



Perquimans wins the Battle of the bands — 4A

482-4418

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

50¢

## Threat closes schools Tuesday

From staff reports

A threat made in a letter received by the Chowan County Sheriff's Department led to all four public schools in the county being closed Tuesday.

Chowan Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin said Tuesday morning that he was taking the threat seriously.

"This day and time we have to take it seriously until we can prove otherwise," Goodwin said.

The threat did not target schools specifically, but did mention harming children, according to Goodwin.

The letter has been sent to Raleigh for forensic evaluation, Goodwin said.

No motive for the threat was indicated in the letter, which specifically referenced Oct. 8 and contained a "general threat of harm" as well as specific threats against the Chowan River Bridge, Albemarle Sound Bridge and other facilities in the county, Goodwin said.

Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Alan Smith said the schools



THOMAS J. TURNEY / THE DAILY ADVANCE

Broad threats against Chowan County schools and bridges, including the Chowan River Bridge (pictured), made in a letter mailed to the Chowan County Sheriff's Department on Monday prompted county schools to close on Tuesday.

were closed at the request of the sheriff in light of the "broad threat made to the community."

Smith said "the schools were referenced as part of that (threat)."

Goodwin said Tuesday

morning that authorities had completed hand and canine searched of all schools, the courthouse, and both bridges,

and no explosive device had been turned up.

The threat in the letter mentioned "both blowing

up and killing," Goodwin said.

Goodwin said the letter was received around 10:30 a.m. Monday and law enforcement authorities had been working on since then.

Goodwin said he made the decision to keep the threat quiet Monday because he was trying to prevent a panic from occurring Monday night.

"We didn't want what is happening this morning to happen last night," Goodwin said, referring to the widespread confusion and worry Tuesday morning.

Goodwin said there is no way law enforcement would have been able to do its job Tuesday night while also dealing with public panic.

Agencies that have been involved in the investigation — in addition to the sheriff's department — include the Edenton Police Department, State Highway Patrol, Coast Guard, Postmaster General, State Bureau of Investigation, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and N.C. Department of Transportation, according to Goodwin.

## Dixon receives Cannon Cup

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Samuel B. "Sambo" Dixon is the 2013 winner of the prestigious Ruth Coltrane Cannon Cup. Presented by Preservation North Carolina, the Cup is the most significant preservation award given in North Carolina.



DIXON

The award is presented to an individual or organization that has made contributions of statewide significance to historic preservation in North Carolina, according to Lauren Werner, director of preservation outreach for PNC.

Dixon, an Edenton attorney and ardent preservationist, said he was very surprised to receive a letter telling him that he would receive the coveted award.

"I was really shocked," he said.

Werner said that Dixon was a logical choice to receive the award.

"Sambo won because of his unequivocal commitment to historic preservation," Werner said in an email.

Werner said that Dixon's achievements included:

- Founding the Dixon Company of Edenton, LLC to purchase and restore endangered historic properties, now holding over 30 structures, many located in traditionally African-American neighborhoods;
- Moving and restoring the early 18th century

See DIXON, 3A



©2009 The Chowan Herald  
All Rights Reserved

## Remodeling starts at Vidant Chowan Hospital

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

Construction began this week on the outpatient services project at Vidant Chowan Hospital.

The nearly \$5 million remodeling project is expected to be complete by September 2014, according to Brian White, the hospital's director of clinical and support services.

"Of course, you know with construction that's tentative," White said.

The remodeling will improve the public's experience of outpatient services, according to Vidant Chowan Hospital President Jeffrey Sackrison.

"From my standpoint I think this is going to just give our patients and the community a much better place to receive their outpatient care," Sackrison said.

He also noted the project will provide the hospital opportunities to expand.

"So we're excited about it," Sackrison said.

The project will be completed in phases. The new rehab gym is expected to be ready in December.

"This will be a relatively quick turnaround," White said of the rehab gym.

Kristy Worrell, the hospital's rehab services manager, said one advantage of the remodeling is that it will move all outpatient services into a single building. The change will simplify access to services, she said.

"It will be a lot more convenient," Worrell said.

Worrell said there shouldn't be any change in services during the construction. The idea is at the end of the project to move out of the current space on a Friday and move into the new facility that following Monday, she said.

Hospital spokeswoman Megan Booth-Mills said the hospital appreciates the community's support.

Ginny Waff of the Vidant Chowan Hospital Community Hospital Foundation said \$138,000 has been raised to date for the remodeling project.



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Staff from Vidant Chowan Hospital hold a banner celebrating the remodeling project at the hospital. They are (l-r) David Kolikas, Ginny Waff, Brian White, Dana Byrum, Claire Evans, Carolyn Hare, Kelly Raney, Kristy Worrell and Markie Gregory.

eling project.

"And those efforts continue," Waff said.

Waff said the community fundraising goal set by the directors

council is \$150,000, but the foundation actually will continue raising money after reaching that

See HOSPITAL, 3A

## CANDIDATE PROFILES

### Curtin cites need for forward thinking

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

LoriAnn Curtin promises if she's elected to the town council she will be a strong voice for citizens of the 4th Ward and will work to bring longer-term thinking to bear on issues before the council.

"I think it's time to change the way business has been done and to start thinking more proactively about the day after tomorrow and stop reacting about yesterday and today," said Curtin, who faces Elton Bond Jr. in the Nov. 5 election. "Fresh ideas and new voices can make a difference."

Curtin helped found the community watch program and has been very active in the North Oakum Street neighborhood watch.

"My community here I don't think has ever been fairly represented," Curtin said, referring to the North Oakum Street neighborhood where she lives.



CURTIN

The community watch system has pressed a lot of issues and made a difference, she said. As an example, Curtin cited a condemned house of Cabarrus Street that was torn down after four years of pushing by the neighborhood.

Curtin said the house had been used as a drug house, and area children also played in and around it. A nine-year-old found a gun in the empty back yard, she said.

Curtin said known felons are walking the street and an effort needs to be made to change the system that allows that to happen.

As an example of the kind of forward-looking thinking that she's committed to, Curtin pointed out there is eight acres of undeveloped land on Oakum Street just beyond the housing authority.

"Everybody wants the Boys and Girls Club to come back here and



See CURTIN, 2A

### Bond values community service tradition

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Elton Bond Jr. says a desire to continue the tradition of community service on the town council by incumbent Willis Privott has led him to file for the 4th Ward seat Privott will vacate at the end of his current term.

Privott announced in July that he would not seek re-election to the seat he has held for the past 33 years.

"I am running for town council because I feel it is my civic duty to continue the long legacy Mr. Privott started over 30 years ago, a legacy of service to the 4th Ward and the entire town of Edenton," Bond said. Bond, 61, added that he was ready to get to work alongside other council members to address critical issues facing the town such as crime and bringing jobs back to the community.

"Every neighborhood needs to feel safe whether they are sitting

on their porches, riding their bikes or just taking a stroll around town," Bond said.

"I want to be a part of the town council to help find businesses and industries to come to Edenton so we can get a lot of our citizens back to work," Bond added.

Bond, who holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Elizabeth City State University and is a fiber line operator for Domtar (previously known as Weyerhaeuser), said that he also wanted to be a part of building partnerships within the community that would make positive activities available for young people.

"I want our youth to have a place to go where they can be a part of a positive environment," he said. "I want to be a part of the team of councilmen who are willing and ready to find funds to build a youth center and create a youth council."

See BOND, 2A