

Budget talks hint of request shortfalls

Schools, sheriff to make adjustments

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Preliminary budget talks suggest a number of Chowan County departments will again be forced to cinch their fiscal belts and pare down their needs list.

Last Thursday the Board of Commissioners held a special budget session to discuss the county budget and determine how much funding each department will likely get. Among those expected to whittle their funding plans are Edenton-Chowan Schools and the Sheriff's Office.

Instead of the requested \$3.6 million funding, commissioners have signaled

they plan to appropriate \$3.4 million, or the same level as last year, toward schools.

Although school leaders ultimately determine how the system will spend the county's allocation, the funding disparity equals the system's plans to fund a \$150,000 alternative school at the Boys and Girls Club for at-risk students and \$55,000 annually



Goodwin



Nixon

See **SHORTFALLS**, 3A

EASY DOES IT

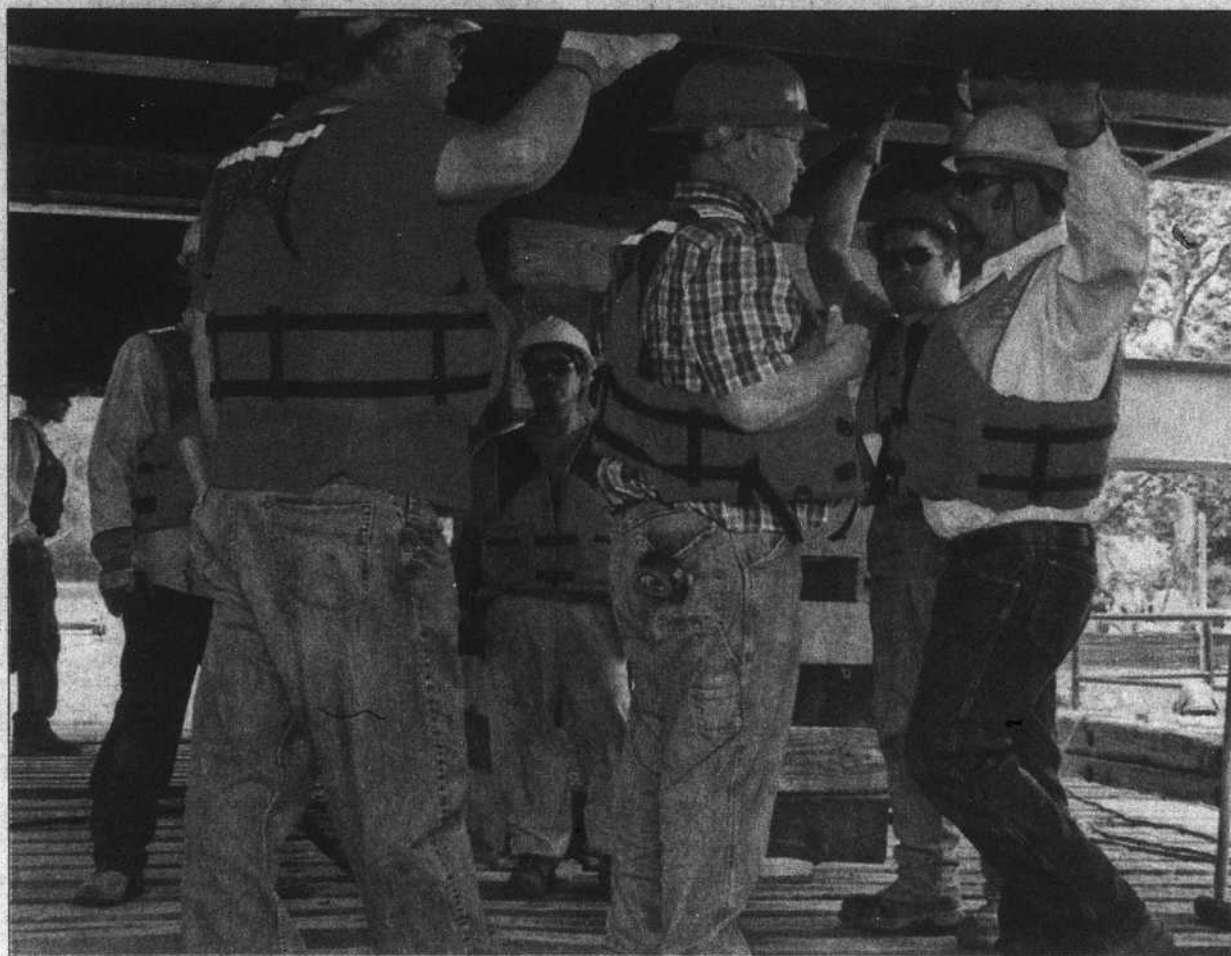


PHOTO BY KIP SHAW

Worth Hare (center) discusses with his crew the final details of moving the 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse above the waters of Edenton Bay on Tuesday afternoon. For a complete wrap-up, see next week's edition of the Chowan Herald.

