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CHOWAN HERALD

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INSIDE TODAY!
Spring Home & Garden special

50¢

School board names new superintendent

Jackson comes to Edenton from Union County Schools

From staff reports

The 2011 N.C. Principal of the Year has been named superintendent of the Edenton-Chowan Schools.

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education voted unanimously Tuesday on a motion by board member Glorious Elliott to appoint Robert L. "Rob" Jackson as

superintendent of schools effective July 1.

Jackson, who has served as chief communications officer in the Union County Schools since July 2012, will replace Superintendent Allan Smith, who is retiring.

Following the board's action, Jackson said he was pleased that



JACKSON

the Edenton-Chowan Schools cohort graduation rate has improved each of the past five years.

"I believe we exist for the moment," Jackson said, referring to the first steps a new graduate takes after receiving a high school diploma.

Board of Education Chairman John Guard said the board was especially impressed with Jackson's record of academic progress as a principal.

Guard explained that the board

reviewed applications from North Carolina and several other states.

The board expects Jackson to continue the kind of strong leadership that Smith has provided to the school system, Guard said.

"Edenton-Chowan Schools is losing a champion for student and employee excellence in Dr. Allan Smith, but we are confident that Mr. Jackson will continue that record of advocacy for excellence," Guard said.

Smith welcomed Jackson as

the district's next superintendent and said he hopes Jackson and his family find the community as inviting as he and his wife, Nancy, have.

"Under Mr. Jackson's leadership I am confident Edenton-Chowan Schools will continue to prosper and soar to new heights," Smith said.

Jackson and his wife, Rene, have three sons, Dennis, Joshua and Elijah, and one daughter, Madelyn.

Chief: More cops could save overtime

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Police Chief Jay Fortenbery says with the hiring of three new officers he could reduce overtime for the police department by more than \$15,000 dollars during the 2014-15 budget year.



FORTENBERY

The department has \$52,202.99 budgeted for overtime for the current fiscal year.

Fortenbery projected during a town council work session held March 24 that with a few adjustments that figure could be lowered to \$37,011.03. That would equal a savings of \$15,191.96 for the department during the next fiscal year, he said.

"The projections for the 2014-2015 year are based on annual training need (time) for 20 officers," Fortenbery said, figures that include the three new officers he hopes to hire. "With 20 officers we will also be able to reduce our court time by switching officers' court dates to their work days and reduce plan of action overtime by utilizing existing resources."

Fortenbery said one of the key changes to the department's budget would involve sending officers to court on days they are scheduled to work. Currently, officers are scheduled to go to court to testify on their days off so as not to create a manpower shortage in the department, he said. That, of course, necessitates overtime pay for those officers.

Fortenbery added that having three additional officers available would also result in more flexibility in planning for such actions as Operation Peace and Quiet and patrolling during downtown events.

Beyond that, there are other things that factor into the amount of overtime such as required training that cannot be altered, he said.

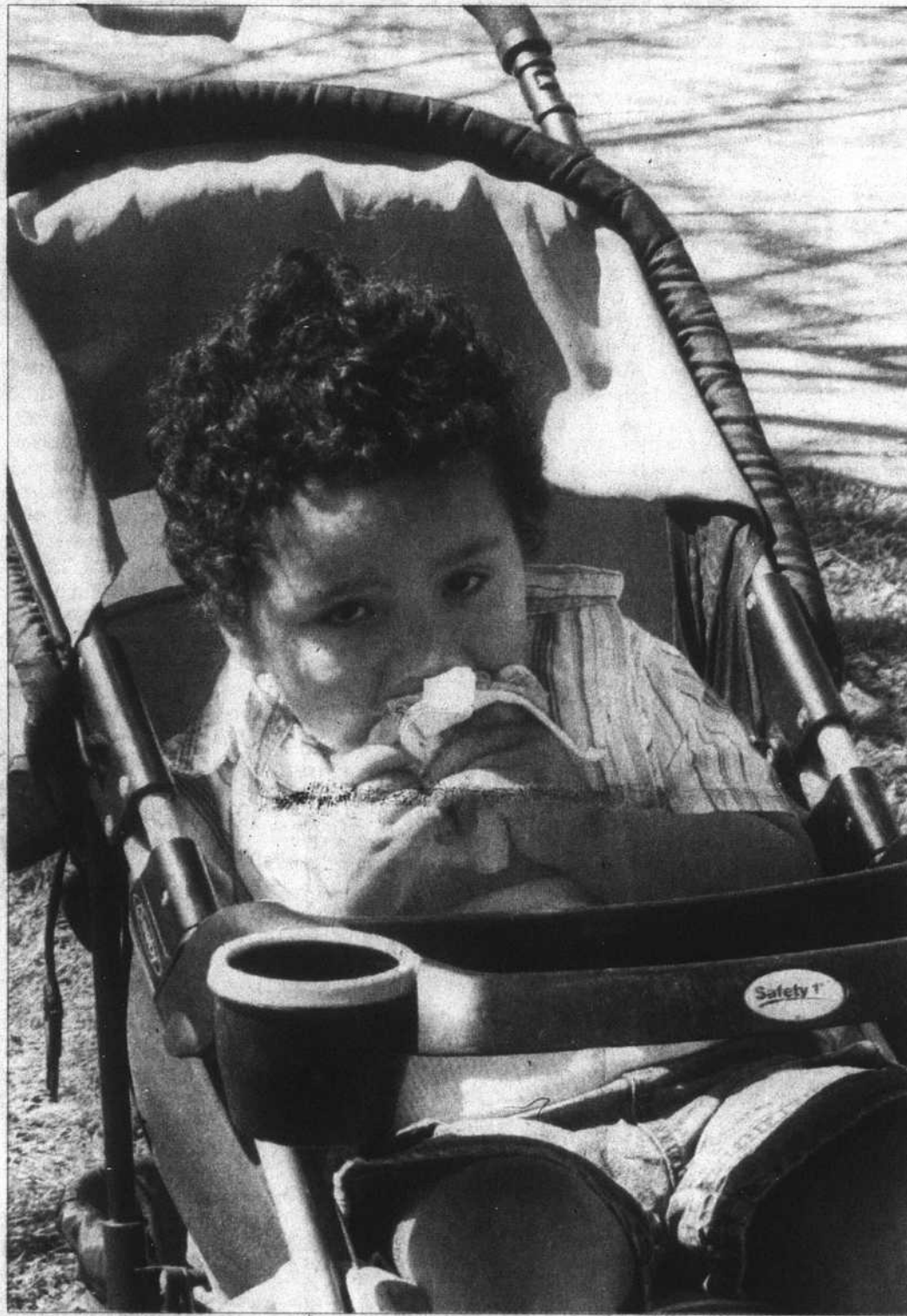
Fortenbery's appearance before the council followed an earlier presentation where council member

