

Gates sheriff, deputies facing charges after SBI probe

BY WILLIAM F. WEST
For the Chowan Herald

GATESVILLE — Gates County's top lawman and four of his deputies are facing criminal charges after a probe by the State Bureau of Investigation.

An agent with the SBI served an arrest warrant to Gates County Sheriff Randy Hathaway, 47, following his indictment Monday by a grand jury on charges of obtaining property by false pretense, failure to discharge duties and one count of obstruction of justice, according to N.C. Public Safety spokeswoman

Patty McQuillan. District Attorney Andrew Womble petitioned a superior court judge to remove Hathaway based on the SBI's investigation. The judge removed Hathaway from office and appointed Gates County Sheriff Deputy Robert Jordan as the interim sheriff, McQuillan said.

Three Gates County sheriffs' deputies were also charged with obtaining property by false pretense, and their arrest warrants were served in court. As interim sheriff, Jordan sus-



HATHAWAY

ended the three deputies, Captain Glenda Parker, 54; Deputy Levar Newsome, 38; and Deputy Tobe Ruffin, 28.

A Gates communications official, reached on Monday evening, said Hathaway was not available. She said she would relay a request to him to return a call to a reporter for comment. No return call was received from Hathaway by press time Monday.

The charges come more than a month after another deputy, Sgt. Brandon Hawks, 33, was arrested

for allegedly committing embezzlement and larceny of a firearm, on six counts of embezzlement of property by public officer and one count of obstruction of justice. His father, Scott Hawks, 54, was also arrested Monday on two counts of possession of stolen firearm, McQuillan stated in a press release. Hawks was dismissed from the Gates County Sheriff's Department after being arrested.

The arrest of Hawks reportedly came after Womble requested an SBI probe in July into allegations of corruption at the Gates Sheriff's Office.

According to the Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald newspaper, Hathaway joined the Gates Sheriff's Office in July 1999 as a deputy and worked his way up to chief deputy. He was sworn in as interim sheriff in September 2016 following Sheriff Ed Webb's announcement of his intention to retire.

Webb had been Gates' top lawman for 18 years before foregoing a 2018 reelection campaign to accept a position with the Vidant Police Department at the medical center in Greenville.

Hathaway told the News-

Herald when he was sworn in as interim sheriff that he intended to seek the position in his own right in the 2018 election.

According to the newspaper, Hathaway, a Gates County native and a graduate of Gates County High School, went on to receive training as an automobile mechanic from Roanoke-Chowan Community College.

The newspaper said Hathaway was employed as a mechanic in Ahoskie when he decided to join the Gates Sheriff's Office.

William West is a reporter for the Daily Advance.

CRIMEWATCH

EDENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT ARRESTS

■ Jan. 19 — Linward Bailey Jr., 47, of West Carteret Street, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of failure to appear.

■ Jan. 17 — Jefferey Lynn Ullman Jr., 35, of US Highway 64, Ad-

amsville, TN, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of failure to appear.

■ Jan. 13 — Hubert Lee Privott, 57, of Mexico Road, was charged with one misdemeanor count of driving while license revoked.

■ Jan. 13 — Nakieva Varsha

Stanley, 30, of Jackson Street, was arrested on one felony count of embezzlement, one misdemeanor count of larceny and three misdemeanor count of failure to appear.

INCIDENTS

■ Jan. 16 — Leaving scene of an accident on South Broad

Street.

■ Jan. 13 — Breaking and entering at the Nothin' Fancy Cafe and Market on North Broad Street.

■ Jan. 12 — Injury to personal property on North Broad Street.

■ Jan. 3 — Hit and run on Virginia Road.

CHOWAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ARRESTS

■ Jan. 20 — Dwayne Thomas Reid, 31, of Greenhall Road, was charged with one count of failure to return rental property.

INCIDENTS
■ None reported.

SMITH

Continued from 1A

Coleman continued, "I'm of the opinion that white men should best refrain from describing what's best for women or people of color — we always end up making sexist or racist statements or at best chauvinistic or paternalistic ones. It's a risk worth

taking, however."

Thirty-six states that support the ERA.

"I'm embarrassed when I look at the map of states that have not approved ERA legislation. Most of them are Southern," Coleman said. "We of all people should be in the forefront of leadership on this issue."

For Coleman's full remarks, see the Editorial page on A5.

In other business, a request made by Estelle Colson was denied seeking to rezone property located at 840 Soundside Rd. from residential to B-1 Business District. A motion was made and passed 6-1 to find the rezoning request to be inconsistent with the Land Use Plan. A second motion to deny the rezoning request passed unanimously 7-0.

Also, the Commission unanimously approved plans for the Sheriff's Office to lease three cars (4-year lease) was approved unanimously. The second year lease will have to be decided again at budget time.

