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Services held for father, daughter

BY MARIEL BETANCOURT
Cox NC Publications

ROCKY HOCK - A father and daughter were buried Saturday, nearly a week after a house fire ended their lives.

Brian Taylor, 28, and TreChonda Taylor, 2, of 2231 Rocky Hock Road, were laid to rest after a joint funeral at White Oak Baptist Church in Tyner.

Trekita Williams, Brian's ex-girlfriend and TreChonda's mother, remembered Taylor as someone with a good heart.

"He was a very outgoing person. Everything he had he would give to you, if you needed it," Williams said. "And if you're a stranger and you start talking to him, you (would) become good friends."

Williams, who did not live with Taylor, said there were countless times that he helped her family or friends, but one especially impressed her: when he gave her brother \$30 on the night of his junior prom, so that he could take his

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Community leaders join hands to sing "We Shall Overcome" during a ceremony celebrating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. here Monday. (Staff photo by Derrick Armstead)

King's legacy is remembered

BY DERRICK ARMSTEAD
Staff Writer

EDENTON—The conclusion of Monday's Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday celebration would probably have been just as valuable to the late civil rights leader as his 1964 Nobel Peace Prize award.

That scenario involved local citizens from a variety of socioeconomic and racial backgrounds joining hands for a moving rendition of the hymn, "We Shall Overcome," a selection long regarded

as the anthem of the civil rights movement.

Prior to that moment, Elizabeth State University educator, Lynn Jordan delivered a soul-searching message aimed directly at present-day America.

"King and his visit to Edenton...got me thinking, who will take a stand today," said Jordan. "Because taking a stand requires great sacrifices and it requires us to realize that not everyone will agree with you, and you don't always get people on your

side."

Town councilman Willis Privott also addressed the impact of the late civil rights leader's journey to Chowan County.

"When I think about the greatest accomplishment (it) was back in '63, '64 when Dr. King was invited to come to Edenton," said Privott. "He came and left a foundation for us to build on. Goldie Frinks was a nail in that foundation...I think today we can

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Three arrested as a result of police drug crackdown

BY DERRICK ARMSTEAD
Staff Writer

EDENTON—Recent activities by the Edenton Police Department (EPD) prove one thing.

If you are involved in the drug scene, it is safe to say that your name may be at the top of a short list.

Unfortunately, this is not a great place to be, according to EPD Det. Sgt. Rhonda Copeland.

"Now that the holiday season is over," said Copeland, "we are working harder on drugs...and we will be cracking down (on those involved)."

Recent developments support Copeland's comments.

In addition to last week's raid that netted 41 "small" bags of marijuana, two subsequent investigations have also taken place.

Copeland addressed the most recent incident, which occurred at approximately 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12, at 307 N. Granville St.

"The searching of this (place) had a lot to do with officer observations and the amount of traffic (seen there)," Copeland said in reference to the residence shared by

Gloria Ann Wilder, 45, and her 23-year-old son Robert Wilder. "A lot of those people seen there were known users or dealers. The vehicle traffic was tremendous."

Copeland outlined the process involved with the operation.

"Based on my observations and other info that I had learned, I spoke to the district attorney," she said. "He advised me that I had enough to obtain a search warrant."

And according to police reports, officials were correct.

Found at the location were a total of 11 crack "rocks" that had been placed in two different bags located in a pile of folded up laundry.

An even larger amount of contraband had been collected during the previous night's raid, which resulted in the arrest of Joslin Bentley, 46, and Frank White, 43, both of whom reside at 115 W. Peterson St.

"Officer (John) Slegel found two film canisters in a pair of tennis shoes," said Det. Copeland. "They had large pieces of crack rocks," Copeland said in reference to the residence shared by

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Chowan first in line for natural gas service

BY DERRICK ARMSTEAD
Staff Writer

EDENTON—A lengthy battle to obtain natural gas service for northeastern North Carolina could be a thing of the past by as early as spring, according to Chowan County manager, Cliff Copeland.

More specifically, preliminary plans call for a three phase construction plan that begins along Chowan County's western boundary.

"We are still working with environmental (agencies)," said Copeland. "We are optimistic that we will have (the project's) groundbreaking in the spring. And we (Chowan) are in the first phase, so we'll be the first one to get gas."

As far as possible setbacks are concerned, protection of the wetlands is at the top of the list.

"It will not affect the wetlands, we will go under (those areas)," Copeland said. "Main thing is going to be the Chowan River...and that shouldn't be a problem because we will go under the river bed."



