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Wednesday, October 15, 2014

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS DIFFERENCES AMONG THE CANDIDATES

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

The differences between candidates for local offices became clearer Thursday night during candidate forum at the Public Safety Center.

About 100 people attended the forum, which was sponsored by the Chowan Herald.

INSIDE

- Incumbent, challenger differ on tax rate - 4A
- Second district candidates eye growth - 5A

Candidates for sheriff, county commissioner, school board and district attorney answered a variety of questions submitted by the public as well as panelists from the Chowan Democratic and Republican parties.

Chowan Herald Editor Reggie Ponder served as moderator for the forum. Frank Sellers represented the Democratic Party on the panel and Earl Willis represented the Republican Party.

Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin and his opponent were asked about their ability to handle the sheriff's office's annual budget, which exceeds \$2 million.

Brabble said he had not



PHOTOS COURTESY JENNIFER FINLAY

Above, participants in last week's candidates forum discuss issues in response to questions submitted in advance by members of the public. Below, District 2 county commissioner candidates (l-r) Brian Ferraraccio, Carey Parrish and John Mitchener discuss issues pertinent to their contest.



had to handle a budget in a law enforcement capacity but he said that had not stopped him from coming up with ways he thought the department could save money including halting the

practice of letting auxiliary officers drive cars belonging to the sheriff's office fleet. He said in many communities, volunteers and firemen buy their own gas. "We need to be wise

with every dollar we have," Brabble said.

Goodwin said he handles the budget for the sheriff's office in a fiscally conservative manner and is always looking for ways to save

money. He said if re-elected he would continue the practice.

"I spend your money just as I spend my own," Goodwin said. "I'm as tight with a penny as anybody you'd ever want to see."

They were also asked about whether controlling crime or reaching out to

See FORUM, 2A



Woman dies in Tyner crash

BY WILLIAM F. WEST
 The Daily Advance

The N.C. Highway Patrol is investigating a two-vehicle collision in Chowan County on Friday afternoon that resulted in the death of a woman and injured her teenage son.

Janet Gutmann, 52, of the 100 block of Mill Drive, died at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville shortly after 4 a.m. Saturday, Trooper K.R. Briggs of the patrol said Monday.

Gutmann's son, Larry, 17, was in fair condition at the hospital Monday afternoon, a hospital spokeswoman said. Briggs said Larry Gutmann suffered injuries to his back, head and body.

According to Briggs, Gutmann and her son were traveling north on N.C. Highway 32 about 5:35 p.m. Friday when Gutmann's 1990 Chevrolet Corsica collided at the intersection of Ryland Road with a 2006 Ford F-150 pickup truck driven by Roger Bunch.

Briggs said his investigation determined that Bunch, 80, of the 500 block of Wingfield Road, had stopped at the intersection and was proceeding across N.C. 32 toward Cannon's Ferry Road when the collision occurred. Gutmann swerved left but was unable to avoid hitting Bunch's truck, Briggs said.

Both Gutmann and her son were first rushed to Vidant Chowan Hospital in Edenton before being airlifted to Vidant Medical Center, Briggs said.

Bunch said he didn't see Gutmann's car prior to the collision, Briggs said. The speed limit on that section of N.C. 32 is 55 mph. Briggs said that Gutmann, who was driving 55 mph, would not have had enough time to stop to avoid the collision.

Briggs said he would meet with representatives of the District Attorney's Office to determine whether Bunch should be charged with a traffic violation.

The intersection where the collision occurred is near the Tyner community, approximately 14 1/2 miles northwest of Edenton.

Re-trial gets underway in 2004 slaying

STAFF PHOTO BY
 REGGIE PONDER

William Joseph Moore (right), who is charged with first-degree murder in the 2004 stabbing death of Pamela Virzi, is escorted to the Chowan County Courthouse in Edenton by Chief Chowan Sheriff's Deputy Andy Bunch, Monday.



BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

The process of jury selection began Monday in the re-trial of William Joseph Moore in the stabbing death of a Chowan County woman a decade ago.

Moore is charged in the August 2004 stabbing death of Pamela Joye Virzi. He was 46 at the time. Virzi was 47 at the time of her death.

Moore, who is represented by attorneys Ernest "Buddy" Conner and Jon Nuckolls, has entered a plea of not guilty by reason of mental defect.

Judge Jerry Tillett is presiding in the case, which is being conducted in Chowan County Criminal Superior Court.

Moore was sentenced to death in 2006. In an unusual

turn of events at that time, Moore pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and represented himself in the sentencing phase of the trial. He told the court he was leaving his fate in the hands of the jury.

The N.C. Supreme Court overturned Moore's death sentence in 2008 and ordered a new trial, ruling that the trial court had not made an adequate determination that Moore's decision to waive counsel had been made "knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily."

Tillett rejected Monday a motion that would have taken the death penalty off the table in this new trial. Conner argued that some evidence - particularly some answering machine

See SLAYING, 6A

History, haunts: Ghost Walk is here again

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

The second Edenton Ghost Walk will be held downtown on Friday and Saturday nights.

Tours leave on the half-hour between 6 and 8 p.m. from the Haunts Headquarters at 504 S. Broad St.

"It's a fun event and a great way to kick off your Halloween season," said Win Dale, director of the Edenton-Chamber of Commerce. "And the proceeds are going to a very worthy cause - helping to pay the travel expenses of the International Studies Club at John A. Holmes High School."

GHOST WALK

- Event this Friday, Saturday
- Purchase tickets (\$10 each) at the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce.

Tickets can be purchased for \$10 each at the Edenton Chowan Chamber of Commerce office.

Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the International Studies Club at John A. Holmes High School.

For more information you can call 482-3400 or go online to www.facebook.com/300yearsofhaunts.

Dale said the Ghost Walk is a good fit for the Edenton community.

"Edenton is very similar to Williamsburg, Charleston and Savannah, although smaller in size," Dale said. "We still have that historic past,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the John A. Holmes High School International Studies Club show off Ghost Walk T-shirts.

See GHOST WALK, 2A

Substation: Question now how to pay for it

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

Not surprisingly, the toughest question in planning a new fire substation for the southern part of Chowan County is how to pay for it.

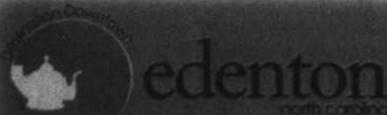
Commissioner Emmett Winborne acknowledged last week that raising the fire tax in order to pay for fire substations is going to be the hard part of building the substations.

"I think that's where your debate is going to be," Winborne said during the Oct. 6 meeting of the county commissioners' study committee on the fire substation issue.

If the county is going to raise taxes to fund fire substations, the plan is going to have to be sold to the public, Winborne said.

Winborne said he has heard an outcry from residents in the southern part of the county about wanting to save money on their insurance

See SUBSTATION, 6A



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