



Water Quality Debated

Politics Warming Up

With the filing deadline nearing, politics is getting underway in earnest along the Public Parade and elsewhere in North Carolina.

At the state level, formal announcements by Jim Martin that he would go for a second term as governor and by Bob Jordan that he would try to move up from lieutenant governor came as surprises to no one.

Both have problems and, at this point, it is far from certain which will be successful come next November. Martin has been about as successful as any Republican chief executive could have been, what with the national administration of Ronald Reagan falling apart and both the state and national legislative branches controlled by the opposition parties.

Jordan has the problems which always go along with trying to advance from second to top spot. His opponent enjoys the advantages of incumbency which provide a ready forum and make it easy for him to get his message across. But Jordan has some advantages, too.

We feel, for example, that the governor will find the approximately \$275,000 he has paid his legislative adviser, former Lt. Gov. Jim Green, far less productive in holding Democrats under his banner next November than he had counted on when he hired the sour-grapes loser of the Democratic gubernatorial nomination campaign in 1984. Most North Carolinians simply do not like a sore loser.

Along the Public Parade, there should be general approval of Pete Thompson's announcement he will seek a second term as representative from the first district in the General Assembly. Thompson, with Rep. Vernon James and Senator Marc Basnight gave northeastern North Carolina strong representation during the 1987 session and will be able to deliver even more when the new assembly convenes. No doubt they will have opposition of one kind or another, but we feel the voters of the First District would do well to stick with a proven combination.

At the national level, there are as yet no clear signs of any major trend developing.

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Proposed actions of the Virginia Water Control Board brought spirited response from local representatives at a public hearing in Newport News, Va. Monday afternoon.

The Virginia board is considering what waterways of that state should be considered nutrient-enriched and thus strictly controlled on the dumping of wastes. The board had not planned to name the Nottoway, Blackwater and Meherrin Rivers under this classification.

Nutrient enrichment refers to dumping municipal and industrial wastewater containing large amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus into waterways. High concentrations in the Chowan River have been identified as the cause of blue-green algae that have choked the river during past summers, spoiling its recreational use and causing fish kills.

The three Virginia rivers are tributaries of the Chowan. Wastewater and farm runoff in those streams are said to directly affect the water quality of the lower Chowan River.

Arrowhead Beach resident Al Howard is a member of the Albemarle citizens committee of the Albemarle-Pamlico Study Commission which is seeking to identify water quality problems and solutions.

Howard traveled to the meeting along with Rep. R.M. (Pete) Thompson (who also represented Sen. Marc Basnight of Manteo and Rep. Vernon James of Weeksville at the meeting), Chowan Commissioner Al Phillips (representing the Chowan commission along with commissions of neighboring counties) and Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland. Each spoke at the hearing.

They asked the water control board to reconsider listing the Chowan tributaries along with others designated as nutrient-enriched. Howard said that the board "cordially listened" but made no commitment.

He said that the Chowan delegation was "bitterly disappointed" in the lack of participation of top administrators of the N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources and Community Development. He said that the state should have been represented by the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of the organization.

Recently, the Secretary of the department bitterly denounced Virginia officials in a press release on the issue.

Howard said that a top official should have attended "because this was an important issue between the two states". Allen Klimek, a branch head in the water quality section of the agency represented the state and appealed for the Virginia designation. Howard concluded,

"A branch head doesn't carry the political weight that a Secretary or Assistant Secretary carries."

Klimek outlined the close cooperation of the two states in the past to control water quality. "Let's continue it," was his message to the board.

Howard noted that, at the conclusion of the presentation from this state's delegation, the hearing officer said "she appreciated our remarks."

Early Meet Held

While many in the area were just rising from their slumbers Tuesday morning at six, the Edenton-Chowan School Board was meeting to continue discussions on long-range planning for school facilities.

They have before them an interim plan that outlines options for upgrading school

buildings, new construction and the funding from current revenue without raising taxes.

