



## Town OKs money for station construction

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

The town council voted unanimously Monday to accept a proposal from BB&T to finance construction of the new police station.

Councilman Elton Bond was absent from the coun-

cil's work session Monday night.

The motion to approve included a caveat, however, that should another proposed lender, USDA, lower its interest rates on April 1, the town could elect to go with that option.

Town Manager Anne-Ma-

rie Knighton said in a March 24 memo to the council that the town had solicited bids from 13 banks and had received four proposals.

"It appears now that BB&T offers the lowest one — 2.89 percent for a 15 year note," she said. "USDA is the next best option and the

USDA will be issuing a new interest rate April 1 — the rate may change, may decrease or may increase. The rate now offered is 3.125 percent. We can structure payments for a 15-year note."

Knighton noted that the town's original financial

analysis was based on a rate of 2.69 percent but for 20 years.

"Based on what we are paying the county now for our lease (\$166,000) plus the savings we project by no longer paying 26 percent of the maintenance and upkeep of the common space

(at the Public Safety Center) — approximately \$22,000 — we will have to identify approximately \$16,000 in additional funds to make the annual loan payment to BB&T of \$204,000. We have identified sources of funding

See NEW STATION, 3A

## Heroes coming for fishing tourney on Pembroke Creek

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

Saturday's Top Shelf Fishin' Festival will offer 50 wounded warriors and disabled veterans a first-rate fishing experience on Pembroke Creek.

Operation North State is the all-volunteer statewide organization that is sponsoring the fishing tournament. Local organizers for the event have been American Legion Post 40 and the Pembroke Bass Club.

The host venue is Bayside Marina & Grill.

Although all of the necessary volunteers are on board, there are still three ways the public can help out with this weekend's tournament.

One way is by donating items for door prizes.

"You can't have enough door prizes," said Terry Snyder of Operation North State.

Another way to pitch in is by preparing a covered dish for the post-tournament meal.

"We can always use a covered dish," Snyder said.

Snyder mentioned that one important way people can support the Top Shelf Fishing Festival is by turning out Saturday afternoon to view the weigh-in and cheer for the participants.

He said he recommends people show up around 2:15 p.m. at Bayside Marina to watch the weigh-in.

See FISHING, 2A



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Corey Byrum, 23, of Winterville, brings in the boat Monday afternoon after a day of fishing on Pembroke Creek. Assisting him at the boat ramp at Bayside Marina is his father, Walter Byrum. The marina will be hosting the Top Shelf Fishin' Festival Saturday for wounded warriors and disabled veterans. Walter Byrum says he will not be participating in Saturday's event but is excited to hear about it because his father, Murray Byrum, who ran the Westside service station across from where the marina is located, was a veteran.

## Search continues for escaped inmate Singleton

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

The inmate who escaped custody at the Chowan County Jail Sunday remained at-large Monday as authorities focused the search on the escapee's home city of Charlotte.

Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin said Monday that Kelvin Singleton, 26, is believed to have left Chowan County and likely has headed for Charlotte, where his mother, his child, and other friends and relatives live.

"I don't think he was here very



KELVIN SINGLETON

long after he got out," Goodwin said. Officers set up roadblocks in East Edenton and stopped a number of vehicles, he said.

In addition, officers talked

to people in the neighborhoods around the jail, and no information turned up from that, he said.

The community has always been very helpful with information but in this case there were no anonymous tips or any other information coming in, Goodwin said.

"There was nothing coming in," he said.

Singleton escaped late Sunday afternoon after pulling an improvised knife on an officer, Goodwin said.

Singleton, who was being held at the jail on charges stemming

from a January robbery at Pearl's Tobacco Plus on Granville Street, also faces charges in Mecklenburg County, Goodwin said.

Goodwin said this was the first time since he had been sheriff that an inmate had pulled a weapon on an officer.

"All of the procedures were followed," Goodwin said.

But the sheriff said once Singleton had been locked up again, his office will turn its attention toward figuring out whether anything more could have been done to prevent the escape and how to prevent future escapes.

Right now the priority is to capture Singleton and return him to custody, Goodwin said.

Goodwin said the staff at the jail had not previously encountered a situation in which an inmate wielded a knife, and the incident will be reviewed to determine what else if anything could have been done to prevent the escape.

"They are supposed to do everything they can — everything humanly possible — to prevent an escape," Goodwin said.

Since the knife apparently was

See ESCAPED, 3A

## Council still undecided about future of ex-Commission building

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

The town council continues to wrestle with the future of the former Northeast

Commission building.

At its monthly council work session Monday night, Administrative Committee chair Steve Biggs noted that despite ample discussion the council had been unable to reach a consensus on what to do with the building.

Biggs then said that despite initially voting to sell the building he has now had a change of heart and thinks

"We've discussed it to death."

Steve Biggs

Chairman, administrative committee

that the town should keep ownership.

"The long and short of it is, I'm not satisfied with the

idea of selling the building and I know we're not going to give it away," he said, referring to an idea put forth by one of two developers interested in purchasing the building. "At this point I don't think we should sell it."

Biggs added, however, that in the interest of some decision being made about the building's future he thought the matter should

be sent to the full council at its next monthly meeting for final discussion and hopefully a decision being made.

"We've discussed it to death," he said.

Mayor Roland Vaughan voiced support for the idea, saying he would be pleased to see the matter move out of committee so that progress could be made.

Vaughan suggested that both prospective owners who have expressed interest in purchasing the property be notified of the action. Both parties have already told the town they are not interested in leasing the building, he said, because it would not allow them to take advantage of existing historic preservation tax credits.



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