



**Fundraiser
for Rita Smith
 slated for
Oct. 9 - 6B**

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County garners additional revenue under state plan

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Chowan County will pick up nearly \$200,000 in additional sales tax revenue in the next budget year under a plan adopted recently by the N.C. General Assembly. The sales tax redistribution plan was first introduced in the Senate and was modified a number of times on its way to final passage by the General Assembly. It changes the for-

mula for distributing sales tax revenue in a way that generally benefits smaller counties and rural ones, while also expanding the reach of the sales tax to include services that previously were not subject to the tax - notably haircuts and auto repairs.

County Manager Kevin Howard said Chowan would be receiving an additional sales tax allocation of a little less than \$20,000 in the current fiscal year.

That figure is expected to increase to \$193,000 in the fiscal year that begins July 1 of next year, and is projected to be \$197,000 in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The state has earmarked the additional sales tax revenues for the rural counties for use in economic development and education.

Howard said the additional sales tax revenue projected for the coming budget year more or less offsets the revenue that

will be lost as the Edenton Police Department moves out of the county's Public Safety Center into the new police station the town is building on Albemarle Street.

It is not known exactly when the police will be vacating the current location and move into the new building.

Although the county is getting additional revenue under the new formula, some rural counties will be

getting far more under the formula.

Howard said one rural county in the Piedmont area would be receiving more than \$1 million in additional sales tax revenue under the plan.

County officials have noted that even as the county gains additional revenue under the new sales tax distribution formula, it is losing even more as the state phases out what had been known as the Medicaid hold

harmless provision.

Nearly a decade ago the state took over the state share of Medicaid costs in return for shifting a specific sales tax stream from county to state coffers. As part of that deal, the state instituted a "hold harmless" provision that ensured every county in the state would get at least a \$500,000 net benefit annually under the arrangement.

That hold harmless provision is being phased out over four years.

Edenton Farmers Market nets \$95K grant

From staff reports

The Edenton Farmers Market is receiving more than \$95,000 in federal funding to support its efforts to grow the market and strengthen its outreach to lower-income customers.

MORE INSIDE

■ Edenton Farmers Market is jamming - 1B

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced last week that the Albemarle Commission, in support of the Edenton Farmers Market, received a Farmers Market Promotion Program Grant in the amount of \$95,480 to promote and increase awareness of the Edenton Farmers Market. The grant will also be used to increase the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits by conducting a promotional campaign that highlights the market's new location, focusing on underserved and low-income populations and facilitating market events such as cooking demonstrations and samplings of locally sourced agricultural products.

"We were shocked but



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

The Edenton Farmers Market has received a \$95,000 grant through the Albemarle Commission to enhance its two day a week operation.

also ecstatic about it at the same time," Calyb Hare, president of the Edenton Farmers Market Board of Directors, said of learning that the Edenton Farmers Market had been awarded the grant.

Hare and Cathy Davison, executive director of the Albemarle Commission, co-wrote the grant.

"I'm excited for the Albemarle Commission to work

with the leadership of the Edenton Farmers Market as they promote a healthy lifestyle for the residents in the Town of Edenton and Chowan County, all while supporting local farmers," Davison said. "The timing of this grant could not be better as the Edenton Farmers Market's new location is at the Elizabeth Vann Moore Foundation's property, the former ETNA Station,

which is a great location for the Farmers Market."

Hare noted the area was recognized as needing the funds because obesity and access to healthy food are important issues in Chowan County. He pointed out the grant is geared toward underserved populations.

The market's new location is intended to make it more accessible for lower-income people by being

located within walking distance and in an area with sidewalks.

The funds will be used for programming, including education and outreach for youth and older adults, according to Hare. The market also will use the money to continue its effort to attract more vendors and to help vendors be successful at the market, he said.

Website development

also is a part of the market's promotion effort.

Vilsack said USDA was excited about the grants to markets around the country.

"Today, USDA is helping to create economic opportunities for producers, increase access to fresh, healthy food for consumers, and connect rural and

See MARKET, 3A

Moratorium on wind facilities imposed

BY PETER WILLIAMS
The Perquimans Weekly

The Perquimans County Commission voted Monday night to impose a moratorium on new industrial-sized wind turbine projects until Feb. 2.

In a way, the 6-0 vote was symbolic since Apex Clean Energy - the only new potential developer - has not submitted a request for a conditional use permit for its project. Even one Apex spokesman promised commissioners the company would not submit a request for at least 60 days.

Don Giecek said Apex has been working on the project based on the 2010 Perquimans ordinance. He said the company has invested \$1.5 million in research and development thus far. He and at least one other speaker Monday talked about the "chilling effect" a moratorium would have on any new industry looking to build in Perquimans.

But more than a dozen

speakers clearly wanted the county to do more to stop construction of wind turbine projects because of their threat to property values, health and natural beauty of the land.

The moratorium is designed to give the Perquimans County Planning Board a chance to review the current ordinance and recommend any changes. A three-member subcommittee of that board has already met once.

When the moratorium was first proposed in September, the county commissioner directed County Attorney H. Hackney High to look into what's involved.

"What you have to be careful about is you have to follow the statutes," High said Monday.

He said the moratorium couldn't be "open ended" and it has to have an expiration date. He cautioned against making it too long.

"The longer the duration, the closer scrutiny it will get," High said.

Alan Lennon, one of the speakers against the Apex project, wanted a longer ban, but he took solace in a ban until Feb. 2

See WIND, 4A



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Rachel's Challenge speaker Nasha Snipes (left) is introduced by Tanya Turner, assistant superintendent of Edenton-Chowan Schools, Thursday during a presentation based on the life of Rachel Scott, the first student to die in the Columbine school shootings.

Rachel's Challenge urges hope, compassion

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Students at John A. Holmes High School and Chowan Middle School are starting to work together to develop groups at their respective schools to discourage school violence, bullying and teen suicide.

Those groups will work to replace the negative things with mutual respect

and support among teens in and out of the classroom.

Facilitators are scheduled to include Jennifer Cobb, Sharon Johnson, Brenda Miller and Tula Polvadore.

While details of the initiative are still being developed, the impetus clearly is the influence of Rachel's

See CHALLENGE, 4A



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

High water fills the parking lot by the Barker House Sunday, forcing town officials to place cones in the street.

Chowan 'dodges a bomb' with Joaquin

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Chowan County saw high water in spots over the weekend but generally missed any major effects from Hurricane Joaquin.

Because of residual high water, the Edenton-Chowan County Schools opened on a two-hour delay Monday morning.

Edenton Police Chief Jay Fortenbery said the town fared fairly well considering what could have happened. It would have been devastating for Edenton had the hurricane come directly in as some

early predictions called for, he said.

"We got very lucky," Fortenbery said, noting one town official had remarked to him that Edenton not only dodged a bullet but actually "dodged a bomb."

Fortenbery said the water level at Colonial Park and along Water Street was the highest he had seen since Hurricane Irene in 2011. In his seven years he has only seen water this high in town a couple of times, he said.

Police closed Pembroke

See CHOWAN, 4A

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