



Seniors honored for athletic achievements — 1B

## Schools urge commission to support pay increase

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

A trio of speakers asked the Chowan County Commission to support pay raises for nearly 150 employees working for Edenton-Chowan Schools.

During Monday's meeting, commissioners also approved re-valuing properties within the RiverSound development to reflect new values.

And commissioners listened to concerns about

public safety from a delegation hailing from Chowan Beach.

Commissioners are studying budget proposals that include the school system's request for the pay increase — the first in 10 years for classified staff.

During Monday's public hearing about the proposed budget, EC Schools' Director of Transportation Amanda Goodwin talked about the classified staff who love their job, but also need to be able to survive financially

day to day.

"They are the hard working staff that are often behind the scenes making sure our buses run, our schools have heat and water, a child who would otherwise go without has at least two hot meals a day," she said. "They are the ones that keep our schools clean. They are the assistants that offer support and hugs and love to a child who may not be receiving those needs at home. Their value to the children of our school system is unmeasurable."

Goodwin continued by saying half of classified staff work additional jobs "just to be able to keep their heads above water financially."

"This particular group of employees has not had a step pay increase in over 10 years," she said. "Aren't they more valuable to us as a community now with the experience they have obtained in those 10 years, yet currently they are on the pay scale that a new employee would come in hired at starting out."

Experience should mean something.

"Life experiences in their positions have given them expertise that someone new coming in doesn't have," Goodwin said. "Trust and friendships with their co-workers and students have been fostered and developed over time and having a child see that one constant person in their life gives them a sense of stability because we are there ever

See COMMISSION, 2A



### Eatery stars on TV

An Edenton eatery that specializes in down home-style, Southern cooking is drawing the lion's share of local interest in a segment of North Carolina Week-end currently airing on the UNC-TV PBS station. — 4B

### Latino News

Check out our Latino news section on a bishop visit, scholarship and an artist. — 7B



### Concert raises funds

Performed before a capacity crowd, a local concert utilized a raffle to help raise more than \$1,000 in donations to help the Boys and Girls Club meet its goal of matching a \$100,000 grant sponsored by an Edenton native, Dr. John Phillips. — 9A

### EOG test realities

Last week, students across the North Carolina took End of Grade (EOG) tests. Adrian Wood discusses the realities of state EOG testing in schools. — 7A



### 5Kids shine at run

Eighteen youth from Chowan County have spent the last eight weeks preparing to run a 5K race. The 5Kids program was coordinated by the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department. — 2B



### Students go wild

Students at White Oak and D.F. Walker Elementary Schools have not just been reading about wildlife, they've been creating homes for wildlife right in their schoolyard. — 6A



PHOTOS BY MILES LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Here come the Aces!

## Pomp and circumstance ahead

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

John A. Holmes' seniors wore their caps and gowns recently as they passed through the hallowed halls where many of them attended elementary and middle school.

These blue and gold graduation gowns are part of tradition meant not only to show Cubbies, Hornets and Bulldogs what they are aiming by earning a diploma, but to allow Aces' seniors to reflect on where they've been. Time grows short as these seniors will be graduating and going their separate ways, whether it be to college, military service or to start earning a paycheck.

Saturday, these Aces will turn their tassels, throw their caps in the air and be transformed into alumni. Though commencement starts at 7 p.m. at the foot-



Aces band leaves memories wherever it goes.

ball field, most folks will be there rather early to secure a good seat needed to secure and preserve a memory. The Class of 2018 earned more than \$6.7 million in scholarship opportunities.

"I'm very ready for graduation," said Emily Cross, who will be attending East Carolina University. "I think

I'll have a mix of emotions while I'm walking across the stage. I'm very excited to venture out into the world, but also I'll miss the familiarity of high school and Edenton."

Three-sport athlete KyVaughan Rome is a tried and true blue Ace.

"I ready graduate and to



Aces' baseball star Harrison Powell earns a scholarship.

test the waters. I don't think I'm scared, but more hyped," said Rome, who will be attending Fayetteville State University in the fall.

Though Savannah Webb

See GRADUATION, 6A

## Budget proposal seeks tax increase

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Town Hall's proposed budget seeks a one and a half cent tax increase needed to shore up rising costs and stagnant revenue growth.

"A tax increase recommendation is never submitted without a lot of thought and study. There's not a lot of new initiatives in the General Fund to point to for the recommended tax increase. Revenues are flat and expenses have risen," Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton wrote in the budget report submitted Monday to Town Council.

The Water and Sewer Fund includes rate increases per the Town Council's ten year rate study plan — this is year eight.

The Electric fund's proposed budget includes a 1% increase to the Town's wholesale power purchases, due to recent increase from the Power Agency. On the retail side, a 1% retail rate increase is proposed.

A public hearing for the proposed budget will held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 12 within council chambers.

This budget message and proposed budget will be posted on the Town's web site and is available for inspection at Town Hall. The budget will be presented for consideration for adoption at a special meeting that will be held June 25.

The proposed General Fund budget for FY

See TAX, 9A

## County celebrates its agriculture history

PHOTO BY JOSEPH GOODWIN

Saturday morning, White Oak Elementary School Principal Sheila Evans, grandson Ty and husband Steve of Rocky Hock Opry fame fired up this tractor for a jolly jaunt to John A. Holmes High School for the Heritage Farm Festival. Five years ago when Evans was JAHHS principal, she provided valuable assistance to the festival by allowing folks to use the school's grounds — front yard to be exact.



BY REBECCA BUNCH  
 Staff Writer

The annual Heritage Farm Festival held in Edenton has a well-deserved reputation for being family-friendly and this year's celebration was no exception. Oscar White, a board member of the Heritage Association that puts on the event, said that many of the events this past weekend were particularly planned to be kid-friendly.

"We want to make sure that children learn to appreciate the heritage and history of farming, cooking, machinery and other agriculture-related skills," he said.

And there were kids everywhere

during the festival events on Saturday starting with the tractor parade that drew participants from a 60 mile radius. The youngest tractor driver taking part in that event was elementary school student Hayley Cowell of Weeksville, who expertly maneuvered her small green and yellow John Deere 312 lawn tractor along the parade route.

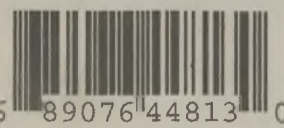
There were also five generations of the Ed Lassiter family of Aulander driving tractors that included a 1951 Farmall C Tractor. The youngest member of that family at Farm Fest was an infant, Matthew Lewis.

And first-time parade participant

See HISTORY, 3A



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### UPCOMING HOME GAMES

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 VS PENINSULA PILOTS  
 MAGIC 95.9 NIGHT.  
 KIDS RUN THE BASES BY  
 DIXON & THOMPSON LAW, PLLC

JUNE 11 @ 7PM  
 VS MARTINSVILLE MUSTANGS  
 CHOWAN COUNTY 350TH  
 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
 25¢ HOT DOG NIGHT