Masked gunmen rob Duck Thru

From staff reports

Three suspects are being sought in connection with an armed robbery Thursday night at approximately 10:25 p.m. at the Duck Thru convenience store at 218 Virginia Road in Edenton.

Edenton Police Chief Jay Fortenbery described the three suspects, caught on a surveillance camera at the store, as black males between the ages of 16 and 26. He said they entered the store wearing camouflage bandanas over their faces, heavy coats and gloves.

According to Fortenbery, one of the robbery suspects was armed with a pump action shotgun, which he pointed at a store clerk. The suspects demanded money from the clerk and fled the scene in an unknown direction, the police chief said, taking with them an undisclosed amount of money.

Fortenbery said that robberies of this type are rare in the community. "We have been lucky," he said. "We are just thankful that no one was injured in this incident."

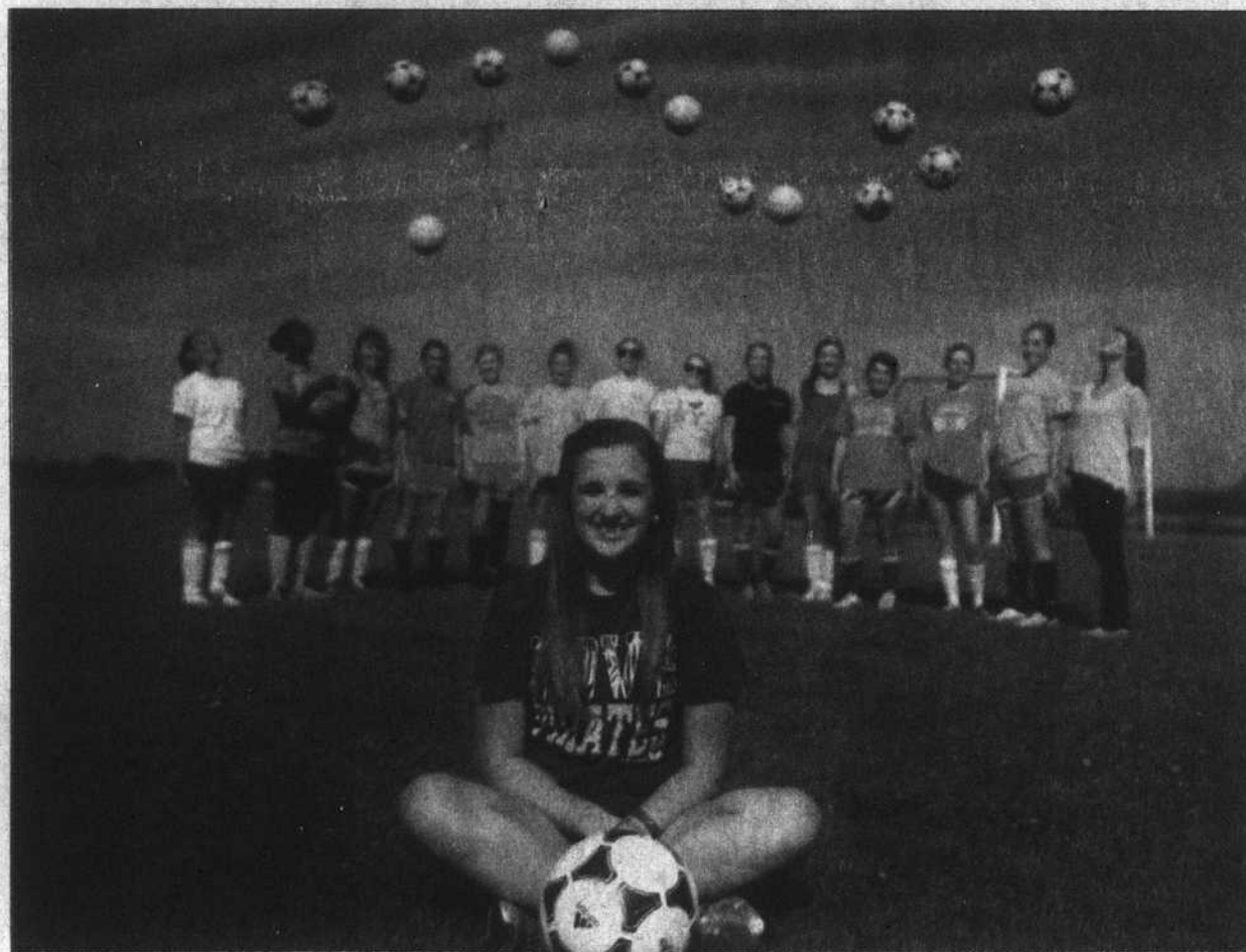
The Edenton Police Department is asking for the public's help in solving this crime and a \$1,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the identity and arrest of the individuals responsible, Fortenbery said.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Edenton Police Department at 482-5144 or 482-4444.



