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Golden LEAF slams door on Community Assistance COA, healthcare, infrastructure could get alternate funding

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

If Chowan County leaders hope to receive any future funding from the Golden LEAF Foundation they should scrap any tourism-related projects, sources say.
County Manager Zee

Lamb and Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton met with Golden LEAF officials Monday afternoon at the non-profit's headquarters in Rocky Mount amid hopes they could recoup \$600,000 of the original \$2 million award from the Community Assistance Initiative. Earlier this month Golden

LEAF awarded \$1.4 million toward four local economic development projects. Because one-third of the total award escaped the Tier 1, or economically distressed, Chowan County's grasp, Lamb and Knighton hoped they could convince Golden LEAF to reopen funding opportunities.

"They let us know right out of the gate that there's no way to recover any funds from the Community Assistance Initiative," Knighton said Monday afternoon.
"That's about what we expected," Lamb added.
Nonetheless, both said they asked for the meet-

ing to lay the groundwork for future funding opportunities. The meeting also served as a fishing expedition to learn what types of projects might qualify for other Golden LEAF grants.
The majority of the county's 11 projects were tied to tourism, which proved to



Knighton Lamb

be a tough sell to Golden LEAF board members.

See **GOLDEN LEAF**, 3A

Librarian leaves for Camden

Library set to budget extra \$10K

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

The Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library is losing its head librarian to Camden County.

Linda VanSistine-Yost will be leaving next month to oversee a new library in Camden



VanSistine-Yost

County. Her last day on the job in Edenton will be May 10.

VanSistine-Yost said that the opportunity to oversee a brand new library with the latest technology certainly played a role in her decision.

"I think what was appealing (about the job) is that the Camden commissioners feel librarians are an important part of the community," she said, "and even in these tough economic times, they wanted to go forward with something like this (building project)."

Officials in Camden are planning a July opening for the 6,800-square-foot facility.

Beginning in 2009, the Edenton library suffered funding cuts along with other Chowan County departments. VanSistine-Yost said that only last year was she able to restore full salaries to staff at the library.

Board of Commissioners Chairman Keith Nixon said he could understand her decision.

"I wish her well in her endeavors," Nixon said. "I have heard nothing but good things about her from others since she has been here."

Nixon added that while Chowan County continues to recover from the 2008 economic meltdown, commissioners also want to see the library in Edenton flourish but that they must set realistic limits on their level of support.

"We support the library but there's only so much money to go around," Nixon said. "We understand concerns about funding, but

See **LIBRARIAN**, 2A



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BLOWN AWAY



STAFF PHOTOS BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

Strong winds sheared the roof off this house in the 1500 block of West Queen Street Ext. The roof was found destroyed and strewn across a field some 50 yards away.

Straight-line winds rip roof off house

Toppled trees crush garages, truck

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Straight-line winds late Friday night are to blame for ripping the roof off a split-level house, sending it airborne before disintegrating along a field nearly 50 yards away.

Residents along West Church Street Extended discovered the wrath of Mother Nature early Saturday morning. Straight-line winds toppled trees, sheared roofs, and aluminum siding while strewing property from yard to yard. Most were convinced a tornado had caused the random damage that seemed confined to the immediate area.

Chris Jenkins' house at the 1500 block sustained the most damage with the storm shearing the roof off his house, leaving the interior completely exposed. Jenkins was out of town at the time, visiting his parents' farm in Virginia in honor of his 51st birthday.

"The best birthday present was the fact that I wasn't here," Jenkins said.

Jenkins said he was awakened by a telephone call with news of the



Straight-line winds ripped through parts of west Edenton last Friday night, causing significant property damage. Several toppled trees landed on garages and vehicles like observed above.

destruction after utility crew attending a snapped electrical pole in his front yard saw that his roof had been peeled away.

Several homes sustained damage. Across the street from Jenkins' home a tree fell atop a garage and pickup truck, crushing the vehicle. Another large tree fell across a large garage located on Countryside Drive. Several utility buildings sustained dam-

ages. Property from surrounding homes was strewn about the yards of neighbors, prompting residents to theorize that only the twisting motion of a tornado could have been responsible for the scattered materials.

"I've got an extra pine tree in my yard that I don't know where it came from," Jenkins said. "It's

See **WINDS**, 3A

Former Bostonians mourn bombings

Nicholls: 'It can happen anywhere'

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Former Bostonians now residing here said last week's marathon bombing and manhunt for those responsible cut too close to home.

As most Americans cringed at the sight of two bombs exploding at the finish line of last Monday's famed Boston Marathon, a few New Englanders that transplanted to Edenton took the terrorist attack a bit more personal. Because of their intimate connection to the multi-cultural city that they once called home or place of work, the bombings ignited a personal pain and weeklong fixation.

The bombings that killed three and maimed more than 170 along Boylston Street, the marathon's final route, left Edenton Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton especially heart sickened. At that the site of the bombings were some tenderly cured moments from her childhood.

"I have many fond memories of Boylston Street, of going to work with my dad, on Saturdays, and school vacations," Knighton said. "I sort of grew up on Boylston Street, it's where my dad taught me to be 'city smart'. I learned how to take the train, the subway, walk safely in a parking garage, how to walk assertively but politely on city sidewalks - all by going to work with him on Boylston Street."

She further described the vibrancy of that thoroughfare of busy traffic integrated with incredible architecture, art galleries, boutiques, churches and sidewalks wide enough for pedestrians and trees to coexist.

But, suddenly those

See **BOSTON**, 3A

BOCC hires tax administrator, finance director

County nixes live-in policy

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

County officials wasted little time hiring replacements for the recent vacancies of tax administrator and finance director.

On Monday the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to hire Wil-

lie Mack Carawan as Chowan's finance director. Last week, the board voted unanimously to hire Hosea Wilson as its tax administrator. Prior to the hirings, commissioners reversed a policy adopted two years ago that required department heads to reside within Chowan County.

Wilson, 44, has been working as the tax administrator in neighboring

Bertie County since 2006. Wilson worked there in 2006 and under County Manager Zee Lamb for five years. Lamb fully endorsed Wilson's credentials as the state's only tax administrator with a certification in property appraising.

Chowan is currently undergoing its property revaluation, which occurs every eight years.

"The value added for

(Wilson) is that he just went through a revaluation in Bertie," Lamb said. "He's strong in that area."

It became clear that Chowan's current revaluation also appealed to Wilson.

"It would be a benefit for me from a professional standpoint as well as for Chowan County," Wilson said.

Lamb also said that tax collections increased

in Bertie under Wilson's leadership, a trend also on the rise in Chowan.

Wilson, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, called Chowan a progressive county amid plans to move his family here. He is married with twin 10-year-old sons.

Carawan, 47, has been serving in a dual capacity with Tyrrell County,

See **HIRING**, 3A

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