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Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Gardeners will have lots to enjoy at Easels tour — 1B

50¢

## Authorities await identity of decapitated body

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin said Monday that the absence of a head slowed the identification of a body found last week in Bertie County.

A hunter found the decapitated, decomposing body late Thursday.

The body is believed to have been at the site near Ashland Church Road and Blackrock Road for about a week.

Authorities described the body as that of a man in his 20s.

Bertie County Sheriff John Holley said Monday that from looking at the scene where the body was found it appears the

man was killed elsewhere and the body dumped at the Bertie site. Although he was quoted by a Virginia TV station over the weekend as saying that the homicide appeared to have occurred in Chowan County, Holley said Monday that while he has "a feeling" that the homicide probably took place outside Bertie County, the only

thing readily apparent from the evidence at the scene is that the man was killed somewhere other than the site where the body was dumped.

Chowan County authorities and the State Bureau of Investigation is assisting the Bertie County Sheriff's Office in the investigation of the homicide.

Goodwin and Holley both said their offices were awaiting the identification of the deceased. Goodwin expressed some surprise that the body had not been identified by late Monday since an autopsy had been slated for Monday. Holley and Goodwin were still awaiting the identification as of Tuesday afternoon.



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Martha Elliott, left, of Tyner and Emma Perry, right, of Edenton, with the Food Lion mascot at the grand opening of the new store at the Chowan Crossing Shopping Center on Wednesday morning, April 6

## SHOPPERS EXPRESS ENTHUSIASM FOR NEW FOOD LION STORE

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Shoppers at the newly opened Food Lion at Chowan Crossing Shopping Center are expressing excitement about the layout and customer service being offered there.

During a random survey of shoppers since the store opened last week they said having a bigger selection and well-organized special sections in the store had made their shopping experience a positive one.

"It's a lot better than the old store, in my opinion," said Ryan Lane of Rocky Hock.

Lane was referring to a now-closed Food Lion location at

See FOOD LION, 2A



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

An enormous line of people waited in frigid temperatures Wednesday morning, April 6, to get their first look at the inside of the new Food Lion store at Chowan Crossing Shopping Center in Edenton and to be among the first shoppers of the day in order to receive a \$10 gift card.

## White Oak Elementary eyes 18 fee-for-service pre-k slots

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education voted unanimously last week to offer 18 additional pre-kindergarten slots at White Oak Elementary School on a fee-for-service basis.

The slots are slated to begin with the upcoming school year.

At its April 5 meeting the board voted unanimously on a motion by board member Jean Bunch to approve the additional pre-k class beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

The school is planning an open house and student screening for the new class on April 19 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Parents should bring their child to the open house.

A formal presentation for parents will be held at 6 p.m.

The registration and screening for students for the NCPREK portion of the pre-k program will be held on June 6 and 7.

Head Start will hold its registration and screening later this Spring.

White Oak Elementary Principal Sheila Evans presented to the school board the proposal for the additional 18 pre-k slots on

a fee-for-service basis.

Evans' presentation explained that the opening of the 18 fee-for-service pre-k slots is part of the school's "effort to support the community-wide focus to ensure our children are ready for Kindergarten."

She cited the Chowan CARES (Children's

See PRE-K, 6A

## Unitarians optimistic about meeting goal for Fill the Pantry

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Albemarle members are optimistic the Fill the Food Pantry fundraiser they held Saturday night will meet or possibly exceed their \$3,000 goal.

Lee Lolkema, who co-chaired the event held at

the Nothin' Fancy Cafe and Market in Edenton, said the crowd was the largest so far in the four-year history of the event that supports Book Bag Buddies, a program that provides food for elementary-age children in need in the Edenton-Chowan Schools.

Through the Edenton-Chowan Food Pantry, each eligible child is given enough food to take home to get him or her through the weekend. The packets include foods that children can heat themselves plus fresh fruit



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Nothin' Fancy co-owner Gail Singh exchanges a joke with a visitor to Saturday night's Fill the Food Pantry fundraiser sponsored by the Unitarian Universalists.



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See PANTRY, 6A

**ROCKY HOCK Opry** FRIDAY, APRIL 22nd, 7:30PM SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd, 7:30PM  
Sponsored by the Rocky Hock Ruritan's Relay for Life Team Tickets \$10.00  
E.A. SWAIN AUDITORIUM EDENTON, NC  
Tickets Available at various locations or call 252-221-4875 or 252-340-3438. Email rockyhock opry@live.com