

PS/CB*****CAR-RT LOT**C 002 A0095
 SHEPHERD PRUDEN LIBRARY
 106 W WATER ST
 EDENTON NC 27932-1854



Hunter safety team has big day — 6A 50¢

482-4418

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Child dies, homes destroyed in wake of tornadoes

■ 11 homes destroyed, 100 homes damaged

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

An 11-month-old boy has died of injuries suffered when tornadoes cut across Chowan County Friday night.

Gavin Soto, his mother and another child reportedly were in the home on Yeopim Road when it collapsed after being struck by one of two tornadoes that devastated parts of the

county.

The mother, Ashley Bain, reportedly also was injured.

Another child in the home reportedly escaped before the home's collapse trapped the mother and son inside.

Neighbors and passersby were able to get the mother and son out of the rubble, according to sources close to the scene.

Gavin was revived at the scene and transported to Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Virginia, according to sources.

The child was on life sup-

port at the hospital and died Sunday, according to sources close to the family.

Gavin's funeral will be today (Wednesday) at 4 p.m. in the chapel of Miller Funeral Home and Crematory, 735 Virginia Road, Edenton.

The funeral will be conducted by the Rev. David Brooks.



SOTO

Friends may join the family in the funeral home immediately following the chapel service, and other times at the home of Syble Harrell, 200 S. Oakum St., Edenton.

Monday morning, Gov. Pat McCrory issued a proclamation declaring a State of Emergency for Chowan County and neighboring counties affected by Friday's tornadoes.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is scheduled to come to Chowan County this week

to assess damage.

The N.C. Department of Transportation has been removing vegetative debris that fell in the right of way. As of Monday, DOT was not removing debris that had been placed in the right of way after being removed from private property.

Local assessments indicate 11 houses were destroyed by the tornadoes. An estimated 100 homes sustained some degree of damage.

Preliminary estimates put damages in the county at

\$900,000.

Among areas of the county that saw significant damage were Burnt Mill Road, Yeopim Road, Drummond Point Road, Macedonia Road, Chambers Ferry, Tip-toe Road and Wildcat Road.

Win Dale, executive director of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, in an email message to Chamber members Monday expressed concern for those affected by the tornadoes and appreciation for the

See TORNADOES, 2A

McCrory honors 'resilience' in face of damage

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

Gov. Pat McCrory noted during a visit to Chowan County Sunday that the devastation wrought by two tornadoes last Friday had not dampened the spirit of community here.

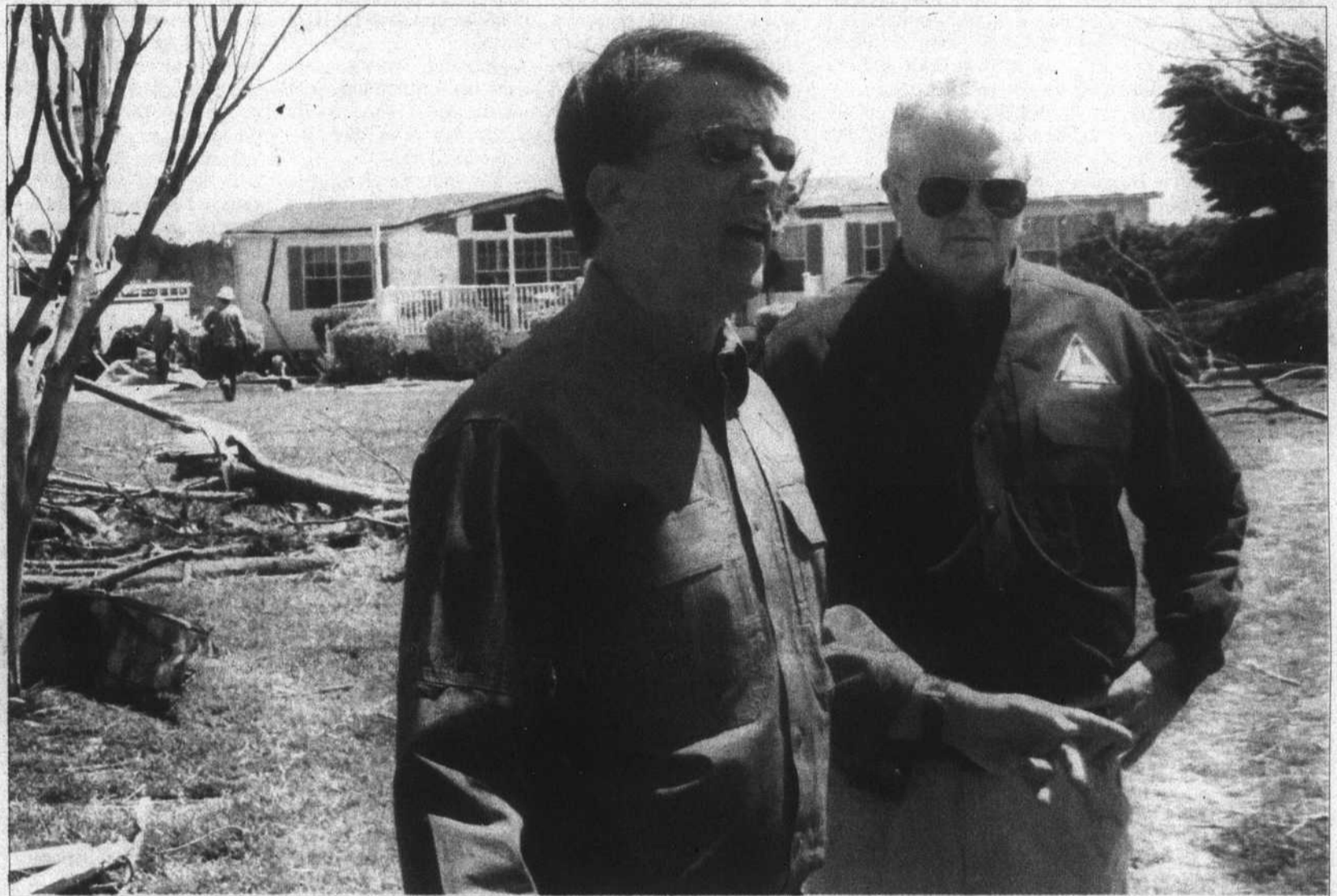
"I am amazed by their resilience," McCrory said at the Northeast Regional Airport in Edenton as he prepared to return to Raleigh, referring to those he met and talked with during his visit. He added that he was deeply touched by the care and concern being exhibited by friends, neighbors and organizations such as the American Red Cross who were doing all they could to assist those in need.

