

Officials OK with shift in congressional district

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The move to place all of Chowan County in a single congressional district has received a largely positive reception from local officials.

After federal courts rejected the boundaries of the 1st congressional district, currently represented by Rep. G.K. Butterfield, D-N.C., state officials moved to re-draw the boundaries — placing all of Chowan County in the 3rd con-

gressional district, currently represented by Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C.

Previously, the county was split between the 1st and 3rd congressional districts.

Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin, a Democrat, said he has had a positive working relationship with both Butterfield and Jones.



BUTTERFIELD



JONES

"I get along great with both of them," Goodwin said. "I have a good relationship with them both."

Chowan County Board of Commissioners Chairman Jeff Smith, also a Democrat, said there had been both pros and cons to having two different people represent the county in the U.S. House of Representatives.

On the one hand, he said, when Jones and Butterfield were both representing parts of the county, Chowan officials had two people in the House advocating for their concerns.

But on the other hand, Smith said, "it's always better to have one person to be your contact and have one person to talk with."

Chowan Commissioner Keith Nixon, a Republican who is vice-chairman of the board and has served previously as chairman, said he thought it would be better

for the county to have all its voters casting their votes in a single congressional district.

"I think it's better when one county is under one person, especially a county as small as we are," Nixon said.

Nixon said he didn't have a problem with either one.

"I think both of them will do fine," Nixon said. "But I just think it's better for the county to be under one person to prevent confusion for the people when they are voting."

CRIMEWATCH

Edenton Police

ARRESTS

• Feb. 18 — Mary Jo Hawes, 47, of South Oakum Street, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of begging.

• Feb. 16 — Dashawn Jamol Leary, 23, of Johnston Street, was arrested on one felony count of possession of a firearm by a felon, one felony count of possession of stolen property and one misdemeanor count of carrying a concealed weapon.

• Feb. 16 — Giuliano Giannone, 49, of Paradise Road, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of driving while license revoked.

• Feb. 15 — Shawn Keymont, 27, of Oakum Circle, was charged with one misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct.

• Feb. 15 — Keanna Lashawn Gregory, 37, of Old Hertford Road, was charged with one misdemeanor count of failure to appear.

INCIDENTS

• Feb. 16 — Vandalism on

Johnston Street.

• Feb. 13 — Vandalism on North Broad Street.

• Feb. 11 — Larceny on Mark Drive.

• Feb. 11 — Hit and run on North Broad Street.

Chowan Sheriff

ARRESTS

• Feb. 20 — Kawanda Renee Rankins, 33, of Mexico Road, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of stalking.

• Feb. 19 — Nikaie Ex-

eon Walton, 17, of Waterlily Loop Road, was arrested on one felony count of breaking and/or entering, one felony count of larceny after breaking/entering and one felony count of possession of stolen goods/property.

• Feb. 18 — Morgan Eliza Lane, 20, of Sign Pine Road, was charged with one misdemeanor count of stalking.

• Feb. 14 — Justin Mark Proffitt, 47, of Moyock, NC, was arrested on one count of felony larceny and one

count of felony possession of stolen goods.

• Feb. 11 — Ethan Andrew Berry, 21, of Sound-side Road, was arrested on two felony counts of breaking and entering, two felony counts of larceny after breaking and entering, and two felony counts of possession of stolen property.

• Feb. 11 — Richard Wayne Armstead, age unknown, of Greenhall Road, was issued a criminal summons for one misdemeanor count of assault by pointing

a gun.

• Feb. 9 — William Anthony Brownridge, 17, of North Broad Street, was charged with one misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct and one misdemeanor count of resisting arrest.

INCIDENTS

• Feb. 17 — Intentionally setting fire to grass and leaves on Rocky Hock Road.

• Feb. 14 — Burglary (forcible entry) and larceny on Bay Point Drive.

Legion seeks boaters for April 2 fishing fest

From staff reports

If you have a boat you have an opportunity to give something back to people who have sacrificed much in service to their country.

Boaters are urgently needed to assist with the Top Shelf Fishing Festival in Edenton April 2 for wounded warriors and disabled veterans.

All types of boats are needed. Boaters willing to volunteer to assist with

the tournament are asked to contact Alan Browder, president of Pembroke Bass Club, at 252-312-7772.

The event is being sponsored by Operation North State, with local coordination by American Legion Edward G. Bond Post 40 and the Pembroke Bass Club. There will be 50 wounded warriors and disabled veterans coming for the tournament and boats are needed to accommodate the participants.

Dog shot, killed after charging deputy

From staff reports

A Chowan County deputy shot and killed a dog last week when the dog charged him after officers were unable to control the dog with a catch-pole or Taser.

