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Pet-a-Palooza raises funds for area shelter, 4B

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## Community recovering from tornadoes

County officials praise first responders, staff, citizens

From staff reports

Chowan County citizens — assisted by local government and nonprofits from the community and beyond — are busy recovering from the devastating tornadoes of April 25.

In a report to the Chowan County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting Monday night, Cord Palmer, who is the county's emergency management coordinator, told the board the American Red Cross response in the immediate aftermath of the tornado was excellent. The Red Cross provided meals, water, tarps and blankets, he said.

The Salvation Army and Baptist Men organizations have been very active in the storm response, and Albemarle Regional Health

### IN A RELATED STORY

Large crowd pays respects to 11-month-old tornado victim — 3A

Services had provided 51 tetanus vaccinations for tornado response volunteers as of Monday morning, Palmer reported.

Chairman Keith Nixon said during the meeting that the commissioners' hearts go out to the family of Gavin Soto, the Chowan County infant who died in the wake of one of the tornadoes.

Nixon praised the response of the county's first responders and other county staff, and said staff and citizens alike have worked hard in response to the tornadoes.

Commissioner Jeff Smith also thanked county employees for their prompt response.

See TORNADO, 3A



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The group takes a brief respite from surveying farm damage. Pictured (l-r) are Carey Parrish, FSA District Director Phillip Farland, Jeff Smith, FSA State Executive Director Bob Etheridge, Perquimans-Chowan FSA County Committee Chairman Michael Moore, and Phil Smith.

## Ag officials assess damage

From staff reports

Recent storms in Chowan County — and especially the heavy rainfall of the past few weeks — have wreaked havoc on many farms in the area.

Last week, the state director of the agency that oversees that part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that administers loans toured storm damaged areas of Chowan and Perquimans counties.

On Weigh Station Road, Farm Service Agency Executive Director Bob Etheridge spoke to farmer Walter Cartwright and his family. Cartwright lives in Chowan County now, but his roots are in Perquimans County and family members including sister Teresa Cartwright live on Weigh Station Road.

Members of her church were in the yard were cleaning up limbs and storm debris when Etheridge arrived last Wednesday.

The sight of people helping people is the positive thing that can come out of a storm like the one that hit Friday, the former Congressman said. Etheridge served as Congressman in the 2nd Congressional District from 1997 through 2011 and had an unsuccessful bid for governor.

"It's times like this when you find out who your friends, your real friends are," Etheridge said.

After Hurricane Fran in 1996, Etheridge said he lost 29 trees in his yard in Lillington.

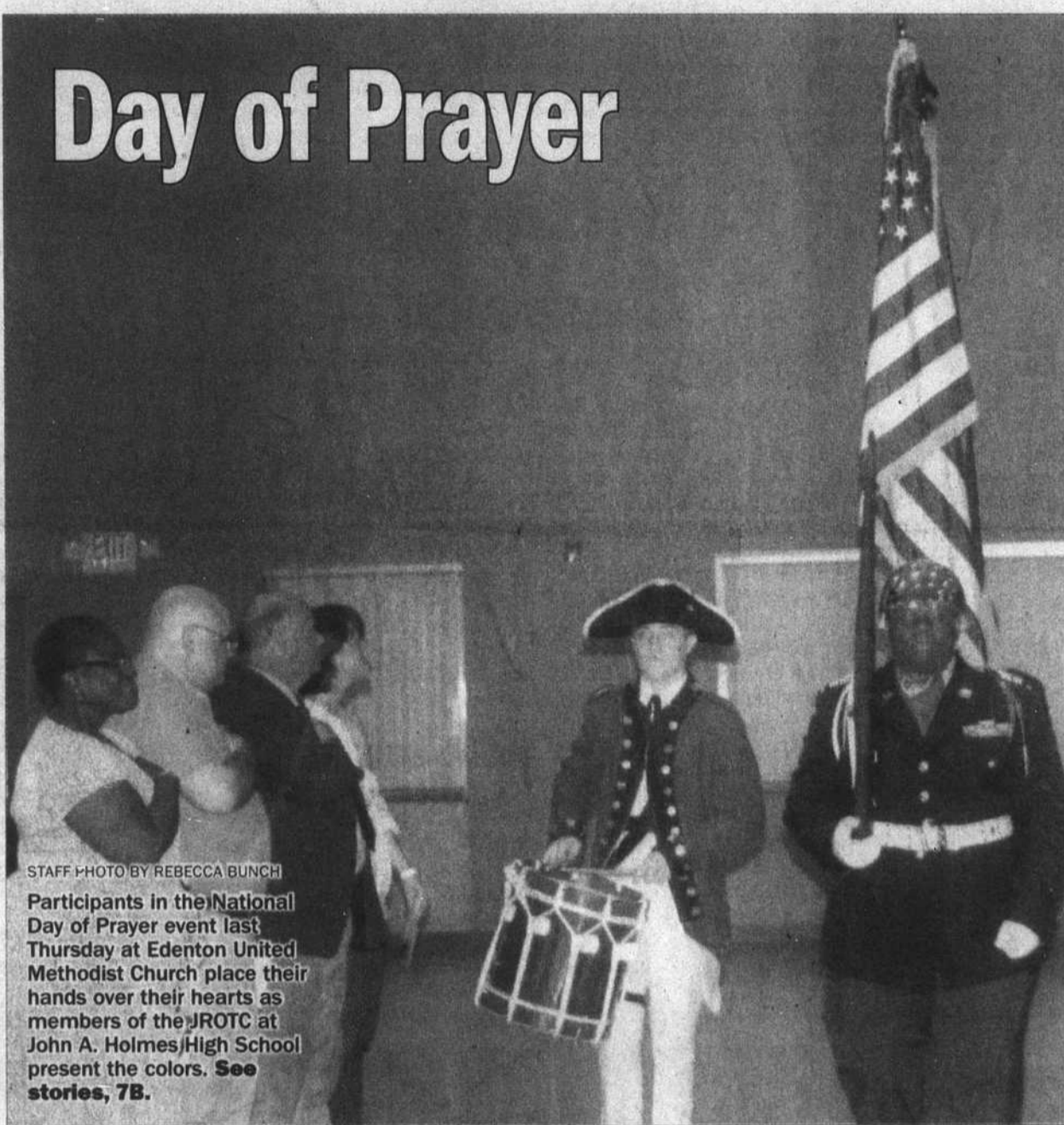
"People just started showing up, people I didn't even know."

