



THE CHOWAN HERALD



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The Public Parade

Needed, A Better Way

Gov. Jim Martin wants the state to borrow some \$500 million with which to construct enough jails to provide 9,500 additional beds. And a legislative committee wants to modify our penal process by sentencing enough lesser offenders to "house arrest" to provide some 3,500 more beds.

Surely there is a better way than either of these proposals.

To begin with, this is an odd time to be proposing that the state borrow money when it is not producing enough revenues to meet the everyday cost of running the government. Borrowing money under such circumstances would duplicate at the state level what the federal government has been doing for the past decade, creating a national debt which requires \$200 billion each year just to pay the interest.

But, aside from that, the governor's proposal would cost about \$50,000 dollars for each new bed created, with an additional cost of more than \$12,000 a year to keep it occupied. That is just another way of saying that federal standards have made the cost of prison construction and operation almost prohibitive. And there is always an eager beaver federal judge ready to enforce these standards, even pre-empting state legislative authority when necessary.

Since the average space provided for prisoners across the nation in 1988 was 50.9 square feet, Gov. Martin's proposal would cost almost \$1,000 per square foot -- or \$833 per square foot if built to federal standards, which call for 60 square feet for each inmate. That is start-up costs before a single prisoner is admitted.

The legislative committee's proposal isn't much better. **Continued On Page 8**

Suspect Pursued

What would have been a routine stop for speeding turned into a high speed chase for Edenton Police Officer T.F. Hickman Sunday, March 25.

Hickman was operating a stationary radar in his patrol car on Coke Ave. at 5:45 p.m. when a 1978 Mercury Cougar passed him exceeding the limit. When Hickman attempted to stop the car, it accelerated and turned onto Freemason Street.

In pursuit, the officer saw the car veer onto the railroad right of way and travel about a quarter of a mile before it jumped the tracks and came to a stop with both right tires ruined. Hickman called for backup.

When officers approached the car, it was abandoned, gear shift in the park position and the car keys missing. A search of the area failed to turn up the driver.

The car was towed away and impounded.

In his report, Hickman said that shortly after 9 p.m., he met Richard Armstead, of 25 Davis Place, at the central dispatch office who reported his car stolen. Armstead said that a Virginia man had borrowed his 1978 Cougar earlier in the day.

Police are continuing an investigation.

New Canine On The Job

By MARGUERITE MCCALL

Like most 15 month-olds, Buddy is playful, enjoys attention, gets in to everything and cons you with his big friendly eyes. Unlike the average youngster his age, he has made an arrest and participated in at least a half dozen actual drug searches.

The yellow Labrador retriever arrived in Edenton last month, following authorization from Town Council for the Edenton Police Department to initiate a K-9 Corps.

Master and dog met for the first time when Edenton Police Officer Donald Harris traveled to Sentinel K-9s in Fayetteville to undergo training with his new charge.

"Buddy's training in narcotic detection includes finding cocaine, heroin, marijuana and methaqualone," Harris said. "He's trained, too, as a trail dog. He can run drop, split and contaminated trails."

Harris explained that a contaminated trail occurs when an area where an article is dropped is walked all over by those other than the article's owner. He also admitted that weather conditions play a large part in the dog's successful run of the trail.

"A tracking dog follows disturbed vegetation," Harris said. "Buddy follows fresh human scent. He would trail the scent of the owner of the dropped article. Another aspect of his abilities is article search, a thrown-away gun, for instance."

Buddy demonstrated his sniffing talents by quickly

locating 4 grams of cocaine hidden beneath furniture and distinguishing the suitcase, among three, that contained 55 grams of marijuana.

The 45 pound canine showed-off his agility by running an obstacle course of walls, fences and barrels.

A tug-of-war playtime with Harris, who tosses a four by six inch canvas bag (a "dummy bag") for him to retrieve, is Buddy's only reward.

Barring an accident or illness, the animal's effectiveness should last for about seven years, Harris said.

The officer's patrol car back seat is equipped with a kennel cage and a small window fan. The latter acti-

vates automatically at a certain temperature to ensure Buddy's safety and comfort.

Winn-Dixie donates his food, compliments of store manager Stan Woodliff.

"The department waited a long time to get the K-9 Corps," Harris said. "Now that we have it, we want to go as far as we can with it."

"Eventually, we want to use Buddy in public school drug education programs, along with the department's current drug and drug paraphernalia identification program.

"As for me, I love working with Buddy. It's more like play than work. He's wonderful."

Programs Studied

Fifteen school systems organized a Small Rural Schools Consortium this past summer to address the disparity in funding between small, poor, rural counties and larger, wealthy counties.

At Monday evening's Board of Education meeting, Dr. John Dunn, Superintendent of Edenton-Chowan Schools, said, "There certainly is a distinct advantage to being small. We have 2,500 students in Edenton-Chowan schools. It is the inadequacies in the state's funding formula that creates problems for us."

