

CHOWAN HERALD



Steamers post win against trio of teams — 2B

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Commission approves budget; tax hike

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

The Chowan County Commission approved a minor tax increase when it signed off on its budget for 2018/19.

And a software glitch will affect property tax values, for better or worse.

Instead of the 3.5 cent tax increase that had been on the table, commission-

ers authorized a half cent tax increase from \$0.74 to \$0.745 for fiscal year during Monday's meeting.

Also, next year's budget includes merit pay increase for county employees within certain departments who will be eligible for as much as a four percent pay raise.

Also, commissioners set aside \$80K toward the purchase of a boat for the sheriff's department. The

payments will be spread over three years.

And commissioners signed off on the Edenton-Chowan BOE budget for improvements that make school safety a priority.

Though the BOE sought a \$75K pay raise for classified staff, it didn't come away empty handed. Commissioners opted to slice \$50K from the school system's budget because the BOE

will no longer need to pay rent or utilities when moves to its new location in August. As such, these funds can instead be applied to a salary increase — funds paid from the school system's reserves, not the commission coffers. However, the commission will pay the \$25K difference.

Due to time and space constraints, a financial breakdown of the county's

budget will appear in the next edition.

In other news, property taxes will be adjusted for landowners across Chowan County. Due to a software glitch which occurred during the 2014 revaluation, the value of 6,000 parcels — 1,922 of which are in town — will be affected.

"The error was discov-

See COMMISSION, 3A



Teach a kid to fish...

Hundreds of children and their helpers spent their Saturday morning testing the waters of the Edenton National Fish Hatchery during Kids Derby Day. The event offered plenty of time for kids to hone their patience and fishing skills. — 1B



Honor rolls announced

D.F. Walker Elementary School announces that the following students have earned a place on the A or A/B Honor Roll for outstanding academic achievement during the fourth nine weeks grading period. — 3A

Council to adopt budget

Town Council is poised to adopt its annual budget at a special meeting that will be held at 6 p.m. Monday. Town Hall's proposed budget seeks a one and a half cent tax increase needed to shore up rising costs and stagnant revenue growth. — 6A



Playspace dedicated

Though Colonial Park has been in operation for several weeks, Town leaders gathered on Saturday morning for the official ribbon cutting. — 1B



Legion ball in swing

With high school baseball season over, American Legion baseball is back and already a month away from the postseason. — 2B



PHOTO BY KIP SHAW

Traveling troops of musician brought their chords to Edenton for Saturday's Music and Water Festival.

Festival offers fun, nostalgia

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

A perfect day greeted visitors to Saturday's rescheduled Music and Water Festival at the downtown Edenton waterfront — a far cry from the rains that punctuated the skies several weekends ago when organizers had to make the difficult decision earlier in the month to postpone and reschedule the event due to inclement weather.

And while the crowd that came to this year's festival may have been smaller than in some other years, those who experienced the event had a fun-filled weekend that started with a sunset paddle on Friday afternoon followed by a full day of music, arts and crafts, face-painting, paddle yoga, good food and more. Among those making memories at the festival on Saturday af-



PHOTO BY RICKY ROBERTS

Lighthouse in the distance, the Town by the Bay has its charms, particularly for folks who took in the sights and sounds of the Music & Water Festival.

ternoon were Grace Dobson Hudson and her daughter, Ellen, who couldn't miss out on the chance to enjoy some delicious peach ice cream in a shady spot near the water. Nearby other visitors

munched on cheeseburgers and hot dogs, courtesy of some of American Legion Post 40's best cooks.

"This is my first time coming here," said Hudson who lived in Maryland prior to

moving back to Edenton in 1984. "I've had a lot of fun. I went into the lighthouse and I'm going on a boat ride once I finish my ice cream."

See FESTIVAL, 2A

King to be sworn in

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

The official swearing-in ceremony for Edenton Police Chief Henry King will take place at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday within Town Council chambers. The public is invited to attend.

N.C. Secretary of State

Elaïne Marshall is scheduled to attend the event for King, who was hired in April.



KING

King takes over from Daroyll Brown, who has been serving as interim police chief since January, following Jay Fortenbery's retirement in December.

King's first day on the job was May 7.

Before coming to Edenton, King was a 17-year veteran of the Rocky Mount Police Department. As captain within that police department, King was a commander of its criminal investigations division. He managed investigations of both major and property crimes in that role.

In recent weeks, Edenton Police Department has been active not only with more patrols, but on social media. A recent posting to Facebook, led to the arrest of a man accused of multiple vehicle break-ins.

Saturday morning, King attended the official ribbon cutting ceremony with his young son to dedicate the new playground at Colonial Park.

See KING, 2A

Town seeks grocery store

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Citizens and town officials continue to be frustrated by the community's lack of success in attracting a second grocery store. But, officials say, that doesn't mean they have given up trying to attract one.

During the town council's June 12 monthly meeting Councilman Elton Bond Jr. said he continues to be asked by those he represents in his ward for updates on the situation.

Councilman Jimmy Stallings, who serves as a liaison between the town council and the Edenton Chowan Partnership, the economic development arm of the community, said that while many efforts to resolve the situation have been handled quietly that doesn't mean officials

have abandoned efforts to have a second grocery store open here.

"There has been a lot of due diligence on this," he said. "You can't force anyone to come but I want people to know that there's been a lot of work, a lot of effort put into getting somebody to come."

Stallings said reports from citizens posted on social media suggesting otherwise are simply not true. He added that efforts to attract another grocery store would continue despite speculation to the contrary.

"It's frustrating," said Councilman Craig Miller.

Much of what is involved is a numbers game. There are currently three Food Lion stores in Elizabeth City — one a former

See STORE, 2A

County poised for economic growth

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Chowan County's leaders met last week to learn more about the economic development taking place in our back yard.

Movers and shakers learned that Colony Tire is expanding its warehouse, Regulator Marine is growing by leaps and bounds, efforts to attract a second grocery store, how the former dye plant is poised for rebirth and that Jimbo's Jumbos is

expanding.

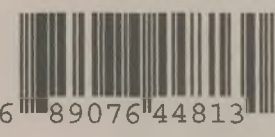
"The Edenton Chowan Partnership — a joint public and private economic development organization — is paving the path for future opportunities and growth," said Mallory Denham, executive director for the partnership.

Within the weeks ahead, the Chowan Herald will be publishing stories that show how this tiny corner of northeastern North Caro-

See GROWTH, 2A



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JUNE 20 @ 7PM
VS MOREHEAD CITY MARLINS
ALBEMARLE BANK & TRUST
NIGHT, ALL-YOU-CAN EAT
CONCESSIONS

JUNE 22 @ 7PM
VS PENINSULA PILOTS
MASCOT NIGHT,
KIDS RUN THE BASES

JUNE 24 @ 7PM
VS MOREHEAD CITY MARLINS
CHURCH BULLETIN NIGHT,
SUPER HERO NIGHT

JUNE 26 @ 7PM
VS WILSON TOBS
BERTIE COUNTY NIGHT,
TWO FOR TUESDAY