He said he's seeing similar things on his swings through areas hit by the tornadoes April 25.

Etheridge offered no magic cure to farmers who suffered physical damages from the storm. But he said the agency does off 3-percent loans to farmers who need help getting back on their feet and there are some grant programs for

See DAMAGE, 4A

## Day of Prayer



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Participants in the National Day of Prayer event last Thursday at Edenton United Methodist Church place their hands over their hearts as members of the JROTC at John A. Holmes High School present the colors. See stories, 7B.

## Felton, board reach agreement in suit

From staff reports

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education has reached a settlement with a former school administrator in the latter's federal civil rights lawsuit against the school system.

Mary E. Felton initially alleged racial discrimination in six lawsuits filed in Chowan and Pasquotank counties. After those suits were dismissed, she filed a federal civil rights action in July 2012, alleging

the school system failed to promote her because she was black.

During a review of the board of education's proposed meeting schedule for the 2014-2015 school year during the board's meeting Monday night, board member Gil Burroughs asked whether the Felton lawsuit had been settled and was told by Superintendent Allan Smith that it had been.

Details of the settlement were not immediately available.

The federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ruled in December 2011 that the school district discriminated against Felton when it demoted her.

School officials have argued that the EEOC finding was inaccurate. Felton claimed in a federal lawsuit that the school district demoted her after she filed an EEOC complaint.

Felton was an assistant principal at John A. Holmes High School when she

applied for the principal post but was not selected. She later was assigned as a guidance counselor at Chowan Middle School.

But Felton claimed she opposed the assignment. After she refused to obtain the necessary credentials for the job, the school district suspended and then fired her, according to published reports.

Burroughs said during the meeting Monday night that he felt the board

See LAWSUIT, 5A

## Early voting slow

From staff reports

Voters went to the polls Tuesday as the Primary was held in Chowan County and across North Carolina.

The Chowan Herald went to press before the polls closed, but

election results are published in today's



Daily Advance. There were no contested primaries for local offices in Chowan County. The contests were in district and statewide races.

All ballots included a N.C. Supreme Court associate justice race.

Democrats had a U.S. Senate Primary, District Attorney Primary and N.C. Senate District 3 Primary, and voters in U.S. House District 1 also had a contested race there.

On Republican ballots, there were eight candidates vying for the GOP nomination in the U.S. Senate race, and those living in the 3rd U.S. House District had a choice of three candidates — incumbent Walter B. Jones Jr. and challengers Taylor Griffin and Al Novinec.

There also was a Republican Primary in the 1st U.S. House District.

One-stop voting in the May 6 Primary was well behind the early voting turnout in the 2010 Primary.

More than 500 early votes were cast in 2010, but only 357 this time. The one-stop voting period was fewer days than in 2010, and there also are no contested primaries in local races this time.

## Edenton officials troubled by tree bill

Steinburg opposes bill that could tie town's hands on tree rules

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
 Staff Writer

Local officials are expressing concern about the potential impact of a proposal from a legislative study commission that would prevent towns like Edenton from imposing tree-related rules on private property owners.

The study has been endorsed by the Agriculture and Forestry Awareness Commission, making it eligible for consideration as a draft bill

during the General Assembly's upcoming short session. The proposed bill would also apply to cities and counties.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said as she understands it the bill would eliminate the authority of local Historic Preservation Commissions such as Edenton's to regulate the removal of trees on private property within the town's Historic District and the placement of trees located on private property within the district.

"We are seeking clarification on how to inter-



STEINBURG

pret the provision of Edenton's UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) which requires a certain number of shade trees be planted in new parking lots with more than 10 parking spaces, trees on newly created public streets and in buffers under certain conditions when land uses or zoning are not in harmony," she said. "We also have a provision that requires developers to save certain trees, based on diameter and size, which would be eliminated by this legislation."

Knighton said the town treasures its trees and that the beauty for which the community is known did not come about by accident.

See TREE BAN, 5A



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