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'Musicians for Martin' Aug. 29 to benefit Parker — 1B

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Wednesday, August 19, 2015

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## County OKs raises for sheriff's office, jail, 911

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners on a split vote Monday approved the reinstatement of the "career ladder" pay plan in this budget year for employees of the sheriff's office, jail and 911 center.

win made an appeal on behalf of his officers at Monday's meeting of the county commissioners and said he would pay for the raises without increasing his budget by using savings from lapsed salaries and pursuing new revenues by housing state or federal inmates at the jail.

Commissioner Ellis Lawrence to reinstate the pay plan passed with Commissioner Keith Nixon and Chairman Jeff Smith voting against it. Nixon and Smith said they support employees but were concerned about the timing of the action.

Timing concerns stem both from the decision coming in the middle of the

budget year and from the commissioners not having seen the audit report for the 2014-2015 budget year in order to gauge the health of the county's reserves.

Lawrence's motion also directed County Manager Kevin Howard to study the salaries of employees in other departments and bring back a report to the

commissioners for their consideration.

A number of commissioners acknowledged the potential for dissatisfaction among employees if one department appeared to have been singled out for pay hikes.

Goodwin in his appeal for the raises told the commissioners that since 2007 he

had lost 15 employees because of salary.

Starting pay for a Chowan deputy is slightly less than \$32,000 a year. The sheriff said the county has difficulty competing with nearby counties, state agencies and other employers.

Goodwin pointed out he

See RAISES, 4A

## Schools charged to 'play to win' at kickoff event

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

Steve Lassiter sounded like a coach as he challenged teachers, principals and other employees of the Edenton-Chowan Schools with a goal for the 2015-2016 school year: Play to win.

And Lassiter, a Chowan County native who is principal at Pactolus Elementary School in Pitt County and the state's 2015 Wells Fargo Principal of the Year, is every bit a coach — or mentor, a term he especially likes — in his work at Pactolus and statewide.

Everything an educator does has the potential to leave a lasting impression on a child, Lassiter said in his keynote address at Friday's Edenton-Chowan Schools Back to School Convocation.

"Are you committed fully for every child this school year and beyond?" Lassiter asked.

Lassiter challenged those at the convocation to investing quality time in children, knowing that it can inspire them and help them discover that greatness lies within them.



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Steve Lassiter, a graduate of John A. Holmes High School who is the state's 2015 Wells Fargo Principal of the Year, helps measure a cookie as a judge in the "Ultimate Oreo" spirit activity at the Edenton-Chowan Schools Back to School Convocation. See more photos from convocation on page 6A.

See CHARGED, 4A

## Legislators help schools kick off new academic year

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor



STAFF PHOTOS BY REGGIE PONDER

Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan (left), and Sen. Erica Smith-Ingram, D-Northampton, each spoke at Edenton-Chowan Schools Back to School Convocation at Rocky Hock Baptist Church, Friday.

Sen. Erica Smith-Ingram, D-Northampton, recalled in her remarks at the Edenton-Chowan Schools Back to School Convocation Friday that when she began as a teacher in the Northampton County Schools, her child support was more than her take-home pay.

"The old ex was good for something, because my child support was more than my take-home pay as an educator," she said.

Smith-Ingram said she had decided to become a high school teacher in Northampton County af-

ter returning from a mission trip to Uganda in 1993. She left her good-paying government job and took a \$50,000-a-year pay cut to become a teacher, she said.

But teachers and other educators need to be paid a salary commensurate with the importance of what they do as shapers of children's minds, she said.

"That is why I get up every morning and I fight the good fight for you in the General Assembly," Smith-Ingram said. "I will continue to fight until we have the respect that we deserve."

Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, said the House is working to main-

tain teacher assistants in the state budget and is struggling with the Senate over that issue.

"I feel extremely confident that at the end of the day the House position to maintain teacher assistants is going to prevail," Steinburg said.

Steinburg said if he took any shots at the Senate, he was excluding from his comments Smith-Ingram, whom he said was supporting the House position on teacher assistants.

Smith-Ingram thanked Steinburg for the clarification.

See LEGISLATORS, 3A

## Town eyes economic study on sale of building

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

The Edenton Town Council has asked town staff to prepare an economic impact report on the two proposals that have been submitted by prospective buyers of the former Northeast Commission Building.

The report is expected to be ready in time for the council's Aug. 24 work session.



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### MORE INSIDE

■ Sailing class volunteers ask to keep Sunfish space — 2A

During the council's Aug. 11 monthly meeting, council members agreed it would be in the town's best interest to have staff analyze the economic impact of the two proposals from prospective buyers of the building, sometimes referred to as the old ice plant.

One of the development groups trying to acquire the property is headed by John

See STUDY, 3A

## Clam right! Steamers take Pettitt Cup

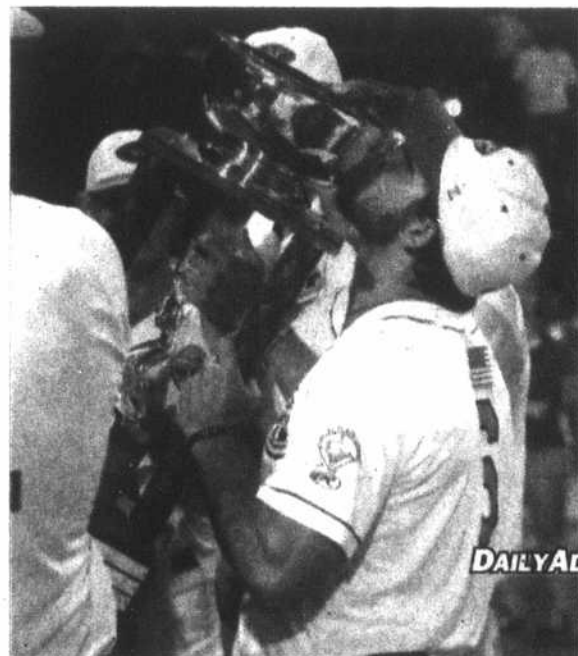
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BY OWEN HASSELL  
Sports Editor

On the 10-year anniversary to the day of their second-ever championship, the Edenton Steamers found the perfect way to celebrate.

Why not win another? That task was completed Friday in a sweep of Gastonia in the Coastal Plain League's Pettitt Cup championship series, beating the Grizzlies 10-4 at Hicks Field to negate a need for a third game in the best-of-three series.

Edenton won at Gastonia 15-3 a day earlier to set up the opportunity for the team's third CPL crown in history, and first in front of its home fans.



STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNEY

Edenton's Mick Fennell kisses the Pettitt Cup after the Steamers defeated Gastonia for the Coastal Plain League title, Friday.

See slideshow of game at [DAILYADVANCE.COM](http://DAILYADVANCE.COM)

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