

## County picks PNC to sell Hinton Hotel

Board to seek demolition permit

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

Time is ticking for Preservation North Carolina to find a buyer for the former Hinton Hotel.

The Board of Commissioners chose PNC as the lead agency to market the Hinton Hotel while also intending to apply for a demolition permit. Commissioners voted unanimously March 4

to contract with PNC to sell the former hotel that last served as headquarters to Chowan County departments. The county is slated to ink an agreement with PNC this week.

They also voiced their intentions to apply for a demolition permit no later than July 1. A vote on the action is expected at the board's March 19 work session.

Claudia DeViney, who spearheads PNC efforts locally, said the specter of demolition creates a sense of urgency.

"While I'd rather they (commissioners) not do this (demolition permit), many of the buildings that we deal with are threatened by demolition," she said. "We've been dealing with historical and endangered properties since the 70s."

A demolition permit keeps the county's options open in the event there's no progress with finding a

buyer in a reasonable amount of time.

"The county would only remove the building sometime after July 1, 2014, if no progress is made in the marketing of the property," said County Manager Zee Lamb via email. "It is the sincere hope of the county commissioners that a buyer can be found to preserve the property."

Part of the reason for the early application is that while state law does not prohibit demolition in historic districts, there is a provision that allows a delay up to one

year. Although buyers for downtrodden properties have been scarce during the sour economy, interest has increased across the state, DeViney said.

"Activity has been dormant because of the economy, but I'm seeing a turn," she added. "I think this part of North Carolina has been slowest to respond. I think this is going to be an exciting year."

Federal and state tax incentives are expected to help

See HOTEL, 3A

## Pastor Alexander dies at 103

From Staff Reports

The Rev. E.C. Alexander died Monday at his home just days after his 103rd birthday.

Alexander served as pastor at First Christian Church in the Edenton Mill Village for almost 68 years before his failing health forced him to step aside.

Shirley Conner, Alexander's surviving daughter, said Tuesday morning that she would always remember her dad as a man who lived the values he preached from the pulpit.



Alexander

See ALEXANDER, 3A

## Developer eyes housing project

72-units proposed for Paradise Road

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

After the town rejected one developer's plan to build a multi-family housing project because of already too many empty rentals in relation to available renters, another builder has applied to erect a larger complex on Paradise Road.

Carolina Project Builders of Raleigh has applied for a conditional use permit to erect Patriot Pointe, a 72-unit multi-family dwelling on 7 acres previously earmarked for the failed Beechwood Continued Care Retirement Community. Patriot Pointe developers would receive tax credits that would

See HOUSING, 2A



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## A TIME TO BEAT



PHOTO COURTESY BY JEREMY GROVES

Blake Ferrell (third from left) took first place in last year's Kiwanis 5K Run/Walk with a time of 17:41. Anyone who can beat his team this year will be treated to dinner for two courtesy of the Kiwanis Club.

## Kiwanis 5K organizers issue challenge

17:41 is the time to beat this year

By REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

The Edenton-Chowan Kiwanis Club is issuing a challenge to anyone who participates in its

third annual 5K Run/Walk this Saturday starting at 9 a.m. at the Historic Edenton Visitor Center.

For one lucky winner that challenge could end with dinner at a downtown Edenton restaurant. Barbara Cavanagh, chairwoman of the event on behalf of the club, ex-

plained that last year the event's winning runner Blake Ferrell — then a cross-country athlete and senior class member at John A. Holmes High School — set a time of 17:41. Now away at college, he has not signed up to participate this year, she said.

"That is an incredible time," Cavanagh said of Ferrell's achievement, "but if anyone can beat it this year, we (Kiwanis Club) will treat him or her to dinner for two at 309 Bistro."

Cavanagh said that last year 83 people ran and walked during the

event to support the Kiwanis Club's scholarship program for seniors at Holmes. This year, with sign-ups still occurring, the club hopes to attract even more participants, she said.

USA Track and Field, a

See KIWANIS, 3A

## NC homeowner insurance rates to rise

STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

NC-20 Group President Willa Kelly talks with the Edenton Discussion Group about the high cost of homeowners insurance in the region, Thursday



Chowan to see 1 percent hike

By CINDY BEAMON  
The Daily Advance

Homeowners insurance rates will go up this summer, but not nearly as much as originally proposed.

Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin on March 5 signed a settlement agreement that trims a proposed statewide rate hike by more than half.

Rates will increase an

average of 7 percent across the state beginning July 1. Insurance companies, represented by the North Carolina Rate Bureau, proposed a 17.7 percent overall increase last fall.

The rate hike percentage is actually lower for mainland counties in the Albemarle.

For residents in Camden, Chowan, Perquimans and Pasquotank counties, insurance premiums will go up 1 percent, rather than 30 percent as originally proposed.

For example, a resident

now paying \$1,327 for \$150,000 in coverage will pay \$13 more in annual premiums under the settlement agreement. Had the higher rate increase been approved, residents would have paid \$400 more.

Residents in Currituck County will face larger percentage increases, although still significantly less than originally proposed.

A homeowner on the Currituck mainland now paying \$1,519 for \$150,000

See INSURANCE, 2A

## County to lose finance director, tax administrator

Departures come as budget talks, revaluation begin

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

Two Chowan County employees are leaving their respective positions at a critical fiscal time.

County Finance Director Kim Woodley and Tax Administrator Clyde Kopley are leaving their posts for new jobs in the western

part of the state. Although both have been at their current posts for slightly more than a year, they have made key contributions in their brief time of employment, said County Manager Zee Lamb.

Woodley, who has the shortest tenure of the two at barely over a year, was instrumental in refinanc-

ing the county's debt that will eventually save taxpayers \$10.33 million.

"Refinancing the debt was huge for the board (commissioners) and the county," Woodley said. "That's going to have the most impact on the citizens."

While Woodley calls the refinancing her most

significant contribution, Lamb also points to her diligent efforts at consolidating 15 different budgets at the Department of Social Services. That budget reorganization creates a clearer understanding of the DSS' budget in relations to the county's general fund, Lamb said.

Woodley has also been negotiating the county's banking services with local institutions.

Woodley said her decision to leave was based on personal reasons related to her family, which required relocation to western North Carolina. She will be returning to

See DEPARTURES, 3A

EDENTON CHOWAN KIWANIS 5K RUN/WALK  
Walgreens AT THE CORNER OF HAPPY & HEALTHY  
SAT. MARCH 16, 2013 - 9:00 AM HISTORIC EDENTON VISITORS CENTER