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Veterans reunion rekindles fire of gratitude, 3A

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## Archaeologists seeking first courthouse site

Ground penetrating radar will be used to scan the Green

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
 Staff Writer

Determining the location of Edenton's first courthouse, built in 1718, will be a focus of a sonar search and subsequent archaeological dig that will get underway Monday at the Courthouse Green. The Green is adjacent to the historic 1767 Chowan Courthouse. Starting that morning and continuing through Thursday, July 31,

Assistant State Archeologist John Mintz will be on hand to work with a group of contracted archaeologists from New South and Associates to explore the upper section of the Courthouse Green.

"We know there was a courthouse," Mintz said in a news release announcing the start of the investigation. "We will try to determine the exact location."

Karen Ipock, who manages the Historic Edenton Visitor Center and has oversight responsibility for other state-owned historic sites including the courthouse,

said that plans are already in place for the use of ground penetrating radar to investigate the site.

The investigation is being made possible by a generous donation from Piedmont Natural Gas, she said.

"Shawn Patch, from New South, will be using a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to scan the Green," Ipock said. "This GPR scan will help them determine where the best places will be to do an archaeological dig and how wide and deep."

Ipock said that once the New

South group has determined a plan based on these readings, the sod at the site will be carefully removed and stacked to the side so that it can be put back in place once the dig is finished.

"The digging will then take place, concentrating on the places of interest that the GPR may reveal," Ipock said.

The presence of that early courthouse is just one of the possibilities for what may lie beneath the Courthouse Green, Ipock said.

"We know the Courthouse Green has always been a center of

activity where the militia drilled, markets were set up on court days, and town gatherings were held, so we hope for evidence of these activities as well," Ipock said in the news release. "This could be a very exciting week for Edenton and Chowan County."

This investigation follows an earlier foray in June into the use of sonar equipment on the Courthouse Green by a group of Elizabeth City State University students led by Malcolm LeCompte, an associate professor of mathematics and computer science there.

## TO HONOR AND REMEMBER



JOHN COLLINS PHOTO

A North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Enforcement Division Honor Guard prepares for the Posting of the Colors during a July 15 ceremony honoring the late Deputy Game Warden John W. Hollowell at Rocky Hock Baptist Church.

## Bridge name honors fallen game warden

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
 Staff writer

A dedication ceremony that marked the naming of the Deputy Game Warden John W. Hollowell Bridge took place July 15 in the fellowship hall at Rocky Hock Baptist Church.

The bridge is located near Bennett's Millpond on Rocky Hock Road.

Hollowell died in 1930 after being assaulted outside the Chowan County Courthouse by two men against whom he had just testified. Both men were convicted in his death and sent to prison. At the time of his death, Hollowell had served with the agency for

just one year.

In his invocation, Pastor Jay Rivenbark pointed out that the ceremony was intended as a way to honor and remember Hollowell's "service and sacrifice" in the line of duty. Rivenbark is a N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Law Enforcement Division captain (retired).

Rivenbark said the marker bearing Hollowell's name would serve as a permanent reminder to future generations to find out more about his story.

"John Hollowell was born in Chowan County, he died in Chowan County and he is buried not far from this very spot," said Major William T. Kennedy of the Wildlife

Resources Commission Law Enforcement Division, who was the keynote speaker at the ceremony. "It is a privilege and an honor for myself and (other officers) to be here today."

Retired Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill, who in recent years has spearheaded an effort to have special recognition offered on behalf of local law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty, recognized family members of Hollowell who were in attendance at the ceremony.

Spruill said it was Robert Evans of Chowan County who brought Hollowell's service and story to his attention.

"His phone call got the ball rolling,"

Spruill said.

Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin, who succeeded Spruill, gave the closing remarks at the ceremony.

"It's been a long time coming," Goodwin said of the recognition accorded Hollowell. "But we made a commitment to remember those who have given their lives in the line of duty. It is our prayer that we never have to add another name to that list."

Emcee for the ceremony was Malcolm Fearing, a member of the N.C. Board of Transportation whose district includes Chowan County.

See WARDEN, 2A

## Jackson settles into new role as superintendent

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
 Staff Writer

Rob Jackson says his transition over the past few weeks into his role as new superintendent of the Edenton-Chowan Schools has been a smooth one.

Jackson credits the outpouring of support he has received from outgoing Superintendent Allan Smith and other staff members for helping him successfully assume his new duties.

And he said the warm welcome

his family has received everywhere they've gone has made them feel very welcome too.

"Dr. Smith was very considerate in making sure I had everything I needed to be successful," Jackson said.

That included plenty of transition time built into both men's schedules, said School Board Chair John Guard. Guard added that he thought that was a smart move on both their parts.

"I think it's been an excellent transition," said Guard. "He seems very

focused on what he's doing, and I've heard nothing but positive comments about him."

Jackson said that open and effective communication would be a cornerstone of his work as superintendent. In numerous meetings he has held so far with staff including principals, he said, he has asked the same three questions:

- What is the best thing about

See JACKSON, 2A



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Edenton-Chowan Schools Supt. Rob Jackson goes over some information with his administrative assistant Carrie Baker. Jackson recently succeeded Dr. Allan Smith, who retired at the end of June.

## Steinburg 'optimistic' that historic tax credit will stand

BY REGGIE PONDER  
 Editor  
 Chowan County's representative in the N.C. House



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of Representatives said this week he is optimistic about the prospect of the historic preservation tax credit surviving the current negotiations over the state budget.

Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, said Monday that the tax credit was still in the budget so far.

Steinburg pointed out there are some real disagree-

ments on the budget right now between the House and the Senate, leaving open the possibility that the General Assembly could end up simply adopting a continuing budget resolution.

But he said he thinks if there is a budget adopted, there is a good chance the historic preservation tax credit will be in it. The House

backs the tax credit but the Senate has expressed opposition to tax credits in general, including the film production tax credit and the historic preservation tax credit.

Of course, the big budget issues are teacher assistants and Medicaid.

Steinburg said the House is committed to keeping

teacher assistants and won't budge on that.

The Senate wants to eliminate a significant number of teacher assistants but "the House won't compromise on that," Steinburg said.

Medicaid is the other big item. Steinburg said the House opposes cuts to Medicaid that would eliminate services for the elderly and

disabled.

"We've just stuck our heels in and we're not moving on either one of those now," Steinburg said of the Medicaid and teacher assistant issues.

Meanwhile, Steinburg said, he has continued to talk to members of the

See CREDIT, 3A