If all of the expected construction needs of the school system, as projected, were met, the cost would total almost \$14 1/2 million. Expected revenues from a bond referendum, backed by sales taxes earmarked for schools, totals only \$6.8 million.

The board is wrestling with alternatives that fit in with expected funding.

One option would be the demolition of the present Chowan Jr. High School and the construction of a new elementary school on the campus for grades K-5, replacing White Oak School. The sixth grade would also be removed from D.F. Walker.

A new middle school, housing grades 6-8, would be built midway between the Chowan campus and John A. Holmes High School and Walker.

A second option would renovate or replace the Chowan building and house grades 6-8 there. Sixth graders would be removed from White Oak and Walker and White Oak would be renovated.

Other needed construction includes air-conditioning and energy efficient environments for all schools, construction of an exceptional children facility and new transportation facilities.

All options have funding shortfalls, however. Addressing these, schools superintendent Dr. John Dunn said that the "critical needs" funding provided by the school facilities funding bill of the General Assembly last summer would probably not be available to Edenton-Chowan schools.

He and other board members conceded that additional local funding was probably out of the question: "If we can't raise it locally, then we oughta go to the legislature and hammer for it there," Dunn remarked.

The interim plan has been sent to the N.C. Department of Public Instruction with the understanding that the final long-range plan will follow in the spring. The plan had to be sent in order to qualify for state funding.

The plan was devised by a "super-sub" committee of two school board members, two county commissioners, Dunn, County Manager Cliff Copeland and local general contractor, Ross Inglis.

As they discussed financing at the meeting, Dunn reminded board members, "We aren't in a decision-making role at this point." He pointed out that it was the board's statutory responsibility to identify facility needs and the county board of commissioners' statutory responsibility to identify funding for those needs.

Dunn suggested that public hearings be held before any final decision is made on the plan. "Let's ask the parents," he suggested to the board.



STATE AWARD-Jimmy Patterson, (left) Edenton wastewater treatment operator, receives the 1987 Grade I Wilbur E. Long, Jr. Operator of the Year Award from Division of Environment Management's Ed Warren. The state award was presented at Tuesday night's town council meeting.

Plans Reviewed

By JACK GROVE

Members of Edenton Town Council at their Monday night meeting pored over plans for renovation of the old Peoples Bank building for conversion into town offices. A representative of L.E. Wooten Co., contracted for planning, discussed alternative floor plans, one of which reflected the ideas of the town employees who will occupy the offices.

The Wooten representative pointed out relatively inexpensive ways to eliminate water intrusion in the basement, said that "electrically, the building seems to be in good condition" and that the town "might want to update" the 1963 boiler system.

On the main floor, he recommended keeping new construction to a minimum as well as any demolition. He suggested a lighter wall covering than the present, relatively dark, paneling. He estimated first floor renovation in a range from \$40,000 to

\$125,000.

Town Manager Phillip Whitaker, using a board-mounted floor plan, showed the rationale of the employee plan with an orderly traffic flow through to various offices. He said that Mike Faircloth of Edenton Construction Co. had helped with the plan. Faircloth's company has done work on the building in the past.

Whitaker told council that from \$250 to \$1,000 may be required to refurbish the heating system although it was basically in good shape.

Councilman Willis Privott remarked that he would like to see concrete cost estimates on the alternative plans after Whitaker had said that he could not identify \$125,000 in the town budget for the work.

Councilwoman Marina Crummey offered, "I like the plan that the workers have looked at."

After discussion of placement of a ramp at an entrance

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Geddes Blencoe Potter

WWI Vet Expires

Geddes Blencoe Potter, 92, of 609 N. Broad Street, Edenton died Tuesday morning, January 12, in his home.

A native of Norfolk, Va. he was the son of the late Rufus E. and Wortley Norfolk Potter. He was the retired co-owner/operator of Albemarle Peanut Company and a member of the Edenton Baptist Church. He was a long-time member of the Board of Directors of Edenton Savings and Loan Association, a charter member of Edenton Lion's Club and a Navy veteran of WWI. Potter helped organize American Legion Post 40 and was instrumental

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Edenton Snow Seen Across US

Last Thursday's snow storm brought visitors from the North to Edenton. WTKR-TV, Channel 3, from Norfolk sent their satellite van to broadcast the storm on live telecast that went to Norfolk and around the country.