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Inspirational leader



STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNER

Edenton soccer player Whitney Holmes (center), is not playing this spring after undergoing brain surgery, but still comes to practices and games to support her teammates and they stand behind her. Holmes had her operation last October after suffering three concussions.

Brain surgery can't stop Holmes from being with her teammates

By CHIC RIEBEL
Sports Editor

After suffering three concussions in two different sports last year, Whitney Holmes was cleared to play soccer at Edenton back in early March.

That was great news for the two-year varsity player. Holmes, a junior defender, is totally consumed with the game.

"I've been playing soccer since I was about 4 years old," she said. "I love playing whether it's school, camp or just with a group of

"Whitney is just such an inspiration for us... She has been through so much, yet she's there all the time helping us."

Molly High
Aces' soccer player

friends."

Despite the medical clearance, Holmes decided she would play it safe, rather than play, this season.

Instead of mixing it up on the field, she is regularly attending practices and games while working as a mentor to teammates, helping Lady Aces' coach Alicia Cassidy-Quate in whatever way possible and keeping stats.

You might have made the same decision if you were six months removed from brain surgery.

"To go out and sit

at practice and watch games and listen to the stories from my teammates about the game the next day is so hard," said Holmes, who underwent a five-hour brain operation last Oct. 5 at Duke University Medical Center to alleviate headaches and dizziness.

"But I'd rather sit out the season than never play again," she said. "I just thought it would be better to be careful."

While Holmes isn't on the playing field, she is making plenty of

See **HOLMES**, 4A

Decision 2012

Early voters choosing GOP

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Monday marked the busiest day so far for early voting in Chowan County where most are choosing to cast ballots in the Republican primary.

Inside

Power outage poses early voting wrinkle
— 1B

Seventy-seven voters took advantage of one-stop voting Monday, bringing the total to 437 with five days left for the early opportunity. Chowan is averaging 54 voters daily since early voting started April 19. It concludes 1 p.m. Saturday.

Chowan's Board of Elections does not anticipate this year's one-stop numbers to eclipse the 981 casts in the 2008 primary. Current numbers are outpacing the 2010 primary.

But the opportunity is there for next week's primary to be as busy here as 2008. At 10,611, Chowan has more registered voters today than in the previous presidential election of 9,817.

While Democrats still hold the majority of registered voters at 5,758, the number of Republicans and Unaffiliated are growing at a faster clip.

There are 2,506

See **ONE-STOP**, 2A

MAY PLAY DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 5TH starts at 10:00 am
ROCKY HOCK COMMUNITY CENTER

CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT
10:00 - UNTIL
GRAND PRIZE \$100
EDENTON DANCE STARS
11:00 - 12:00PM

PEMBROKE BASS
CLUB CHILDREN'S
FISHING SEMINAR
& CONTEST

BBQ CHICKEN PLATES
CALL \$8.00 FROM 3 - 7 PM
252-221-4875
or
252-340-3438

OPRY BOYS QUARTET
7:30 pm - Call for Tickets

CRAFT BOOTHS • BAKED GOODS
CHILDREN'S CRAFTS & GAMES
FREE BICYCLE DRAWING 1:30PM
BB GUN SHOOTING CLINIC & CONTEST