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Wednesday, December 2, 2009

White Oak garners \$25K in online contest

■ U.S. Cellular rewards effort of 'truly amazing' community

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

White Oak Elementary School was the recipient of some very good news Tuesday morning when U.S. Cellular revealed the names of the 20 winners in its 2013 Calling All Communities Campaign. The school was among them, coming in at number 12 on the list.

White Oak Principal Michelle White expressed appreciation on behalf of the staff and faculty for the community's solid support.

"We want to thank U.S. Cellular for offering this opportunity to our children," White said. "We are extremely thankful to our community, and to the other schools of Chowan County, for supporting White Oak. We have a small community with big hearts, and winning this contest demon-

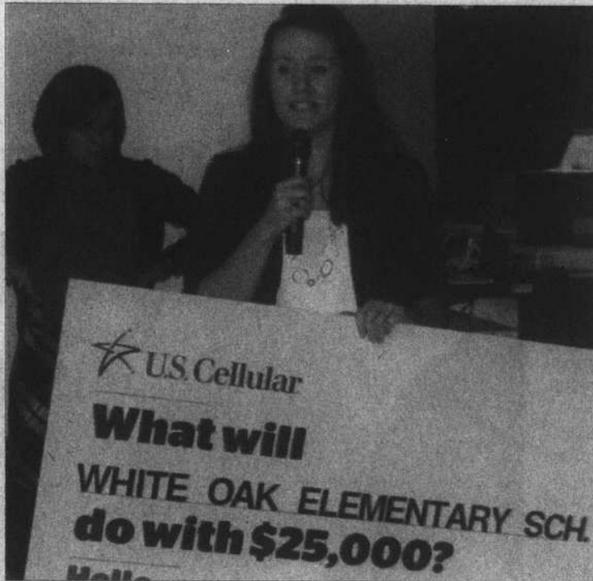
strates what a truly amazing place Chowan County is."

Superintendent Allan Smith agreed. "The fact that such a small community as Chowan County was able to generate the level of participation for White Oak to marshal enough votes to be one of the top 20 schools from across the nation is a testament to the support of the community and the tenacity of the parents and staff. I share in the excitement of the day and wish to express my gratitude to all who made today a reality."

The winners were determined by online voting that began Nov. 4 and ended Nov. 25. White Oak was one of four North Carolina schools that made the cut-off. Two of the remaining three schools are located in Wilmington and one in Havelock. The school receiving the most overall votes was Brickley McCloud Elementary School in Knoxville, Tenn.

A total of 37,000 online votes were cast in

See CONTEST, 3A



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

White Oak Principal Michelle White celebrates the school's winning \$25,000 from U.S. Cellular in an online contest held during November. "Today is our time," White told students and staff at an assembly where the news was announced.

Public hearing slated for Monday

■ Meeting on local redistricting proposal

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners and Edenton-Chowan Board of Education will hold a joint public hearing next week on a redistricting proposal for both boards.

The meeting will be Monday at 5:30 p.m. in the training room on the second floor of the county's Public Safety Center.

Currently, school board members and county commissioners are elected from identical districts — and the proposed new districts maintain that tradition.

The plan calls for moving 1,105 residents from the 2nd District to the 3rd District.

The proposed redistricting map is available for public review at the county manager's office on the second floor of the Public Safety Building, at the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education Office, and online at www.chowancounty-nc.gov or www.ecps.schoolfusion.us.

The county has three districts, each of which elects two members, and also has one at-large member.

The 1st District is the northern portion of the county, the 2nd District is in the southern and central areas of the county around Edenton, and the 3rd District includes most of the town.

The proposed new district map was developed by county staff in consultation with a small group of county commissioners and school board members.

The change is required because of population shifts as indicated by the 2010 census.

See HEARING, 3A



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TREE ILLUMINATION



PHOTO COURTESY WAYNE WOODBURY

Mayor Roland Vaughan — backed by a group of D.F. Walker students and surrounded by a crowd of local residents — offers an exuberant shout to light the town Christmas tree.

Local teens now face charges

■ Chief: Teens told police they had been kidnapped

From staff reports

Two teens who went missing from Edenton recently and turned up in Texas have been charged with giving false information to police.

Robert Lee Bunch, 19, of East Queen Street, Edenton, and Nicholas Stephen Beaman, 16, of Bella Vista Drive, Edenton, both were charged with making a false report to police, according to Edenton Police Chief Jay Fortenbery.

In addition, Bunch has been charged with contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile, according to Fortenbery.

All the charges are misdemeanors.

Bunch was released on \$1,500 unsecured bond and Beaman was released on \$500 unsecured bond, police reported.

Bunch and Beaman are scheduled to appear in Chowan District Court on Jan. 7.

The teens were first reported missing on Nov. 23. They were located in San Antonio, Tex., on Nov. 25.

Fortenbery said the false report charges stemmed from the teens' initial claim that they had been kidnapped. Investigation by the police in San Antonio found the kidnapping had not occurred, Fortenbery said.

It appears that Beaman and Bunch took the trip to Texas in order to visit a girl, Fortenbery said.

School board member furious about tenure proposal

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

Local school board member Gil Burroughs said recently the new state requirement to offer four-year contracts to a fourth — and only a fourth — of the school district's experienced teachers based on recommendations to the

IN A RELATED STORY

■ School board not yet ready with new tenure policy — 6A

school board by the superintendent of schools makes him furious. "I'm bothered by the

whole idea," said Burroughs, a retired teacher with 27 years experience. "The more I think about it, the angrier I get. It's just absurd."

Burroughs said that the whole effect of the new legislation would be to drive a wedge between classroom teachers rather than encourage collaboration as they

compete for the best contracts.

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education recently heard a presentation explaining that during the 2013-2014 school year, school districts will be required to identify twenty-five percent of all teachers with three consecutive years of service, based on performance

evaluations, who would be offered four-year contracts.

The four-year contracts are to be awarded based on recommendations to the school board by the superintendent of schools.

Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, said he

See PROPOSAL, 3A

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