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Wednesday, June 27, 2018

75¢



**Marlins halt Steamers  
 bat three-game streak — 4B**

## Council approves budget, tax and rate hikes

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
 Staff Writer

Town Council unanimously passed a budget ordinance for fiscal year 2018-2019 on Monday night that contains a moderate tax increase as well as rate hikes for electric, water and sewer.

The Town's tax rate will increase around 4 percent

of valuation to 40 cents per hundred.

The tax rate was last increased three years ago in FY 2015/16, by around 3.8 percent due to the Legislature eliminating municipalities' authority to levy privilege license tax.

Council approved a one percent increase to its electric retail rates due to a recent increase on the Town's

wholesale power purchase rates.

Water and Sewer Rates were increased by 7 percent. Water rates increase from \$5.75 to \$6.13 per one thousand gallons of water for customers using between 2,000 to 10,000 gallons. Sewer rates increase from \$6.05 to \$6.45 per one thousand gallons of sewer. The average residential

customer will see their monthly water and sewer bill increase from \$52.58 to \$54.92, which is an increase of \$2.34 per month. This translates to about a 4.5 percent increase.

The budget for the coming year will total \$5,571,275, according to town finance officer Virginia Smith.

Prior to the vote Town

Manager Anne-Marie Knighton reviewed a summary of final adjustments made to the proposed budget. They included an increase in the General Fund revenue line item from \$630,000 to \$664,000 based on projected sales tax revenue.

Other adjustments included:

See COUNCIL, 3A



### Speight pays homage

We all have places that remain special to us throughout our lives, even if they just exist now in our memories. But for W.O. "Will" Speight, one of the places closest to his heart still exists in Edenton. — 1B



### 'Don't look down'

Veronica Downing had a mind-blowing experience this past weekend at the Edenton Music and Water Festival. For the first time in several years, she finished the Rock Climb, and made it to the very top. — 2B



### Sackrison retires

Friday morning, Jeff Sackrison's office was empty, cleared of photos, stick-it notes and the paperwork that was usually neatly organized on his desk. In fact, Sackrison had a smile on his face as he talked about his last day and retiring as President at Vidant-Chowan and Vidant-Bertie. — 7A



### Aces attend Girls State

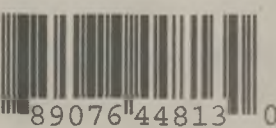
Two Aces' politicians learned more about democracy at Tar Heel Girls State, a week long workshop in the legislative process sponsored by the North Carolina American Legion Auxiliary. — 4A

### King sworn in as chief

Edenton's new Police Chief Henry King was officially sworn-in Tuesday afternoon within Town Council's chambers. — 2A



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PHOTO BY ELECTRICITIES OF NC

Utility poles along NC 32 in the southern end of Chowan County sustained heavy damage during Wednesday's storm. Linemen from across the region were busy Thursday morning restoring electricity to those neighborhoods and homes affected by the storm.

## Crews restore power in storm ravaged county

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

A powerful storm ripped through Chowan County and the region last week that left memories and a bit of damage in its wake.

Nearly 3 inches of rain quickly bathed the area Wednesday evening, so flooding was reported in all the familiar places be it the dip on Court Street behind the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse to the various low lying areas in the Rocky Hock neck of the woods.

Wind speed approached 60 miles per hour, according to the National Weather Service.

A tree with a trunk that was at least 4-feet round, came tumbling down across



PHOTO BY SUSAN BIRCKHEAD

A bolt of lightning splits an ominous cloud filled sky by Warren Grove Baptist Church during Wednesday's storm.

North Broad Street by Dairy Queen.

Leonard Small's barn roof sustained some damage as

the landscape from the Iredell House to the county line.

Thursday, electricity faded to black for several hours at Village Creek, Edenton Bay, Cape Colony, Country Club and Mulberry Hill.

Long before the sun had emerged the morning after the storm, linemen from Greenville Utilities, City of Wilson and River City Construction toiled alongside with Town of Edenton linemen to get the lights back on. Traffic flow was temporarily restricted on NC 32 as crews removed downed lines and replaced broken utility poles.

When the power returned around 3 p.m. in many plac-

See STORM, 6A

## BOE filing begins Friday

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Filing for election for a seat on the Edenton-Chowan School Board begins this week and at least one incumbent won't be seeking re-election.

Glorius Elliott, whose at-large seat on the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education is up for election this fall, has indicated she will not seek another term.

Filing for four of the seven seats on the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education starts Friday and ends Friday, July 27.

Besides Elliott's seat, other seats up for election include the District 1 Seat 2 held by Jean

Bunch; the District 2 Seat 2 held by Ricky Browder; and the District 3 Seat 1 held by Gil Burroughs.

The most important responsibility of school boards is to work with their communities to improve student achievement in their local public schools. Toward that end, school boards are responsible for the budget, overseeing facilities issues as well as developing and adopting policies aimed at enhancing the education of Cubbies, Hornets and Aces.

In related news, the filing period for two of the three supervisors for the Soil and Water Con-

See BOE, 6A

## Harriss files for re-election

From Staff Reports



SUBMITTED PHOTO

District Court Judge Meader Harriss filed for re-election on Friday at the State Board of Elections and Ethics in Raleigh.

District Court Judge Meader Harriss filed Friday to seek a second term in this fall's general election.

Harriss, who was first elected in 2014, serves on the bench in the seven-county First Judicial District that includes Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Pasquotank, and Perquimans counties.

"I am committed to serving the citizens of the First Judicial District and the fair and impartial administration of justice in our great state," Harriss said in a news release.

As a District Court judge, Harriss

See HARRISS, 3A

**Chowan Edenton Optimist Club  
 39th ANNUAL  
 Fabulous 4th of July**

**COME TO EDENTON'S WATERFRONT  
 EAT DINNER AND ENJOY  
 NORTH CAROLINA'S LARGEST  
 "Over the Water Fireworks Show"**

**Entertainment by  
 DJ COWBOY  
 (Adam Evans) of Edenton  
 EVENTS START AT 4:00 P.M.  
 MECHANICAL BULL RIDING**

**LOTS OF FOOD,  
 FUN, CRAFTS,  
 RAFFLES AND  
 GAMES FOR  
 CHILDREN!!!**

**Please Support Our Fabulous 4th of July  
 WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL HELP!**  
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