

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

"I would love to have

have been here since Janu-

came last fall, and 19 teams and running," Hunt said.

home has started in Chapa- Another immediate need One team already is on noke. Hunt is seeking fund- is for a skilled brick mason. the books for May but ingto rebuild another house

"I'm definitely needing

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

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

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 more local churches into come in.

"So now we're back up

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 volved," Hunt said.

Construction of one new

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.

a brick mason - someone who can volunteer some brick work - in Perqui-mans 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.

who are pushing House Bill stand the bill's logic.

BY REGGIE PONDER

Editor

Board of Commissioners

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Chowan County

The

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 Dem-Republican lawmakers ocrat, said he can't under-



crats 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

"If it were Demo- of Republicans and Demointroducing crats 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 nocontact 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



Winborne filed no-

WINBORNE tice 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

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.

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

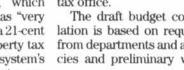
Kevin Howard has compiled is balanced with minimal use of fund balance.

> 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

BBQ CHICKEN CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT 18:00 Until SATURDAY, MAY 2ND -10 PLATES ^{\$9.00} from 3-7pm e - \$100.00 Casl Pembroke Bass Club - Kids Fishing Instructions **CHILDREN'S CRAFTS & GAMES** 81 11 **Contest and Prizes** CONTEST Edenton Dance Stars or Craft Booth Spaces, Call 252-221



Commissioners begin work on 2015-16 budget