

CHOWAN HERALD



Gospel singer Lauren Talley bringing message of hope — 6B

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Staff begins work on school capital projects

STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

The administrative team at Chowan Middle School stands next to one of two new heating and cooling units that have been installed at the school's gym. Pictured (l-r) are Assistant Principal Phillip Gatling Sr., Assistant Principal Brenda Pate, and Principal John Lassiter.



BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The Edenton-Chowan Schools maintenance staff is installing two new heating and cooling units for the gym and locker room at Chowan Middle School to replace non-functioning units at the site.

The estimated cost of the project is \$13,300. The maintenance staff has removed all of the mechanical equipment and condenser units and is working on installing two new mini split

systems.

The non-functioning heating and cooling units at the middle school gym were a focal point in public discussion of the schools' critical facility needs this past spring among the school board and county commissioners.

The county commissioners made an additional \$400,000 available for school capital needs in the fiscal year that began July 1, bringing the total capital outlay funding for the year to \$600,000.

While some capital needs projects identified by the Edenton-Chowan Schools for completion in the current fiscal year are now underway, others remain to be started. The school system's fiscal year runs from June 30 through July 1.

Edenton-Chowan Schools Maintenance Director Brad Bass presented a status report on the projects at the Aug. 4 monthly school board meeting. "We're trying to do as much

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SHRIMP, BY THE BAY



THOMAS J. TURNEY/CHOWAN HERALD

Scott Noble (right) loads shrimp onto Phil Van Dongen's plate Friday at Shrimp By the Bay, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Tax credit still in play

■ Steinburg: Credit might join revenue sharing bill

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

A revised version of the state's historic preservation tax credit is expected to be back on the table this week as House and Senate lawmakers work to forge a budget agreement, according to Rep. Bob Steinburg.

Steinburg, R-Chowan, said Monday "there are a lot of interesting things going on" as legislators negotiate the differences in detail and policy between the House and Senate versions of the state budget and other key pieces of legislation.

Steinburg said he has been hearing that the Senate might insert the historic preservation tax credit into a refashioned revenue sharing and economic incentives bill in order to increase the likelihood of the Senate plan's being approved by the House.

The historic preservation tax credit has been used across the state, but has been especially popular in Edenton — where historic preservation has long been recognized as a key piece of the economic development strategy.

Preservation NC President Myrick Howard is continuing to urge supporters of the tax credit to stay in touch with legislators.

"Thanks so much for your help," Howard said in a recent message to supporters of the historic preservation tax credit. "We need your

See TAX CREDIT, 4A

Lighthouse proves it's worthy tourism draw

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

More than 200 people took advantage of free tours of the 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse Friday for National Lighthouse Day.

Touring the historic structure on the water at Edenton were 172 adults and 41 children.

And the visitation appears to be part of a larger trend of people coming to Edenton at least in part to see the lighthouse.

Figures gathered by the Tourism Development Authority indicate that 33,297 visitors toured Edenton in Fiscal Year 2014-2015, compared with 21,720 in 2013-2014 — an increase of 11,577

MORE INSIDE

- Historical novel adds to aura of Lighthouse Day — 1B
- Former lighthouse resident returns for tour — 1B

or 53.3 percent.

Chowan County Tourism Development Authority Director Nancy Nicholls said this week that while it's not possible to attribute the entire increase absolutely to the addition of the lighthouse tours as an attraction, the lighthouse certainly seems to have been a big part of the trend

See LIGHTHOUSE, 4A



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

The 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse as it appeared Friday during the National Lighthouse Day observance.

Deal final, town to revisit electric rates

BY REBECCA BUNCH AND JON HAWLEY
Staff Writers

The Edenton Town Council could vote to reduce the town's retail electric rates as early as next month.

Booth and Associates of Raleigh is conducting a study of the town's existing retail

rates and will be making recommendation for changes in the rates to reflect a recent wholesale power rate decrease, according to town officials.

The North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency and Duke Energy Progress announced on July 31 they had closed their historic \$1.25 billion deal which sells NCEMPA's shares in four power plants to Duke.

Besides locking the power agency's 32 members,

See DEAL FINAL, 4A

Kalbach stresses airport's economic value

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Jim Kalbach, chairman of the Northeastern Regional Airport Commission, speaks about the airport Monday night as part of the Harry Rosenblatt Lecture Series at the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library.

Jim Kalbach's pride in the Northeastern Regional Airport was on full display in the talk he gave Monday night as part of the Harry Rosenblatt Lecture Series at the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library.

"Our airport is a real asset," said Kalbach, who is chairman of the Northeastern Regional Airport Commission.

The airport is a "jewel in the crown" of economic development in the region, he said.

"It is a jewel in the crown," Kalbach said, adding "I hope my successor is better at getting jobs out there."

But Kalbach's self-deprecating remark aside, his presentation revealed just how

See AIRPORT, 2A



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