the case.

"That would be a sizeable expense for us," he said of the \$175,000 annually that would be required to keep the program alive. "I really admire the pas-

sion that they (life coaches in the school system) have for this program," Smith

See LIFE COACHES, 4A

# NC lottery not producing school jackpots

By PETER WILLIAMS Staff Writer

The odds of winning the Power Ball jackpot are better than the odds that the N.C. lottery can bridge the gap for school districts facing shortfalls near year.

simply isn't tive. There enough money available and never has make a serious dent in the education budget, state of-

ficials say. Local school systems get a share of every lottery dollar spent but it doesn't

come close to what it costs drop in the bucket," Clark to fund education in the state. Sara Clark, a

spokeswoman for the Department of Public Instruction, puts it into perspec-

Clark estimated the revenue from the lottery in 2010-11 was \$419 million, while the total state education budget was roughly \$7.14 billion.

"You can see it's really a

Thirty cents 0

dollar spent on a lottery ticket will filter back to education in some fashion. The majority -

50 percent — goes toward lottery to pay for construcprizes. There is 7 percent that goes back to retailers who sell the tickets and 5 percent goes for admin-

> istrative costs like advertising and administrative costs. Schools get the rest. Camden County is in a rare position.

The Camden school system is the smallest of the five in the Albemarle region but it's also has the largest amount of money sitting in a pot created by the North Carolina

tion projects.

What's more unusual is Camden doesn't have any looming construction need that would require the funds. It's planning to draw down \$100,000 to rehab the media center at Camden High School, but it doesn't have an immediate need to build a \$30 million school. It's used \$200,000 in lottery money for debt service once, back in 2008-09.

See LOTTERY, 4A



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