"The program is funded on the 'bigness' system. They should look at a school as a school, and at what it takes to run a school. The present formula gives us fractions of positions. How do you have a

secretary and a-third?"

Dr. Dunn illustrated his point with transparencies showing a breakdown of personnel at each of the system's schools. By shifting around, some of the fractional positions are combined to try and fill some of the very basic personnel needs.

Board chairman Cecil Fry recommended that "we work with the Small School Consortium."

The board approved the motion.

Commenting on the state Study Panel Report of the Task Force on Excellence in Secondary Education, Dr. Dunn, who is a member of the panel, noted that there are only six states in the United States that don't have fiscal independence of school districts.

"North Carolina and South Carolina are two of these, and they have the lowest SAT scores in the nation," he said.

Fry told the board about a meeting to be held on May 17 in Greenville, regarding teaching "about religion" in public schools.

"I would like to encourage board members to attend this meeting," he said. "We don't have a policy on this matter. We need to hear what they have to say."

Dunn agreed. "It is important that we give some consideration to this," he said. **Continued On Page 8**

Local Vets To Be Honored

Veterans Seek Memorial Location

By JACK GROVE

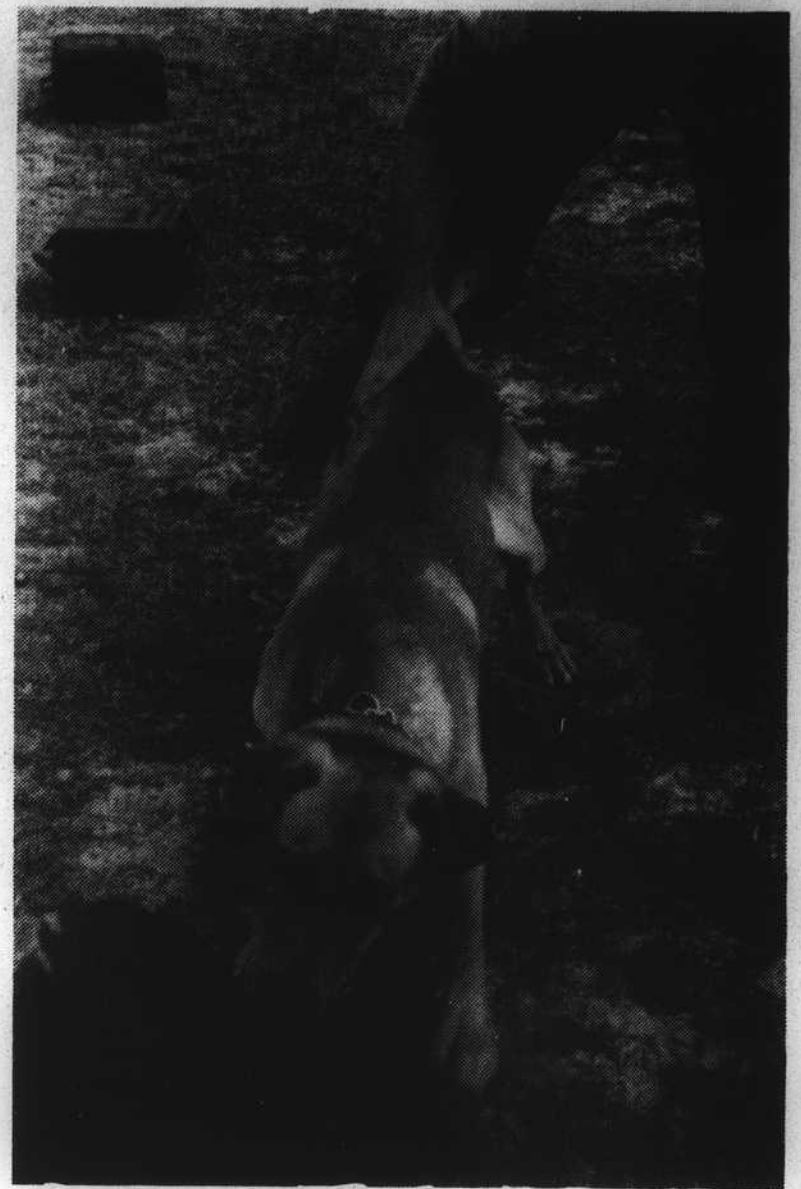
Local veterans have formed a committee to construct a memorial for the veterans of Chowan County, both the dead and the living.

George Stokes, Cape Colony resident and member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, heads the committee. He said that the three goals set out for the group were finding a site, design of a fitting memorial and raising funds for construction.

His committee has formulated a preliminary design. Central to the memorial is a five-pointed star, flush with the ground, constructed of brick. At each point of the star will be a granite marker for each of the five services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. The star will be 30 feet across.

In the center of the star will be a flag pole flying the Stars and Stripes which at night will be lighted.