Copeland

With the expected arrival of natural gas to the region, Copeland addressed the behind-the-scenes action involving the current

project, as well as past attempts. "It was always an issue that we tried to address with NCNG (North Carolina Natural Gas)," he said. "NCNG said it wasn't a good plan to invest in. But it was sort of like the 'chicken and the egg' setup. We couldn't get businesses in to use the natural gas, because we didn't have it."

Copeland went on to talk about the differences between then and now.

"This went on for about 15 years...and that's when Sen. (Mar) Basnight stepped in with his involvement in the bond," said the county manager. "Without the bond issue, without the infusion of bond revenue we wouldn't have had it (become available)."

The project will be controlled by Progressive Energy (formerly CP&L) and APEC (Albemarle Pamlico Economic Development Corporation), both of whom will maintain 50 percent ownership rights.

In addition to Chowan County, Phase I includes Gates, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, and Currituck counties. There is an estimated \$51 million construction price tag attached to the opening stage.

Completion of the project will result in an estimated 142 miles of transmission and 74 miles of distribution pipeline, which will directly impact the availability of the fuel source.

"In Chowan County there will be approximately 16.1 miles of distribution," said Copeland. "This will enable us to get it through to the schools, which will be a big help."

Several other areas are included within the plan.

"We haven't finalized all of the plans but I can give you a rough idea of everything," Copeland said.

"Roughly, in Edenton there is going to be some distribution around Cape Colony, the Dye Plant, and the airport."

Promoted as a clean burning fuel source, Copeland outlined the expected benefits of the natural gas plan that is expected to include over 1,000 residential, 100-plus commercial and up to 10 industrial signees.

"It's hard to say right now," he said. "This extreme winter has thrown everything off. Normally, the number is usually 30 percent less than other heating sources, but that's only an estimate on my part."

"It's also a very good thing from my way of thinking because the northeast has never had the infrastructure similar to other areas and this is just one more step to show that our infrastructure is becoming as good as any other area," he added.

As a member of the local board that will ultimately decide upon several factors relating to the natu-

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Sheriff's Dept, insurance company sponsor event

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill is hoping parents turn out with their children in large numbers for an upcoming program being co-hosted by his department and the Jefferson-Pilot Insurance Company.

Sheriff Spruill said that participation in programs such as this are targeted particularly to children up to age 12, as they are most often the targets of abduction or other illegal acts.

"Of course, no one likes to think about those things," he said, "but every parent needs to be prepared, and this is one important way we can help them do that."

During the event, which will take place from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Jan. 20 at the American Legion building in Edenton, parents will receive standardized, high quality photos of their children along with

a KidCare ID booklet in which they can also record and keep current vital statistics about their children.

The Project KidCare program was developed by Polaroid Corporation in conjunction with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). The initiative was created in an effort to enhance awareness of child safety concerns and to provide parents with an effective means of aiding law enforcement officers in a search for a missing child.

In a news release from Jefferson-Pilot, figures indicate that one in seven missing children is found because of a photograph distributed by NCMLC, making a standardized, current photograph "the single most important tool in finding missing children."

Anyone interested in more information about this event may contact Tom Bateman at the Elizabeth City office of Jefferson-Pilot Insurance by calling (252) 338-2196.



Celebrate milestone

Businessman Alton Elmore is joined by his wife, Elizabeth (center), and stepdaughter Carole Bass (left) as his company, Edenton Furniture, celebrates its 55th year anniversary. The business has long been a fixture in the downtown business district. (Staff photo by Derrick Armstead)

Local teachers earn national certification

Four teachers in the Edenton-Chowan school system have earned certification from the National Board for Teaching Professional Standards. They are: Angie Lewis, a seventh grade teacher at Chowan Middle School; Jennifer Bass, a first grade teacher at White Oak Elementary School; Christine Fleming, a grades 3-5 multi-age teacher at White Oak Elementary School; and Patricia Timberlake, fifth grade teacher at D.F. Walker Elementary School.

With the recent recognition of these teachers, there are now 10 National Board Certified teachers in the Edenton-Chowan school system. Several teachers are pursuing the certification designation this year. The Edenton-Chowan school system is one of only three school systems in the state that has a National Board Certified Teacher teaching in each school in the school system.

National Board Certification for

teachers is a voluntary process. A teacher who wishes to become National Board Certified must first meet minimum eligibility requirements and successfully complete a two-part assessment designed to examine talent, skills, and knowledge. Teachers must also compile a school-site portfolio that reflects various facets of teaching, including student work with teachers' written comments, lesson plans, and videotapes of interaction with a class. Teachers must also participate in two days of performance-based assessment center activities, such as simulations, structured interviews and collegial discussion.

North Carolina currently pays application fees for any teacher who wishes to pursue National Board Certification. Teachers who obtain National Board Certification will receive a 12 percent bo-

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