

Schools asking county for \$3.6 million

Budget calls for \$229,100 more than last year

By RITCHIE E. STARNES AND REBECCA BUNCH
Chowan Herald

Edenton-Chowan Schools will be asking county leaders for \$3.6 million of its \$4.5 million local

budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year. The request is \$229,100 more than last year's allocation in an overall local budget. It comes in a school year that Superintendent Allan Smith described to the Board of Education as "one of the more difficult fiscal years since the local financial crisis of 2008 and the ensuing economic recession." Smith said that the

local school system is facing the loss of approximately \$900,000 in state and federal funds, including \$550,249 in stimulus funds. His proposed budget also calls for \$324,970 in capital outlay projects, or \$141,470 more than the previous year.

North Carolina's appropriation will be \$14,474,513 while the federal portion will be \$2,572,838.

If the county funds the total request, the overall school budget for the next fiscal year would be \$20,698,380.

Smith said that since 2008-2009 cost reduction methods have been in place including a reduction in locally funded teacher supplements that will remain at 1 percent, or \$167,025, below the 2009 level in next year's budget.

Part of the increase is due to the creation of an alternative school at the local Boys & Girls Club, which will cost taxpayers \$150,000 for personnel and equipment. Specific information about the center remains largely unavailable because details are still being worked out, Smith

See BUDGET, 3A

GOP showdown is county's only race

Newcomers vie for commissioner's seat

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

The Democrat-rich Chowan County will have only one local race in the May 8 primary and it's a Republican contest between two political newcomers.

For the second straight election cycle, the winner of the Republican primary for the Board of Commissioners District 2, Seat 1 will have no Democrat opposition in November.

Barring no successful unaffiliated or write-in candidate, the winner of the race between

Kehayes



Phelps

Alex Kehayes, 69, and Tim Phelps, 49, will have a clear path to the county commission.

Both candidates have weaved in and out of Chowan County over the course of their lives. Not until now have the challengers decided to lend their respective acumen to the decision of the voters.

"Other than paying a lot of taxes, I've never done anything to serve," Kehayes said. "This was a way that I saw to be vigilant and keep the county going in a positive direction. I'm retired and I have time to do it."

A building contractor with deep ties to Chowan, Phelps said he also reached a point where he knew it was time to serve.

"I've been considering this for over a year now," Phelps said. "I've always enjoyed politics. I want to see Chowan County grow and prosper."

Politics has been a part of both candidates' heritage. Kehayes' father served as mayor of Edenton from '55-'59 while Phelps' dad

See RACE, 3A



HUNTIN' FOR EASTER EGGS



PHOTOS BY REBECCA LOWE

Some 25,000 eggs were scattered about the American Legion Fairgrounds for Open Door Church's Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday. As many as 1,300 participated in the festivities. For more photos of the event, see Page 6B.

Murder probed in Hertford

By CATHY WILSON
The Perquimans Weekly

HERTFORD — A 19-year-old man was shot and killed around midnight Sunday in a Perquimans County home during a reported dispute over alleged stolen property.

No arrests had been made by Monday evening in the shooting death of Tre Brothers, according to Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley.

Tilley said Brothers was shot in the face with a 12-gauge shotgun during an argument at 124 Albemarle Road, near Harvey Point Road. He was transported by Perquimans EMS to Chowan Hospital in Edenton where he died.

Tilley said his office is investigating persons of interest who may no longer be in the area in connection with the shooting that was reported on a cell phone by an anonymous female caller at 12:10 a.m. Monday.

Five people were on the property at the time of the shooting, Tilley added.

Brothers reportedly travelled back and forth between the Perquimans County residence and a home in Goldsboro, said Tilley. The home where the shooting occurred is owned by John and Sarah Blount of Elizabeth City, according to county tax records.

Investigation into the shooting is continuing by the sheriff's department assisted by the SBI.

Suspect in COA threats case pleads no contest

White must apologize to COA, pay \$3K for costs

By WILLIAM F. WEST
Staff Writer

A former college student must apologize to College of The Albemarle and write a two-page essay about how her actions affected the community as part of her sentence for sending an e-mailed threat to COA officials last fall.

Margaret Monika White, 18, pleaded no contest to a charge of misdemeanor cyberstalking in Pasquotank District Court on Thursday. According to her plea, White doesn't admit any wrongdoing for sending the e-mail on Oct. 3, but she also doesn't deny any wrongdoing, either.



White



FILE PHOTO

Police investigate a threat at College of The Albemarle, Oct. 3, 2011.

Besides requiring White to write a formal apology to COA President Kandi Deitemeyer and pen the two-page essay, District Court Judge Eula Reid sentenced White to a 30 days in jail, suspended, and

placed her on supervised probation for a year and a half.

Reid also sentenced White to reimburse COA \$3,325 for the costs of ramping up security to respond to the e-mailed threat. COA offi-

icals quickly canceled classes and evacuated the community college campus after White's e-mail was received by Deitemeyer and other COA officials.

During her appearance in court on Thursday, White acknowledged sending the threatening e-mail in her former boyfriend's name and from his e-mail account. But she did so, she said, because she was scared that her then-boyfriend planned to do something harmful, and she wanted someone to know it.

In the e-mail, White, posing as her then-boyfriend, said that "my math teacher gets on my nerve and the next time he bothers me I'm going to bring my gun to school." The e-mail, which identified the math teacher as Frank Hendrick, goes on to state "I hate COA and Elizabeth City" and "I feel like blowing the whole school up."

White told Reid Thursday that

See COA, 3A



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