The governor also praised the Chowan County Sheriff's Office and other local agencies for working hard to ensure public safety during and in the aftermath of the deadly storms.

Friday night, Chowan was among the local counties pummeled by tornadoes. One hundred homes were damaged and 11 destroyed.

McCrory spent most of Sunday visiting and talking with those who had suffered property damage and the loss of their homes.

McCrory pledged that he would do everything possible to make sure the full resources of the state and



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Gov. Pat McCrory talks with Chowan County homeowners during a Sunday afternoon visit to the community to view the extensive damage caused by two tornadoes that hit the community Friday evening. Standing with McCrory is state Emergency Management Director Mike Sprayberry who said that local, state and federal damage teams would begin surveying affected areas as quickly as possible.

federal governments were made available to those who had lost so much.

Among those accom-

panying McCrory was he stopped to speak personally with area residents was Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-

Chowan. Steinburg said that the damage had changed lives forever but that he wanted to be a part of the

healing process by making sure families had what they needed to start over.

"These storms changed

many of our neighbors' lives forever," Steinburg

See MCCORRY, 2A

State officials confer retirement honor on Edenton

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

On April 22 local officials took part in a celebration where Edenton was officially accepted by the N.C. Department of Commerce as a Certified Retirement Community.

The designation will allow the town, in partnership

with Chowan County and the DOC, access to marketing and promotional assistance through the state's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development, state officials said.

Making the official presentation to Mayor Roland Vaughan were DOC representatives Andre Nabors and Wit Tuttell. The mayor

noted that the designation brings Edenton into a select group in the relatively new program.

"Virtually every community in the state will want



VAUGHAN

to be a part of it," Vaughan said.

County Commissioner Alex Kehayes said that the certification would provide a steppingstone for the community to continue to grow and prosper. As a retiree in Chowan County, he said, he looks forward with anticipation of some solid results.

Nabors said that the ef-

fort started as a pilot program in 2008 in Lumberton. Since then, he said, Asheboro, Marion, Sanford, Mount Airy, Pittsboro and Eden have been added, and in 2012 it became a full-fledged program.

Tuttell said that Edenton was a natural choice for inclusion in the program because of its high degree

of marketability. Not every community that applies will necessarily be accepted, he said. But for those who are the benefits could be tremendous, Tuttell said.

"I think this is a way to allow a spotlight to shine on smaller communities in our state," Tuttell said. "Edenton will certainly benefit from the program's efforts."

County departments making case for budget requests

■ Some proposals being adjusted downward

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

As Chowan County of-

ficials work on the 2014-15 county budget, department heads have a brief window of opportunity to make the case for increased funding next year — while some requests already have been trimmed from what departments originally submitted.

The county's budget picture as the county commissioners got their first glimpse of it a couple of weeks ago included a significant decline in assessed value of real property as

well as \$263,000 more in requests from county departments than was funded in the current budget.

That \$263,000 figure has begun to decline slightly as departments revise their numbers and work with the county manager on ways to reduce costs.

But the revenue snapshot shows a deficit of \$1.3 million in property tax revenue based on the declining property valuation, and also a decrease of \$134,000 in vehicle

tax proceeds.

Early estimates indicate a 10-cent increase in the county's property tax rate could be required to generate the same amount of property tax revenue as in the budget for the current fiscal year.

Meanwhile, although the Department of Social Services originally requested \$45,400 in additional county funds for next year, DSS Director Clifton Hardison said he already had worked with the county manager to re-

duce that figure somewhat.

"Of course, the budget is only in the infancy period of its development," Hardison noted.

Hardison explained the DSS budget had been tweaked throughout the years and "there are not a lot of extras in it."

The Register of Deeds Office has revised its original budget request for next year and now is asking for the same amount as in the current year's budget.

Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin said the requested increase in the budget for the Sheriff's Department is to replace aging patrol cars and give deputies some well-deserved raises.

Goodwin explained that in the past the department generally has replaced two patrol cars a year. But during the fiscal crisis, there were a couple of years when the county did not replace

See BUDGETS, 2A



©2009 The Chowan Herald
 All Rights Reserved

MAY PLAY DAY FAMILY FUN ROCKY HOCK COMMUNITY CENTER	Food & Fun! Baked Goods Craft Booths	BBQ CHICKEN PLATES \$8.00 from 3-7pm Edenton Dance Stars 11:00 - 12:00 PM	CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT 10:00 Until Winning Team - Grand Prize - \$100.00 Cash FREE CHILDREN'S CRAFTS & GAMES BB GUN SHOOTING CLINIC & CONTEST BICYCLE DRAWING 1:30 PM	SATURDAY, MAY 3RD - 10AM Pembroke Bass Club - Kids Fishing Instructions Contest and Prizes For Craft Booth Spaces, Call 252-221-4169
--	--	---	---	---