Stokes is currently seeking a location for the memorial. Various sites suggested have included the green in front of the old courthouse, in front of the old armory, the new court-



ON TARGET -- Buddy, the Edenton Police Department's K-9 Corp, scarcely sniffed the two cases in the background before focusing his attention on the case containing 55 grams of marijuana. His handler is Officer Donald Harris.

Committee Topics Will Be Discussed

The committees of Edenton Town Council held their regular monthly meetings on March 26. Some of the discussion items will be placed on council's agenda for formal action while others remain in committee for further discussion. Town Council's monthly meeting will be held next Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Finance Committee - Under consideration is a 1990-1995 Capital Improvements Plan. The five year plan is expected to be used as a fiscal planning tool. Town Manager Anne-Marie Kelly explained, "It should be understood that the scheduling of a project in the CIP does not commit the town to pursue the project, if, upon closer study, the project cannot be justified or if funding is not available."

Budget amendments will be forwarded for council action that will provide a separate line item in next year's budget to cover holiday pay for police.

Ms. Kelly said that revenue for the item will come from over-budgeted unemployment charges, a surplus from a furnishings account for the police department and an excess in intangible tax revenues.

Public Works - The town has solicited contractors' bids for maintenance of the Beaver Hill and Vine Oak Cemeteries. Town crews have maintained them in the past.

Buddy's Cleaning Service of Elizabeth City was the successful bidder at \$27,733. Ms. Kelly said that this year's cost to the town with town employ-

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AMH THANKS--Representative R.M. (Pete) Thompson received a plaque from Albemarle Mental Health in appreciation for his efforts in the General Assembly to obtain funds for mental health facilities. George Jones, (right) AMH's board chairman, made the presentation.

Rep. Thanked For Effort

Representative R.M. (Pete) Thompson has been honored by Albemarle Mental Health for his efforts to obtain state funding for local mental health needs.

Thompson had requested \$3 million from the General Assembly for a mental health addition to Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City and a facility at Chowan Hospital.

In the legislature's budget making process, this request was scaled back to \$400,000 for the region.

George Jones, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Albemarle Mental Health, had made repeated trips to Raleigh to see Dept. of Human Resources Secretary David Flaherty in search of funds for a more viable program in this area.

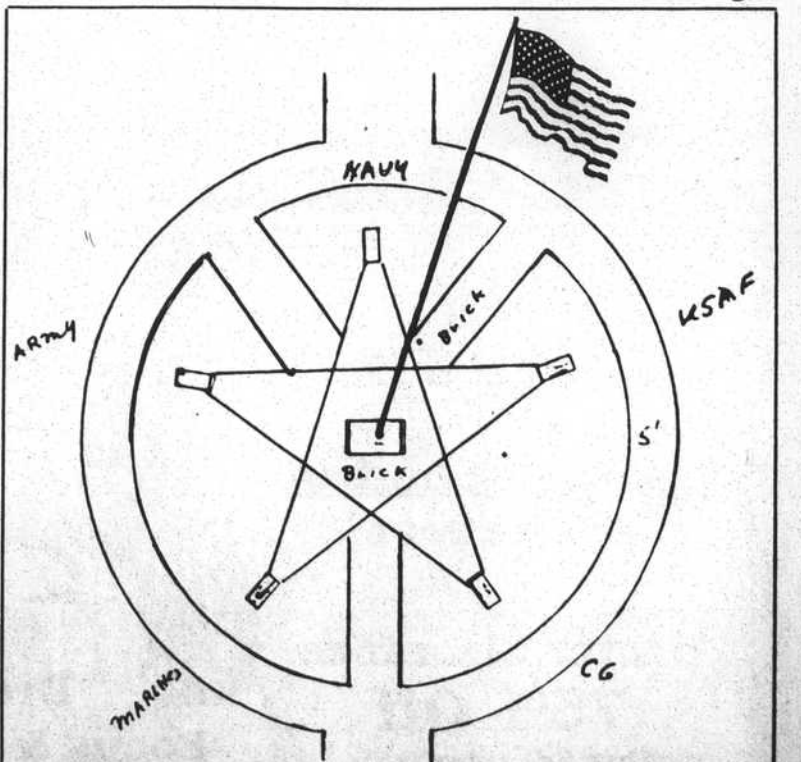
He said that he and Thomp-

son went to the see the governor for funds during the recent "Capital for a Day" in Elizabeth City. They also met with Flaherty and his staff again. Due to the state's current budget deficit, all they could do was make a pitch for future funds.

Jones said that the AMH board split the \$400,000 with Chowan receiving \$135,000 and Pasquotank receiving the remainder.

Chowan's portion will go toward a separate building next to the psychiatric unit now under construction at the hospital. The building will house AMH offices and administrative facilities for the psychiatric unit.

Jones presented Thompson with a plaque from AMH for his legislative support.



MEMORIAL--This sketch, provided by Veterans Memorial Committee Chairman George Stokes, shows the proposed design. Stokes' committee is now looking for a place in Edenton to place it.