



UPCOMING HOME GAMES

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NEXT HOME GAMES

July 1 Martinsville Mustangs - Police & EMS Night | July 2 Peninsula Pilots - Military Appreciation Night - Active Duty Free (Veterans Contact the American Legion) | July 6 Morehead City Marlins | July 7 Morehead City Marlins - Classic Rock Night | July 10 Peninsula Pilots - Gates County Night

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Wood named principal at Holmes High

From staff reports

Stephen Wood has been named the new principal at John A. Holmes High School effective today.

His hiring was approved by the school board in a 5-0 vote during a special meeting held yesterday (Tuesday) morning. Board members Ricky Browder and Kay Wright were absent.

Wood was recommended for the position by Superintendent Rob Jackson following a month-long application and selection process. Wood will follow Sheila Evans, who will serve as Principal



WOOD

of White Oak Elementary for the school system in the upcoming school year.

"I am very excited that Mr. Wood will serve as Principal of John A. Holmes High School," Jackson said. "His proven ability in providing strong instructional leadership and his experience as an administrator and teacher at the high school and middle school level will help to ensure that the school continues to grow academically and move forward in creating a continuum of successful experiences for our students."

Wood is currently an assistant principal in Richmond County, where he was named Assistant Principal of the Year for 2014. He currently works at Rockingham Middle School. He has also

served as an assistant principal at Richmond Senior High School and Richmond Ninth Grade Academy.

Wood has taught in both Richmond and Scotland counties in the areas of math, science and social studies at the middle school and high school level. He also has been a successful athletic coach in baseball, basketball and football.

Wood said he and his wife are looking forward to this new opportunity.

"My wife and I are very excited to be coming to Edenton. We are excited about the opportunity of living in such a beautiful and historic community," he said.

"I am extremely humbled to be named principal of

See WOOD, 2A

Vaughan's sold, employee among new owners

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

In a move that caught many by surprise, the owners of a longtime downtown Edenton business announced its sale on Friday morning.

After 28 years as the owners of Vaughan's Fine Jewelry and Gifts, Peggy Anne and Roland Vaughan revealed they had sold the business to two local women, Cherie Roberts and her sister, Valerie Goodwin, and Goodwin's husband Marty, who the sisters said would not be involved in the day to day running of the store.

Today (Wednesday) customers and friends are invited to stop by the store to enjoy some refreshments as they wish the Vaughans well and welcome the Goodwins and Roberts as the new owners. It also marks the first day of the store's annual July anniversary sale, with customers eligible to receive discounts from 28 percent to 70 percent on select items.

Roberts has been a familiar face at Vaughan's in recent years as she has taken care of repairs, settings and engraving needs in the back room of the store. She learned her skills from her mother, Brenda, who worked part-time at Vaughan's after the death in 2008 of the store's longtime engraver and repairman, Frank Halsey. When her mother decided to retire



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Valerie Goodwin (left) and her sister, Cherie Roberts, are the new owners of Vaughan's Fine Jewelry and Gifts in downtown Edenton. Former owners Roland and Peggy Anne Vaughan announced the sale on Friday.

See VAUGHAN'S, 2A

Freeman pleads guilty to '07 murder charge

From staff reports

A Tyrrell County man will serve life in prison without parole after pleading guilty last week to first-degree murder in the 2007 shooting death of his estranged wife in Edenton.

James Earl Freeman, 55, of Columbia, entered the guilty plea Wednesday in Chowan County Superior Court, according to District Attorney Andrew Womble.

Freeman had faced the death penalty in the shooting death of his estranged wife, Sharlene Mooring Freeman, outside the American Legion Post in Edenton, Womble said.

Sharlene Freeman took out a domestic violence protective order against James Earl Freeman in May 2007, according to Womble.

The homicide occurred June 18, 2007. Sharlene Freeman was at a bingo game at the American Legion with her mother and aunt, and her estranged husband was waiting for her when she left the game around 10 p.m., Womble said.

James Earl Freeman had a .22-caliber rifle and shot Sharlene Mooring Freeman twice in the head, "basically from point blank range," Womble said.

Freeman fled the scene and was apprehended in Dare County on June 21, 2007, Womble said.

Womble said there were several eyewitnesses to the shooting, including Sharlene Mooring Freeman's mother.

The guilty plea was entered Wednesday during pre-trial motions. The case had been set for trial on July 6.

Womble said the Mooring family had waited

See FREEMAN, 2A



FELISA BASS PHOTO

Chowan County farmer Neal Bass, left, of Beechfork Farm, shows off the season's first cotton bloom with some help from his sons, Hunter Bass and Michael Bass, and his dad Carroll Bass.

Bass spots first cotton bloom

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The first reported cotton bloom in Chowan County was spotted June 25 in a field off Harris Landing Road in Rocky Hook.

Neal Bass saw the bloom around 8 a.m. as he was going about his work.

"I was actually irrigating watermelons and I was

passing by and I saw the bloom," Bass said.

Like many farmers in the area, Bass had been doing a lot of irrigating in light of the dry conditions that had prevailed during the spring growing season. He said he was glad to see the rain overnight on June 25-26.

Although the rain might have been a little late for the corn, it was a welcome

sight for other crops, he said.

While the bloom was early, Bass said he had seen them this early in some previous seasons.

"We've had some this early before," Bass said.

Bass attributed the early bloom to the extremely hot, humid weather that

See COTTON, 2A

Petition asks for stricter regs

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The newly formed Citizens for Protective Wind Ordinance plans to present a petition to the Chowan Board of Commissioners Monday asking the board to adopt revisions to the county Wind Energy Ordinance that were recommended this spring by the Planning Board.

Members of the group insist the organization is not anti-wind energy, but favors restrictions that will protect public health, safety and welfare.

Ron Cummings, a Republican candidate for county commissioner in the 1st District last year and a member of the group, also insisted the group is not

See REGULATIONS, 2A



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