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Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Proposed county budget raises tax rate 4 cents

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

County Manager Kevin Howard's recommended budget for 2016-2017 includes a four-cent hike in the property tax rate and increases local spending for public school operations by \$50,000.

The property tax rate in the recommended budget is 76.5 cents per \$100 valuation, which repre-

sents an increase of four cents over the current tax rate.

"This increase is due to the reduction in revenues and to cover an increase in expenses due to capital needs," Howard wrote in his budget message to the county commissioners.

Total General Fund spending (including the Social Services Fund) in the recommended budget is nearly \$16.9 million, an in-



HOWARD

does not call for an increase in water rates.

crease of roughly \$594,362 over the original 2015-2016 budget.

The recommended budget appropriates \$525,069 from fund balance.

The proposal

"The Chowan County Board of Commissioners are committed to improvements in the public education system," according to Howard.

The county manager presented the recommended budget to the county commissioners at their meeting Monday night.

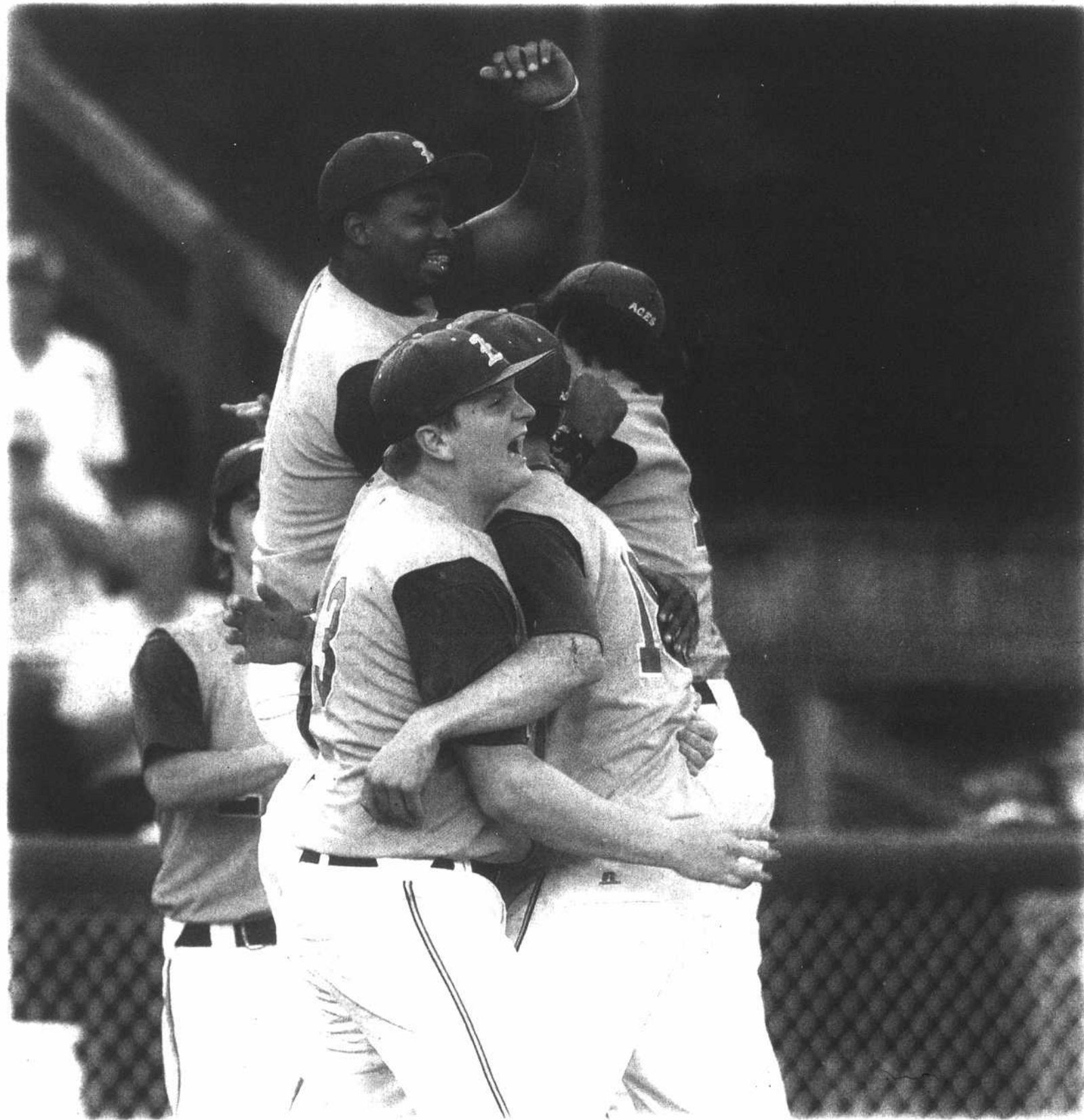
The board scheduled the public hearing on the county budget for June 6.

