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Wednesday, March 5, 2014

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Snow, sleet hinder activities, driving

From staff reports

Snow and sleet cancelled some meetings and activities this week and created dangerous conditions on area roads.

Edenton-ChowanSchools

dismissed Monday at 11:30 a.m. due to weather conditions. The schools were closed Tuesday for students and 10-month employees, while 12-month employees were asked to report for work as road conditions

permitted.

The meeting of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners that was scheduled for Monday evening was rescheduled to Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Chowan County Court

was cancelled for Tuesday. County government offices opened at 10 a.m. on Tuesday.

The National Weather Service called for an overnight low of 20 Monday night and a high of 36 on Tuesday.

Local officials reported several motor vehicle accidents Monday afternoon, attributed mainly to slick road conditions resulting from snow and sleet.

No serious injuries were reported in connection with

the Monday afternoon accidents.

The National Weather Service predicted an overnight low of 32 for Tuesday night, with a high of 44 for today. A chance of rain also was in the forecast for today.

Activist backs lot for police station

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

While option 1 is the recommendation of town staff for the proposed new home of the Edenton Police Department, the decision won't be final until the town council votes on the issue.

Some citizens like Lori Ann Curtin are hoping that means they still have a chance to encourage council members to keep an open mind on options 2, 3 and 4 rather than settling for the recommended site.



CURTIN

Curtin was a candidate in last year's town council election for the 4th Ward seat. Councilman Elton Bond Jr. won the election to that seat.

Curtin attends most council meetings and has written letters to council members outlining her concerns about the relocation.

See STATION, 3A

Officials to weigh wind farm MOU

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

Town council members discussed a request for a memorandum of understanding from Apex Energy during their Feb. 24 work session but did not reach a consensus on the request.

The request comes as a result of meetings between the town's Airport Commission and officials from Apex, the firm that wants to construct a wind farm on property under lease north of the U.S. 17 Bypass, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said. The property in question is located outside the city limits and falls under the zoning control of Chowan County government.

See WIND FARM, 3A



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Howard begins work as county manager

■ Sees positive things on the horizon for the community

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

New Chowan County Manager Kevin Howard sees a lot of energy in the county.

"What has caught my attention since coming here is all the positive things: The chance of continued growth, the possibility of the hotel project — I think that could be a big boost for downtown if they can get that working," Howard said during an interview in his office Monday morning. "Being downtown Saturday and seeing it so active is exciting."

Howard took the reins of Chowan County government Monday. He is living in the county-owned manager's house and has been in town since last Wednesday.

Howard comes to Chowan County from Caswell County, where he had been county manager for nearly seven years.

He replaces Zee Lamb, who left after two years as Chowan's county manager to become Nash County's county manager Jan. 1.

Clifton Hardison, the county's director of social services, had been serving as interim county manager.

Howard has much to work on as he begins the new job. This is a property revaluation year for the county, and all indications are there will be a significant overall decline in property valuation.

Although Howard shepherded Caswell through a property revaluation during his time there, that was a much different case as Caswell saw a gain in overall valuation.

Another concern county officials face right now is how best



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Chowan County Manager Kevin Howard takes notes at his desk Monday morning as he begins his new job here. Howard previously was county manager in Caswell County.

to provide animal control services beginning July 1. Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin has given notice that his department does not intend to provide animal control services after June 30.

Howard noted that counties across the state handle animal

control in different ways, whether under the Sheriff's Department, under the Health Department, directly under the county manager or in some other fashion.

"There are a number of ways it can be done," Howard said. In Caswell County, animal con-

trol reported directly to the county manager, Howard said.

Howard said he was busy "absorbing information" on his first day at the Chowan post.

Howard had been Caswell's

See HOWARD, 3A

SMA head lauds Edenton's people, quality of life

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Bill Lanzen, chief executive officer of Standard Medical Acceptance, talks about the company and why it chose to relocate to Edenton at the 2014 State of the Region event in Williamston, Friday.

INSIDE

More from Friday's State of the Region event — 4A

The top executive at Standard Medical Acceptance told the audience at last week's State of the Region event that Edenton's people and the community's quality of life were pivotal in the company's decision to locate here.

Bill Lanzen, the chief executive officer of SMA, also said the availability of a high-speed fiber connection was absolutely critical in the relocation decision.

SMA, currently headquartered in New York City, started the process

of looking for a new site in June of last year and made the decision to come to Edenton by November, Lanzen explained.

The company hopes to have people down here and some kind of operation in place in April, Lanzen said. Asked later about the timetable, Lanzen acknowledged the schedule is still fluid and he didn't want anyone to think he was promising a specific

date. He added that a lot will depend on how long it takes to complete renovations at the company's office space in the Town Hall building.

But Lanzen said he expects to have an operation in place at the new site at least by late spring.

"We're going to enjoy living here," Lanzen told the group gathered in Williamston for the annual State of the Region event.

Lanzen also explained the unique niche that SMA fills for hospitals

See REGION, 2A

Three running unopposed in local elections

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

Three of Chowan County's local elected officials are unopposed now that the filing period has closed.

Commissioner Ellis Lawrence is unopposed in his bid for reelection to a District 3 seat on the Chowan Board of Commissioners.

Clerk of Superior Court Mike McArthur and Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin also

are unopposed.

McArthur on Monday thanked those who have supported him over the years.

"I look forward to four more years and thank my supporters and those who have stood with me all 20



LAWRENCE

years," McArthur said.

Goodwin said that he continually seeks to improve the service provided by the department. He said that would always be true, with or without a contested election.



MCARTHUR

Lawrence, a Democrat, is currently serving his first term as a county commissioner. He has served on the North-eastern Regional Airport Authority, the College of the Albemarle Board of Trustees and the Edenton Chow-



GOODWIN

an Partnership Board. Lawrence said he believes he has done a good job in his first term.

"I think I did a pretty good job the first time around and I'm working with a pretty good group of guys there," Lawrence said. "The record speaks for itself. We don't seem to have the problems that the surrounding counties have."

See ELECTION, 3A

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