

Cuts loom as county eyes two-cent tax hike

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing June 15 on a recommended 2015-2016 budget that includes a six-cent increase in the property tax rate.

The board set the public hearing at its meeting Monday night. The budget hearing will be part of the

board's regular meeting on June 15.

Although County Manager Kevin Howard's recommended budget includes an increase in the property tax rate of six cents per \$100 valuation, the county commissioners at a special meeting last week gave tentative backing last week to a proposed 2015-2016 county

See CUTS LOOM, 2A

Town mulls tax hike to cover revenue loss

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton says the town's loss of privilege tax revenue due to legislative action has left her with no other option than to recommend a 1.5-cent increase in the property tax rate.

The proposed General Fund budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 reflects that proposed increase. It is based on a tax rate of 38.5 cents per \$100 valuation.

The town's current ad valorem tax rate is 37 cents.

A public hearing on the proposed budget has been scheduled for Tuesday,

June 9, at 6 p.m. It will be presented for a vote by the town council during a June 22 special meeting that will precede the council's monthly work session.

In the meantime, Knighton's budget message and proposed budget will be posted on the town's website and will also be avail-

able for viewing at town hall.

"This recommendation to raise the tax rate is directly attributable to the loss of the annual privilege tax revenue," Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said in her budget message

See TAX HIKE, 4A

Albemarle Boats, Carolina Classic Boats sold



PHOTO COURTESY ALBEMARLE BOATS/CAROLINA CLASSIC BOATS

Employees stand in front of the facility at Albemarle Boats and Carolina Classic Boats. The two homegrown companies now are owned by Edenton Boatworks LLC.

Management team, employees to remain in place

From Staff reports

Albemarle Boats and Carolina Classic Boats have been purchased by Edenton Boatworks LLC, a company of Murphy Alternative Investments.

Scott McLaughlin, former owner of the companies, acquired Albemarle Boats in 2008 and Carolina Classic Boats in 2011. McLaughlin merged the two legendary brands under one umbrella to become the premier builder of sportfishing boats

ranging in size from 24 to 41 feet, and he sustained the businesses through one of the most challenging periods in the history of the boating industry.

Albemarle and Carolina Classic will build on the long-term heritage and family history of the brands. They are now poised with the resources and desire to grow both brands with a renewed emphasis on product development, customer experience, and dealer support.

"All the management team and all the employees will remain in place," Ted Haigler, vice president of sales and marketing for Albe-

marle Boats, said Monday.

In addition, Haigler said the company expects to expand and could likely see growth in employment within the year.

The team of seasoned boat builders and employees, who have an average tenure of 14 years, will stay in place. Keith and Wade Privott, sons of Carolina Classic founder Mac Privott, will remain on board. Burch Perry, grandson of Albemarle founder Scott Harrell, will retain the helm as general manager and oversee both brands and business operations.

"We are proud to be part of the

"We are proud to be part of the heritage of these two great boat companies."

Dell Murphy
President,
Edenton Boatworks

heritage of these two great boat companies," said Edenton Boatworks President Dell Murphy. "We look forward to continuing to build quality boats and serving the many Albemarle and Carolina Classic owners and dealers. This

is the beginning of many new things to come for both brands."

Located in Edenton, Edenton Boatworks LLC is a newly formed company of Murphy Alternative Investments. It is the parent company of Albemarle Boats and Carolina Classic Boats, builders of offshore sportfishing boats with more than 3,600 hulls hand-crafted since 1978. The companies have dealer locations throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Australia. For further information visit Albemarle Boats on the Internet at www.albemarleboats.com and Carolina Classic at www.carolinaclassicboats.com.

WATER FESTIVAL

STAFF PHOTO
BY REBECCA BUNCH

Capt. Mark Thesier's tour boat rounds the 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse during Saturday's 17th annual Music and Water Festival on the downtown Edenton waterfront. See story more photos on 1B.



Town weighs water treatment options

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Public Works Director John Norris briefed the town council during its May 25 work session

on options that would allow the town to reduce the level of Trihalomethanes in its water distribution system.

The town is currently in violation, as Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton noted in a May 22 memo to council members.

"We are working on sending out another required notification of violation, as we reported to you several months ago, for at least three, maybe four, more quarters," she said. "For at least

three, maybe four, more quarters, we will be in violation for exceeding the maximum levels due to the quarterly averaging of results that is required by the federal government."

Norris began by giving a brief overview of Trihalomethanes, what they are and what they do.

He explained that Trihalomethanes are byproducts that result from disinfection using

See TREATMENT, 3A

Hotel Hinton parking agreement nears finish

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The proposed lease for parking lot spaces that would be made available to the Hotel Hinton will be discussed and ready to be acted upon at the town council's June 9 monthly meeting, town officials said.

In a May 22 memo to the town council, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said that after consultation with town attorney Hood Ellis, the town was "just about ready" for the agreement to be executed.

The proposed lease will be between the town and SAGA - the developer that is planning to restore the



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

An old tank was removed from the parking lot area behind the Hotel Hinton by heavy equipment on Tuesday, May 19.

hotel - and will not involve a sub-lease with Destination Downtown Edenton or Preservation North Carolina, Knighton noted.

The historic building most recently was used as a government

office building for Chowan County but historically has been operated as a hotel. SAGA is in the process of buying the hotel from the county for

See PARKING LOT, 4A



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FREE EVENT
Antique Farm Fair Saturday, June 6, 2015 - 9am-3pm
John A Holmes High School, Edenton, NC

Old Time Cooking
Vintage Tractors
Rural Crafters

Artisans
Horses