Also, the board recessed its meeting Monday night until 9 a.m. today (Wednesday) for the purpose of holding an initial budget work session. The budget work session is expected to last nearly all day. The board voted to conclude the work session by 4 p.m.

The recommended budget includes nearly \$3.54 million in local

See BUDGET, 4A

VICTORY FOR THE ACES



THE DAILY ADVANCE PHOTO

Edenton players celebrate their win over Midway, Saturday, in the second round of the 2A state playoffs. See story, on page 7A.

Study: Grocery could thrive

From staff reports

A consultant specializing in grocery store location research says there is enough market potential for another grocery store in Edenton/Chowan County.

Kevin R. Anderson of Greenville, S.C., recently presented his findings to the Edenton Chowan Partnership's Economic Development Committee.

The Partnership, using both its funds and funding from Electricities, hired Anderson to study the area to determine if the market is strong enough to support a second grocery store. The town of Edenton is a member of Electricities, the entity that assists public utilities in managing and operating municipal electric distribution systems.

Anderson briefed the committee in April on the methodology he used to determine the study's findings: demographics such as population, median household incomes, and unemployment rates. Anderson explained he then produced sales forecasting projections and concluded there is room in the

See STORE, 4A

Council reopens brew-pub discussion

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Near the close of the May 10 monthly meeting of the town council, council members voted unanimously to reopen discussion with Raleigh developer John Glover regarding his proposal to establish a brew-pub on the downtown waterfront.

Councilwoman Norma Simpson was absent from the meeting.

The site of the new business would be the former Northeast Commission building should council decide to sell it. The council recently voted 4-2 not to sell the building.

But following a motion by Councilman Bob Quinn, one of those who voted against the proposed sale, the council decided to re-establish contact with Glover

See BREW-PUB, 4A

Troxler bullish on food processing in NC

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The state's commissioner of agriculture cited the Jimbo's Jumbos as an example of the state's expanding food processing industry - and a company that stays ahead of the curve in food safety - during a Tuesday afternoon visit to the company's new oil roasting facility.

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler toured the 181,000-square-foot building on Peanut Drive in Edenton along with his chief of staff, Zane Hedgecock, and local

officials and business leaders.

Paul Britton, vice president of operations for the peanut processor, led the tour of the new facility, which is expected to have its first lines operational in September or October and be running at full capacity by this time next year. Britton told Troxler and other guests that the company currently employs 220 people in Chowan County and expects to add another 60-70 workers as the new facility gets going.

The plant will run two shifts.

Troxler expressed excitement about the employment growth.

"And then we hope to grow to even more than that," Troxler added.

The commissioner pledged the support of the



PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNEY

North Carolina Agricultural Secretary Steve Troxler (left front) listens during a tour given by Vice President of Operation for Edenton Paul Britton (right) at the Jimbo's Jumbos peanut facility, Tuesday.

N.C. Department of Agriculture as Jimbo's Jumbos and other food processors continue to implement state of the art practices

in food safety and efficient food processing.

"We're going to hold your hand through the whole process," Troxler said. "You

ain't by yourself."

Britton said the new plant is designed for both

See TROXLER, 4A



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