



Walker students celebrate top status in Lock Up Hunger - 1B

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## White, Winborne eye need for job growth

### White: Kids have to leave to find jobs

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor



WHITE

James "Jill" White said this week that if he's elected to the Chowan County Board of Commissioners he will work to bring jobs to the county so young people won't have to leave the community to find work.

"That's always needed in a small town," White said

of recruiting new business and industry. "When kids get out of school they have to leave town to find a job."

But White said it was important to recruit businesses

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### Winborne: County needs to create a welcoming environment for businesses

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor



WINBORNE

Chowan County Commissioner Emmett Winborne said this week that if elected to a fifth term on the board he would continue working to bring businesses and jobs to the county.

"There's always more work to be done," Winborne said. "We need to create an environment for businesses to come in here — create a friendly and welcoming environ-

#### VOTE EARLY

Early voting in Primary begins Thursday - 2A

ment." Winborne, 61, a farmer in the Rocky Hock community, faces a challenge in the March 15 Democratic Primary from political newcomer James "Jill" White. Early voting in the

primary begins Thursday at the Chowan Board of Elections Office in the Agriculture Building in Edenton and at the Northern Chowan Community Center in Tyner.

"I think it's great," Winborne said of having early voting available at the recreation center.

Winborne said he believes the county board has been welcoming toward new business.

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## KLUTTZ TAKES VICTORY LAP, CELEBRATES HISTORIC FURNITURE

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

State Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources Susan Kluttz told a crowd at the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse Friday that she was in town both to celebrate the return of a historic document process to the courthouse and to thank Edenton residents for their support of the state's historic preservation tax credit.

Kluttz, who served 14 years as mayor of Salisbury before being appointed by Mayor Pat McCrory as the state's secretary of cultural resources, said she believes she has been to Edenton more often than to any other town or city in North Carolina.

The reason, she said, is that Edenton is so beautiful and so historic.

Edenton was a strong ally for her and the governor as they faced an uphill battle in the legislature to protect the historic preservation tax credit, she said.

Steinburg was one of the strongest legislative advocates for the tax credit, according to Kluttz.

The immediate occasion of Kluttz's visit was the return to its original location of a historic wooden document process owned by Libby Pope.

Pope has loaned the piece to the courthouse for two years.

"I'm thrilled that this treasure has returned," Kluttz said.

Jerry Climer of the Edenton Historical Commission spoke on behalf of Pope, who was unable to attend the ceremony.

"Libby regrets that she is unable to be here today," Climer said. "But, Madam Secretary, it is a great day to see the document press



Susan Kluttz, secretary of the N.C. Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources, looks at the historic document press in the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse as Tom Newbern talks about the piece's historical significance.

loaned to the Chowan County Courthouse."

Climer noted that the journey of the historic piece of furniture back to the courthouse began when Pope's keen eye spotted it at an auction.

"When the Lord's Proprietor went out of business and auctioned some items, Libby Pope saw something

others walked right by," Climer said. "She knew it would fit beautifully in Strawberry Hill and she did not hesitate to buy it."

Climer quoted an email that Pope had sent to him:

"When I purchased the document press, and didn't know its significance, I let it sit on the front porch at Strawberry Hill for several

weeks," Pope said in the email. "Finally my neighbor, Rodney Harrell, and his helper, Willie Drew, loaded it on Rodney's pickup and took it to Ben Hobbs for repairs."

She noted that the repairs including restoring a broken hinge on the left door, replacing top and bottom molding, and adding

shelving to match the ghost marks on the wood.

Although it was suggested to her that she replace the lock on the door, she decided not to replace it but to leave it in its original condition.

"Ben didn't take too long because it took up too much space in his shop," Pope said in the email.

Climer explained that

by the time the document press was returned to Strawberry Hill, Pope had sought input from Jim Melchor and Tom Newbern, who confirmed her suspicion that the item was historically significant.

Climer noted that the

See KLUTTZ, 3A

## School officials eye request for increase in local funding

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

Edenton-Chowan Schools officials plan to ask for additional local funding for operating expenses in the coming budget year — including an increase in the

local salary supplement for teachers.

School system administrators and members of the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education discussed budget challenges during their planning retreat last week.

Superintendent Rob Jackson spoke about challenges and priorities for the budget, including the challenge of declining enrollment and the priority of teacher salary supplements.

Jackson emphasized in his remarks to the board that no matter what challenges the schools face, they must deal with them head-on.

"Regardless of what the seas are like we have to learn how to sail the seas," Jackson said.

But statistics indicate those seas are indeed rough.

Recent figures presented by Jackson show 31.8 percent of children in Chowan County live in poverty and

46 percent live in single-parent homes.

The county has a high rate of teen pregnancy and is ranked 18th in the state in child obesity, he said.

Most immediately applicable to the schools' challenge, perhaps, is that in the 2015-2016 school year only 14 percent of kindergartners arrived ready for school.

Despite the challenges the schools face in the classroom, though, the school

district has exercised fiscal discipline in order to balance the budget and begin rebuilding the school system's fund balance, according to Jackson.

"We have made tremendous cuts," Jackson said. "We have cut a lot."

"We can feel good about the fact that we are living within our means," Jackson added, referring to the move away from dipping into fund balance to balance the budget.

But the current fund balance for the Edenton-Chowan Schools is still below the recommendation from the N.C. Local Government Commission, Jackson said.

The fund balance at least is headed in the right direction now, Jackson said.

Jackson spoke about pressure on the school system's budget from declining student enrollment.

See FUNDING, 2A



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