The incident occurred around 1:20 p.m. on Woodland Drive in Cape Colony. Chowan County Sheriff

Dwayne Goodwin said officers do everything they can to avoid shooting a dog. In this case, he said, non-lethal means of subduing the dog were attempted but were not successful, and the shooting was a last resort to protect the officer.

Chowan County Animal Control initially was called to the scene after a resident of the street reported being

unable to walk out the door because of the neighbor's dog, which apparently had gotten loose.

The dog was a pit bull mix.

Animal Control officers attempted to take control of the dog using a catch-pole but were not able to do so. The officers reported the dog reacted in a threatening manner anytime they

came anywhere near it.

When Deputy Justin Saez of the Chowan County Sheriff's Office arrived he also attempted to get the dog under control using non-lethal means, including a Taser. Saez was not able to do that, however, and he reported that when the dog charged directly toward him he fired his weapon to stop the dog.

Graveside flowers stolen

From staff reports

The Edenton Police Department is seeking the public's help in finding and apprehending the person that has been stealing flowers from graves in Beaver Hill Cemetery.

Police Chief Jay Fortenbery said he and his officers take a dim view of anyone who would stoop so low as to take flowers from a gravesite placed there by grieving family members or

friends.

The chief noted that the thefts have been occurring with regularity since October.

"It's happening in such a random way that it would be difficult for us to catch someone doing this without the public's help," he said. "If you see anything suspicious occurring at Beaver Hill, please call 911 immediately and let us know so we can catch this lowlife flower thief."

GREEN ALGAE

Continued from 1A

Church that she had noticed some changes in the water during the past few years and that she and other members of CEEG had wanted to learn more about what was going on in terms of water quality.

One of the concerns has been the prevalence of blue-green algae in the Chowan River and its tributaries during the past year.

Elizabeth Fensin, an algal ecologist with the water sciences section of the N.C. Division of Water Resources, brought the forum audience up to speed on the past 15 years of algae research in the Albemarle Sound and its tributaries.

Fensin said that over the years that hadn't been much algae observed in the Chowan River. In most years there might be two or three reports of algae blooms in the Chowan and those events are short-lived, she said.

But the appearance of blue-green algae in the Chowan River last year was different, Fensin said.

"The weird thing about last summer is that the blooms happened and then they didn't stop," Fensin said.

The public has been troubled by the occurrence of microcystis in North Carolina, Fensin said, because it

Reported Blooms by River Basin: 2000-2015

- ▶ Neuse: 428
- ▶ Tar-Pamlico: 405
- ▶ White Oak: 396
- ▶ Cape Fear: 342
- ▶ Yadkin: 124
- ▶ French Broad: 61
- ▶ Catawba: 58
- ▶ Lumber: 51
- ▶ Chowan: 38
- ▶ Pasquotank: 38

STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

This slide from Elizabeth Fensin's presentation shows the relative infrequency of reported algae blooms in the Chowan River Basin.

used to not be seen here and because the World Health Organization has limits for it because of concerns about toxicity.

Fensin said that as far she knows, no one has gotten sick because of microcystis in North Carolina.

State agencies aren't likely to be too concerned about the algae unless they start getting reports of people getting sick, pets getting sick, or major fish kills.

The Neuse and Pamlico rivers, she said, have gotten a lot of attention because they have major fish kills.

But Fensin said she realizes persistent algae blooms

— even without harm to humans or pets — are going to be upsetting for people who live here.

Gil Burroughs, a member of the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education with a keen interest in environmental issues, said he was concerned about the frequency of sampling in the Chowan River. The amount of data seems to be insufficient, he said.

Burroughs said that in order to get a handle on the algae problem it will be necessary to have data from more frequent samples and from samples with a great distribution.

With little likelihood that the state would hire additional staff in order to collect more samples, citizen volunteer action will be needed in order to get more data, Bur-

roughs said.

Burroughs said he would like to see the state's environmental agency involved in mobilizing citizens to collect data.

For many member of CEEG and others in Chowan County, the concept of citizen environmental monitoring is a familiar one because of the highly successful Hydrilla survey conducted over the past couple of years by citizen volunteers.

Fensin agreed that citizen monitoring could help increase the amount of data available regarding algae in the Chowan River and Albemarle Sound.

Among the factors that tend to promote algal growth, Fensin explained, are high nutrient levels, high temperatures and high levels of light.

After forty wonderful years, Dr. Kenneth P. Manning, Sr. and staff will close their Edenton office effective July 31, 2016.

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CHOWAN REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH

The Chowan Republican Convention will be held on Saturday, March 12th starting at 10:00am in the lobby of the Chowan Public Safety Center, 305 West Freemason St., Edenton. The purpose of the convention is to elect delegates to the District and State conventions and to allow candidates to introduce themselves. All Chowan County Republicans who have registered to vote prior to January 31, 2015 (or have moved here after that date) are eligible to vote. Call Chairman Jim Robison at 312-7711 with questions.

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