

CHOWAN HERALD



Blind Tony releases first all-music CD — 6B

50¢

482-4418

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Boogie on Broad Street



PHOTO BY KIP SHAW

Dancers enjoy the music of the Embers during the Boogie on Broad Street dance on Friday. See story and more photos from the Biennial Pilgrimage weekend on 1B.

One year after fierce tornadoes, rebuilding goes on

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

A year after devastating tornadoes struck Chowan and neighboring counties, destroying homes and claiming the life of a young child in Chowan, volunteers are busy helping people rebuilding their homes and their lives.

Stephanie Hunt of United Methodist Disaster Relief is coordinating volunteer efforts in Chowan, Perquimans and Pasquotank counties.

The tornadoes tore across

"I would love to have more local churches involved."

Stephanie Hunt
 United Methodist Disaster Relief

area counties on April 25 of last year.

Hunt arrived in Edenton on August 25 and had volunteer work teams coming into the area beginning in October.

A number of work teams

came last fall, and 19 teams have been here since January.

The work has been a combination of repairs and new home construction.

Hunt said that in recent weeks there had been something of a slowdown because of short funds and a shortage of volunteers.

"We're based on volunteers," Hunt said.

Recently, however, additional funding has been secured and volunteer commitments also are starting to come in.

"So now we're back up

and running," Hunt said.

One team already is on the books for May, but teams are needed for the summer. Surprisingly, Hunt said, there are no volunteer work teams scheduled so far for June, July or August.

Local volunteers from Open Door Church and Edenton Baptist Church have provided a lot of support. Hunt said she would very much like to get additional local volunteers.

"I would love to have more local churches involved," Hunt said.

Construction of one new

home has started in Chapanoke. Hunt is seeking funding to rebuild another house right next to it.

Volunteers also are working on finishing a mobile home installation on Burnt Mill Road in Chowan County. Open Door and Edenton Baptist are helping with that project.

"And we do need funding," Hunt said.

Donations may be mailed to United Methodist Disaster Relief, 139 Main St., Swan Quarter, N.C. 27885.

Hunt's email address is umcdr.sgahunt@gmail.com.

Another immediate need is for a skilled brick mason.

"I'm definitely needing a brick mason — someone who can volunteer some brick work — in Perquimans County," Hunt said. "This lady has been ready to move in since Thanksgiving, except that I can't find anybody to donate the brick work."

Hunt said she expects the rebuilding efforts to continue into December and possibly longer. She said her plan is to stay as long as necessary to get the work done.

Schools: Leave partisan politics at the door

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 The Perquimans Weekly

The chairman of the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education has joined all five area school districts are unanimously opposed to new legislation that would require all school board members to declare a political party and run in partisan elections.

Republican lawmakers who are pushing House Bill

324 say it would give voters more information about candidates and boost turnout.

Opponents, like John Guard, chairman of the local school board, say partisan politics should not play a role in school board elections.

Guard, a registered Democrat, said he can't understand the bill's logic.



GUARD

"If it were Democrats introducing the same bill I would still feel the same way," Guard said. "If (the current system is) not broke, don't fix it. The one thing that attracted me to the school board was the fact that it has been non-partisan."

"I've observed our boards over the year and we've had boards that were made up

of Republicans and Democrats and unless somebody said something, you never knew which was which," Guard continued. "I'd always guessed the majority (of school board members) were Democrats, but I really didn't know that. If this (bill) passes it would make school board races more partisan and make them more expensive."

See GUARD, 4A

Winborne jailed briefly, appeals to Superior Court

■ Commissioner found in contempt of no-contact order

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

A Chowan County Commissioner spent nearly five hours in the county jail on April 14 after being found in contempt of a court order barring him from communicating with a local businesswoman.

Commissioner Emmett Winborne was found in contempt of a Feb. 6 no-contact order that required him not to text, call, threaten or be in the presence of Sissi Dupraw or her business.

Dupraw operates Hunter's Deer Processing in the Arrowhead Beach area.

District Court Judge Robert Trivette ordered Winborne be committed to

the county jail for three days and pay a fine of \$300.

But Winborne filed notice of appeal of appeal and was released on bail at 5:25 p.m. on April 14 after Robert H. Winborne posted a \$3,000 cash bond. Winborne's appeal is scheduled to be heard on May 18 in Chowan County Superior Court.

Winborne was received into the Chowan Jail at 12:30 p.m. on April 14, according to jail records filed with the court.

See WINBORNE, 4A



WINBORNE

Commissioners begin work on 2015-16 budget

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners

will hold a budget work session April 29 beginning at 9 a.m.

During the board's meeting Monday night, commissioners indicated a general inclination to spend a significant amount of time at the budget session in order to get as much work as possible completed on the 2015-2016 county budget.

Chowan County Manager

Kevin Howard has compiled a preliminary tabulation of budget figures as a starting point for the county commissioners' work on the 2015-2016 county budget.

Those numbers, which Howard described as "very preliminary," show a 21-cent increase in the property tax rate if the school system's high-priority requests are fully funded and the budget

is balanced with minimal use of fund balance.

Howard has pointed out that the revenue estimates could change based on updated information from the tax office.

The draft budget compilation is based on requests from departments and agencies and preliminary work

See BUDGET, 4A



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MAY PLAY DAY FAMILY FUN ROCKY HOCK COMMUNITY CENTER	Food & Fun! Baked Goods Craft Booths	BBQ CHICKEN PLATES \$9.00 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 2ND - 10AM Pembroke Bass Club - Kids Fishing Instructions Contest and Prizes For Craft Booth Spaces, Call 252-221-4169
	All events at Rocky Hock Community Center.			