See SAVINGS, 4A



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SPRING FLING



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Two-year-old Kendrick White enjoys a cupcake during Saturday's Spring Fling at John A. Holmes High School. See more photos from the event on page 1B.

Collins named head football coach for Aces

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

An assistant football coach at a large high school in the Piedmont area of the state has been tapped as the new head football coach at John A. Holmes High School.

Jim Collins was named to the head coach post Monday night by the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education on the recommendation of Superintendent Allan Smith.

The board's vote was unanimous.

Collins comes to Edenton from R.J. Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem, where he was an assistant football coach last season. The school is part of the 4-A Conference 7.

He is heading to Edenton with his sights high.

"We want to be a league power and set ourselves up to do great things yearly in the state tournament," Collins said this week.

Collins said he plans to be in Edenton by May 12.

Collins said this week that he and his wife, Christi, like to be involved in the community and feel Edenton will be a great place to do that.

"We are looking forward to planting our family flag and making it our home," Collins said.

Collins said it was the high school's reputation for athletics and the district's commitment to educational excellence that attracted him to Edenton.

Smith said Collins will be an asset to the high school and the community.

See COLLINS, 4A

Chowan's Goodwin selected to head state's Ferry Division

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

A Chowan County native and former chairman of the county's Board of Commissioners has been appointed to head the state's Ferry Division.

Ed Goodwin assumed the ferry post Monday.

Goodwin, who was the Republican challenger to Secretary of State Elaine Marshall in 2012 and recently has served as Gov. Pat McCrory's liaison for eastern North Carolina, said Monday he had spent his first day riding the ferries, looking at dock locations and meeting the people who work in the Ferry Division.

"I'm just getting my head and my hands wrapped around the beast that is the Ferry Division, and I'll do what I have to do to tame the beast," Goodwin said. "I like a good chal-

lenge."

Goodwin said he believes the Ferry Division for the most part does a good job. But he will be looking for ways to improve effectiveness and efficiency, he said.

After a first week of surveying the current situation, he will prioritize the next steps in terms of improving efficiency, he said.

Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, who has been an outspoken critic of the Ferry Division in the past, said he is enthusiastic about the selection of Goodwin for the top spot at the division.

"He's a great detail person," Steinburg said.

Steinburg pointed out Goodwin and other Chowan commissioners in 2008 were facing a "monumental challenge" in terms of the county's fiscal cri-



GOODWIN

sis. The county commissioners managed to avert a then-looming state takeover, he said.

"He has shown that he has the ability to take a very difficult situation and make it better," Steinburg said of Goodwin.

People across the state regard as "incredible" what the commissioners under Goodwin's leadership did in righting the county's fiscal course, Steinburg said.

"That was just a tremendous accomplishment," he said.

Steinburg pointed out Goodwin also has law enforcement experience with NCIS and is a businessman and farmer.

All of that experience will enable Goodwin to make the division more efficient and eliminate corruption and cronyism, Steinburg said.

County hears request to fund Hopeline

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

A county resident asked the Chowan Board of Commissioners Monday to reinstate funding for Albemarle Hopeline, the nonprofit that provides domestic violence services in the region.

Melanie Jordan told the commissioners that she appreciates the fiscal responsibility the county has shown during the past few years and realizes that a lot of funding cuts had to be made because of the serious fiscal crisis the county faced.

But she added that she hopes the county is now in a position where it can help Albemarle Hopeline, which helps women and children (and occasionally men) escape domestic violence.

Jordan made reference to a letter that Albemarle Hopeline Executive Director Pat Youngblood had written in February to Clifton Hardison, who at that time was serving as interim county manager.

The letter requests that the county allocate \$2,000 for Albemarle Hopeline in the 2014-15 budget.

Youngblood's letter indicated that in 2013, Hopeline in Chowan County served 301 unduplicated domestic and sexual violence victims; provided 401 shelter nights; conducted 556 counseling sessions; offered 600 advocacy and

See HOPELINE, 4A

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