

EDENTON

Continued from A1

to navigate the BOE through the process to transform JAHHS at the Nov. 5 meeting.

Earlier this month, commission approved plans to authorize the county to enter into a contract with the law firm of Parker, Poe, Adams and Bernstein of Raleigh to serve as bond counsel for the project.

Commissioners and BOE members agreed to continue to get the public's opinion for the project.

Superintendent Rob Jackson said the administration will soon be seeking input from parents as to the kinds of educational programs and opportunities they would like to see offered as planning for the high school construction project begins to take shape.

The project is estimated to cost between \$35 million and \$44 million — an amount that may be funded from a combi-

nation of sources, including proceeds from a bond referendum. Because current estimated costs are more than a few years old, experts who have spoken to the joint committee contend that future construction costs may change.

Commission Chairwoman Patti Kersey said it is important to get "real" costs, because the taxpayers "are going to be paying for this for a long time."

The bulk of financing for any project will require a local bond initiative that would need voter approval.

Language for the bond referendum would need to be in place by July 2 if the initiative is to be placed on the ballot in November 2020.

State may provide \$10 million, maybe more in funding. Kersey said it is important for county leaders "to keep the buzz going" in Raleigh by staying in touch with NC Senator Bob Steinburg and NC House member Ed Goodwin, both R-Chowan.



FILE PHOTO

Students get out of school at John A. Holmes High School.

PRIDE

Continued from A1

Since the 1930s, Aces' football has had a strong tradition of excellence that includes many, many state titles and top round play-offs appearances.

Edenton-Chowan Chamber Director Win Dale played for the Aces in 1974 and 1975. Class of 1976, Dale is still on the sidelines cheering for his alma mater — a man who has a formidable memory for Aces' football history. As an example of how much the community supports the team, Dale noted many club signs that decorate the fence around Aces' stadium.

"Aces football and the business community here in Chowan County are joined at the hip for sure," he said. "Take a look at all the signs in ACES Stadium on the 300 club signs beside the concession stands, on the press box, on the scoreboard, on the 40-second clock and all around the fence stretching from the visitors side, all the way around back to the home side on the concession stand end of the field."

Dale said these business know that their small sign located in the midst of all the others will rarely influence high school football fans to patronize their business or buy their products, but they are investing in the community and the football program to support the kids and help athletics provide the best equipment and facilities for them to be successful.

"Businesses step up not just during the regular season of football, but if the Aces make it to the state championship you'll see help from the business community to help pay for tour buses to travel to the game as we did in 2016," he said. "And it's not just football. We saw the community come together in 2017 to contribute to the Booster Clubs effort to help buy the baseball team their state championship rings. The 2019 track team won the 1A State Championship and were just awarded their rings during one recent Friday night."

Dale said there is no doubt that when the Aces have home games, the economy is impacted throughout the community as visitors buy gas, food, and snacks and maybe even come early to eat and/or shop downtown before kickoff.

"Rarely will you have football fans spend the night, but occasionally it will happen," he said. "The farther away an opponent is located, the better chance of the parent/fan spending the night, and you typically see this during the playoffs. It's an invaluable contribution to the economy, although it's very difficult to define the actual economic impact in dollars."

"The closest thing to home"

Friday nights, people flock to McDonalds before or after the game for hot fries, cold shakes and much, more for dinner or a post game snack. Employees wear Aces' jerseys,

OBITUARIES

Shawn Ervin

WINTERVILLE - Anthony Shawn Ervin, 46, of 1029 Pine Drive, died Friday, October 25, 2019, at his home. Shawn was born in Chowan County on August 6, 1973.

Formerly employed with Edwards Crane in Greenville, he had established ASE Woodworks, specializing in carpentry work and home repairs. A member of Open Door Church, he was an outdoor enthusiast, and loved hunting and fishing.

Surviving are his wife, Shannon Williams Ervin; his daughter, Emma James Ervin of Edenton; and his parents, Connie Hollowell Slades and husband, Mike, and Michael L. Ervin and wife, Mary, also of Edenton. Also surviving are two brothers, Wesley Ervin (Sarah) and Josh Ervin; three sisters, Katie Ervin, Misty Friend (Jason), and Jessica Slades; three nieces, Skylar Cook, Juliana Slades, and Allyah Friend; a nephew, Caysen Gardner; and two step-children, Corey Venters and Ashley Venters, and their families.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. in the chapel of Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, 735 Virginia Road, and will be conducted by the Rev. Danny Gurganus. Friends may join the family in the funeral home immediately following the chapel service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the World Wildlife Fund, 1250 Twenty-Fourth Street, NW, P.O. Box 97180, Washington, DC 20090-7180, online at www.support.worldwildlife.org/donate, or to Faith Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1614 Virginia Road, Edenton, NC 27932.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.millerfhc.com.



Rita Marie Lee Wilkins

MERRY HILL - Rita Marie Lee Wilkins, 62, of 813 NC Hwy 45 North, died Saturday, October 26, 2019, in Vidant Medical Center, Greenville.

Mrs. Wilkins was born in Virginia on July 7, 1957, and was the daughter of the late Melvin Lee and Nancy Hawkins Lee Copeland, and the step-daughter of the late Melvin R. Copeland, Sr. She was formerly employed as a cashier, working at Food Lion and The Heritage House Restaurant, both in Windsor.