The station's weekend weatherman and science ed-

itor, Brian Hill, went before the camera set up in front of Barker House. As the flakes drifted down and accumulated, a live "feed" went to CBS and a cut-in was done on the Phil Donahue talk show in New York at 4:45 p.m.

Other live broadcasts went to Channel 3's "Live at 5"

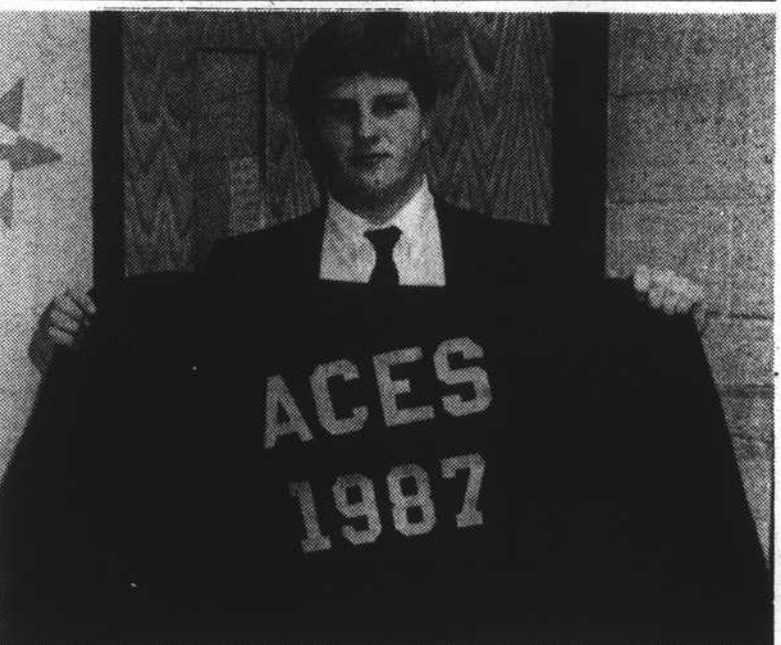
news program and the regular 6 p.m. news broadcast. The purpose was to give Tidewater viewers a look at the advancing storm which moved up from the south.

The camera's eye went blind just prior to the 5 p.m. segment when a fuse blew in

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HOW COLD IS IT? Channel 3 weatherman Brian Hill from Norfolk tells the nation how cold it was in the snow in Edenton last Thursday evening as he broadcasts live via the station's satellite van. The snow here was seen on CBS' Phil Donahue talk show.



BLANKET AWARD- Michael Bunch received the Blanket Award at Monday night's Sports Awards Banquet. He was honored for leadership, scholarship and athletic ability. Bunch leads his class in scholarship and was an offensive lineman for the Aces.

Aces Banquet Held

Athletes of John A. Holmes High School were honored at the annual Aces Booster Club Fall Sports Award Banquet Monday night.

The 1987-88 Blanket Award from CBS International went to Michael Bunch. The award recognizes leadership, scholarship and athletic ability. Bunch stands number one in his class and is president of the Honor Society.

Awards for academic excellence (grade average of 90 or above) went to Bunch, Beth Norvell, Melissa Bunch, Mary Copeland, Stephanie Creighton, Gabrielle Webster and Cindy Ward.

Lynn Whitehurst, Penny

Powell and Allen Hornthal were honored for "community spirit". Hornthal is retiring as the girls' tennis coach.

Penny Powell, advisor to the varsity cheerleaders, said they displayed "unity and harmony." Awards went to Melissa Bunch, Most Improved; Beth Norvell, Most Dedicated; and Stephanie Creighton, Best All Around. The Cheerleaders Coaches Award was presented to Melissa Swain.

Varsity football All-Conference awards went to Mike Bunch, Deronn Felton, Maurice Taylor, Jon Nixon,

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