

Community support is sought for the book bag buddies program. - 1B

County seeks fix for EMS financial woes

Wednesday, July 2, 2014

County has high costs for upgrading to paramedic level

482-4418

BY REGGIE PONDER Editor

Paramedics and emergency medical technicians are trained to respond to emergencies in which

it's critical to stop the bleeding. But with Chowan County's Medical Emergency Service bleeding money in recent months, the EMS staff, county administrative staff and county commissioners alike are at a loss as to how to medic level service. staunch the flow and restore the department's fiscal health.

Commissioners are expected to delve into the issue as early as this month. County staff currently is collecting a large volume of data to bring to bear on the decisionmaking process.

Basically, revenues are lagging because the call volume is down. At the same time, the county has had significant start-up costs associated with upgrading to para-

The one-time, start-up costs include training and equipment.

There also is an increase in salaries because of the paramedic level certification for ambulance personnel, and that will be a continuing cost.

The upgrade to the paramedic level enables Chowan EMS to handle medical transport calls that it previously was not prepared to

The county's business model

for EMS called for the upgrade to result in a major new source of revenue from medical transports.

But so far that has not panned

One of the unfortunate occurrences cited by county staff is that several dialysis patients who were being transported by ambulance to their appointments have now died.

Some of those dialysis transports were among the medical transports that Chowan EMS had expected to take over.

County staff used what it considered a conservative approach to estimating the number of medical transport calls it would pick up as a result of the upgrade to paramedic level service, but those estimates have nevertheless not turned out as projected.

County staff is still reasonably optimistic that over the long run the change will pay off.

See EMS, 4A

of fire

station

be located.

tion project.

situation.

commissioners'

key issue

BY REGGIE PONDER Editor The prospect of a fire substation for the southern part of Chowan County now depends mainly on resolving where such a facility would

Board of Commissioners Chairman Keith Nixon said last month that he would put together a committee in July to work on the fire sta-

During discussion of the fire station issue during a special meeting of the county commissioners June 23, Commissioner John Mitchener said the county needed to include in the 2014-2015 budget a line item that would indicate a commitment to addressing the

Tom Credle, a resident of

June

the Drummond's Point area, spoke during the county

meeting and asked the

board at that time to con-

sider including a line item

for the fire station project

in the 2014-2015 budget as

an indication of the county's

commitment to the project.

meeting Mitchener sug-

gested \$150,000 as a starting

point. That would show the

citizens that †he board has

At the board's June 23

Location

EARLY SUCCESS



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Displaying cotton blooms from the field behind their home are (I-r) Joel Forehand, J.C. Forehand and Jacob Forehand.

New generation celebrates first cotton bloom

BY REGGIE PONDER

Editor

'.C. Forehand of Rocky Hock had this year's first cotton bloom in Chowan County and was glad to celebrate that with his sons the way he and his father did some three decades

Forehand noticed a cotton bloom in his field off Evans Church Road on June 24. The bloom was red, which Evans said meant it was at least a day old. First-day blooms, he pointed out, are

Forehand, 38, who said he has been farming "all my life so far," was glad his sons Jacob, 12, and Joel, 9, were able to have the same experience he had as a young boy when his father. Jimmy Forehand, had the first cotton bloom and their picture was in the Chowan Herald.

The boys said they plan to run the farm as they get older.

These boys are going to be fifth generation

of the family farm," Forehand said.

The farm is planted mainly in cotton and peanuts, though the family also grows corn and

soybeans. Forehand said they used to grow produce, also, but set that aside to focus on their row crops

This year they planted mostly cotton, based on their regular rotation.

As for getting the first bloom, Forehand said it all comes down to when the crop is planted.

We just planted a little earlier than some," Forehand said.

The cotton was planted early in the fourth week of April.

"This is an early variety, too, and that causes it to bloom earlier," Forehand said.

See STATION, 4A

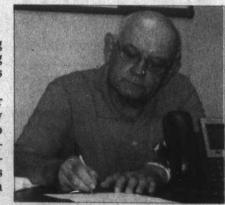
Brabble in final sprint for spot on sheriff's race ballot

BY REGGIE PONDER Editor

Tim Brabble is inching

closer to his goal of being on the ballot in the sheriff's race in November.

Brabble, a former officer with the Chowan County Sheriff's Department who ran unsuccessfully for sheriff in a previous race, gathered 475 signatures in his bid to get on the ballot as an



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

John Guard, chairman of the Edenton-**Chowan Board** of Education, files Friday as a candidate for reelection to the unaffiliated candidate.

The required number of signatures to get on the ballot in the sheriff's race is 420. Friday was the deadline for turning in the signatures.

As the county elections staff reviewed the signatures, it found the list 20 short on signatures that could be validated.

Brabble, 49, contacted state elections officials on Friday and they told him he

had 10 days to document lican in 2010. But he said valid addresses for 20 of the disputed signers, according to local elections officials.

As the Chowan Herald went to press Brabble was still working on documenting the address information.

Brabble is seeking a spot on the November ballot alongside incumbent Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin, a Demo-

Brabble ran as a Repub-

he didn't want to run as a political party's candidate this time because that goes against his platform of making the sheriff's office less political.

An officer with the Chowan County Sheriff's Department for 11 years, Brabble now works for the Vidant Police at Vidant

See BALLOT, 2A

District Attorney Womble meets with voters in Edenton

BY REGGIE PONDER Editor

District Attorney Andy Womble told a group of supporters and interested citizens in Edenton last week



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that his goal always is fairness and justice.

"I want to keep this job," Womble told the crowd at the Edenton Coffee House last Wednesday afternoon. "I know that I'm the right person for this job.

Womble said he has been a trial attorney for 18 years and is enthusiastic about the justice system.

Womble, the former chief public defender for the 1st District, was appointed by Gov. Pat McCrory to serve out the unexpired term of the late Frank Parrish, who died last fall while serving as district attorney.

In the immediate aftermath of Parrish's death, the office was administered by Nancy Lamb, a 29-year vet-

eran prosecutor.

Both Womble and Lamb were nominated by the appointment as district attorney.

Womble, a Republican, and Lamb, a Democrat, are on the ballot in the November General Election.

"I'm going to eliminate some of this backlog that

we have created," Womble put the teeth back into the said.

Womble said there are District Bar Association for murder cases in Chowan County from 2005 and 2007 that still have not been

> "We're placing an emphasis on violent crime, we're placing an emphasis on crimes involving a weapon, and we're really trying to

criminal justice system - but not at the expense of consistency," Womble said.

Womble said that when he came to the DA's office he found that driving while impaired cases were running as much as 18 months behind. He said he has

See WOMBLE, 2A

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