And, the Commission approved a request from O2EMC to extend their special use permit six more months for possible plans, not yet ap-

proved by the Commission or any regulatory authority, to build a solar farm on an 88-acre tract. The company has been pursuing due diligence regarding whether such construction is feasible. Company officials said the county collects approximately \$900 per year in taxes from the property, but if it was developed as a solar farm, that figure would increase to more

than \$22,000 annually.

And, Angel White with PCG Landfill and Ralph Hollowell with Albemarle Regional Health Services provided the Board with an update from the PCG Landfill and convenience sites.

Also, Bland Baker of Trilium Health Resources provided the Commission with an update as to that organization's activities.



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Chowan County Tax Listing Notice 2018

Real Property

All real property will be automatically listed to the January 1, 2018 owner. You will only receive a listing abstract for real property if the real property was newly acquired during 2017, if you receive a property tax exclusion or exemption on the property, or if there was a change in value. New construction must be reported to the tax department during the month of January.

Personal Property

All personal property owned on January 1, 2018, except licensed motor vehicles, must be listed during the month of January. If you do not receive a listing form for personal property, contact the tax department.

List all unlicensed motor vehicles, permanent tagged vehicles, international registration plated vehicles, boats, boat motors, jet skis, all terrain vehicles, airplanes, farm equipment, and single-wide mobile homes.

All personal property must be listed by January 31, 2018 to avoid a 10% late listing penalty.

Business Property

All businesses are required to file a business personal property form by January 31, 2018. Any business filing for the first time must contact the tax department to receive a listing form.

All business personal property must be listed by January 31, 2018 to avoid a 10% late listing penalty.

Elderly / Permanently Disabled Exemption, Disabled Veterans Exemption, Circuit Breaker Exemption

If you are interested in applying for an exemption, you may request an application by calling 252-482-8487, and an application will be mailed. Applications are also available in the tax listing department of the Chowan County Tax Office, and on the county web site www.chowancounty-nc.gov. All exemption applications must be filed no later than June 1, 2018.

Chowan County Tax Department
PO Box 1030
305 W. Freemason Street
Edenton, NC 27932
(Phone) 252-482-8487
(Fax) 252-482-1528

Hospitals set visitation restrictions for children

From staff reports

GREENVILLE — Vidant Health values family presence when loved ones are in the hospital. We also are responsible for protecting patients from being exposed to viruses such as the flu.

Due to the high number of people with the flu in our community, we are temporarily changing our family presence and visitation practices for patient safety as well as the safety of visitors.

Starting Tuesday, Jan. 23, the following Vidant hospitals will welcome healthy visitors who are 12 years of age and older:

- The Outer Banks Hospital in Nags Head
- Vidant Beaufort Hospital in Washington
- Vidant Bertie Hospital in Windsor
- Vidant Chowan Hospital in Edenton
- Vidant Duplin Hospital in Kenansville
- Vidant Edgecombe Hospital in Tarboro
- Vidant Medical Center in Greenville

The exception is a well-child under 12 years of age can visit a newborn sibling.

Vidant's experts are tracking flu activity daily and as soon as the flu decreases, these hospitals will again welcome family and visitors of all ages.

BOARD

Continued from 1A

tem would get any of those funds. Instead, the school system has a better chance at Tier I money and perhaps funds generated from a local bond referendum.

As to the pros and cons of new construction versus renovations/additions, Hughes said a new school would offer a fresh start and classes would not be disrupted as much during construction, particularly if a new site is chosen.

The pros of retaining current site on Broad Street

through renovations/additions include embracing the school's history because JAHHS is a centerpiece for the community, Hughes said. Also, there would be no need to go through a land purchase process and the cash flow needed to finance the job would be spread out over a longer period of time. However, renovations/additions would mean a messy construction process that would affect classes, White trailers, dubbed "learning cottages" might become a temporary reality for students attending JAHHS during construction, Hughes said.

The Board's charge is to plot a course toward whether it wants to pursue building a new school or seek renovations/additions to the existing home of the Aces.

Whatever decision the Board and the Chowan County Commission make would need community input as what plan best serves the needs of the people, the neighborhood, students, teachers and staff, Hughes said.

"The community has a lot to offer. Students have a lot to offer and staff have a lot to offer," he said.

Board Chairman Gene Jordan said, "As we move forward in thinking that as the Board of Education is making decisions, the County Commission has to be on board with whatever decisions we make if we are going to make this work. It is often easy to make plans and do things like we want to do them, but in this circumstance this is going to have to be a joint effort between us and the commis-

sion."

Board member Gil Burroughs said it is important that when considering what path to pursue, Board members have "a good understanding" of how many students the district may be educating in the future so as to better make an informed decision today as what is best. He advised was to know as much as possible about what the school's needs.

Board members Ricky Browder suggested that the discussion utilize a white dry-erase board listing the pros and cons. Board members then listed ideas and goals they would like to see achieved which included costs, financing and scope of the project.

Jordan suggested joint meeting with the County Commission.

"In my thinking, that's going to have to be inevitable," he said. "We're going to have to find a way to really get on the same page with the County Commission."



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