Surviving are her husband of 22 years, Lindsay R. Wilkins, and their family, Toya Holley, Kayley Cherry, Kassie Reddick, Toneka Johnson, Lindsay Johnson, Jr., and Tammy Rhea. Also surviving are her brother, Jerry Lee of Merry Hill; and a special friend, Doris Holley.

A memorial service will be held Thursday at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel of Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, 735 Virginia Road, and will be conducted by the Rev. Carroll Bunch. A private burial will be in the Lee Family Cemetery. Friends may join the family in the funeral home immediately following the chapel service.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.millerfhc.com.

OBITUARY POLICY

For information on submitting obituaries or death notices 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, call 252-329-9505 or email obits@apgenc.com and specify that you are interested in obituary information for The Chowan Herald. We do not accept notices by fax.

Obituaries must be received, processed, approved and paid if required by 8 a.m. on Tuesday to appear in print on Wednesday.

Death notices can include the name and age of the decedent; funeral and visitation or viewing information; and the name of the funeral home.

CRIMEWATCH

CHOWAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Incidents

Deputies investigated an

Oct. 17 report of larceny of ungathered crops on Evans Church Road. Reporting officer, Deputy K. Lynch.

Deputies investigated an

Oct. 19 report of breaking into a garage and stealing a dirt bike on Yellow Hammer Road, Tyner. Reporting officer, Deputy B.P. Callon.

Deputies investigated an Oct. 23 report disorderly conduct at Chowan Middle School. Reporting officer, SRO H.T. Matthews.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Soon after every Aces' football game, Virginia Road's McDonald's updates its sign and congratulates the home team.

greet customers with a smile. The sign underneath the store's famed golden arches provides a quick update — "Congratulations Edenton Aces — 8 & 0" — is lit up in bright lights that are visible at during Egg McMuffin time or later in the day when Big Macs and Happy Meals are more common. McDonald's 1960s' slogan "The closest thing to home" is eternal.

"I strongly believe in giving back to the community that supports me and my team at Edenton McDonald's," said George Taylor, owner/manager of Edenton's store.

Town Hall is supportive of the Aces' athletic programs. Ever look up at the water tower on Park Avenue — says Edenton Aces on it.

"Think about other schools you've traveled to for a game," Dale said. "How many other communities have their high school mascot so

prominently displayed?" Game day tradition Without the option of nearby big-city activities, and the large populations that make it impossible to know everybody, small town communities are inherently more tightly knit. Game day has been a town tradition for decades.

"Back in the 50's and 60's they had parades on Friday afternoons before all the home high school games," Dale said. "I don't remember attending any, but they may have ended by the time I was old enough to remember. Word is that after the parade was over, the businesses shut down and headed to Hicks Field for the game. For as long as I can remember, the business community have been huge supporters, with many of the former business owners as former Aces players."

Dale said the current leadership at the school —

Principal Wood, Athletic Director Wes Mattera, and all the other coaches — work and interact throughout the community and have done a great job of helping bring the community together.

Mattera added, "I think it's safe to say that the Aces have as support whether its home or away as any team in this area. It is not uncommon for us to go to an away game and have as many or more fans than the home team regardless of sport. We are blessed with an administration, a faculty, a Booster Club, numerous businesses, and a community that will do whatever it takes financially, manually, and spiritually to ensure that every sport at JAHHS gives its student-athletes the best chance to succeed both in the classroom and in the sports arena."

Strong programs, strong schools

The funds raised by the concessions support all of Holmes' athletic programs — 26 teams. The Athletic Boosters Club spreads the proceeds out throughout the program. Attendance varies depending on who the Aces are playing and the weather, but the stadium has a capacity for about 3,000 fans.

"With any program, fans will flock to the games when the team is winning, and then only the true fans attend when the team is not," Dale said. "I'd like to think that here in Edenton, win or lose, the business community will still offer their support regardless of

the win/loss record. We've got to remember that it's all about the kids."

Dale gave praise to Coach Paul Hoggard — who recently celebrated his 150th win as a football coach.

"Coach Hoggard and his staff are not growing football players, but they are growing young men, teaching them how to be good sons, and future good husbands and dads," Dale said. "He's teaching them accountability, responsibility, teamwork, discipline, and all the things these young men need to know before they graduate and go out into the world."

Hoggard gets the last word.

"I think when your school sports run better and are successful, the school runs better — students are going to do the right things in school to play sports," he said. "It's nice to have a community school — not an outside school — but a school in town. Everyone is centered on what's going on. Everybody cares very much about what's happening and comes to see the teams play."

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PUBLIC HEARINGS ON CSBG PROGRAM

The EIC, Inc. will hold a Public Hearing in each of the following counties: Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington on the continuation of funds from the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity in Raleigh, NC. The hearings will be held the week of November 11-15, 2019 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Funds will be used to alleviate the barriers of poverty for low-income families. The 2019 Anti-Poverty Plan and supportive documents may be reviewed by the public at EIC Resource Centers found on the website at eicca.org and the Edenton Administrative Office between 8:30 am -5:00 pm daily. Contact EIC 252-482-4458 Ext. 136.

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