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Locals celebrate legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

The life's work and legacy of one of America's most remarkable men was honored Monday during a local celebration honoring the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The program, held at Swain Auditorium in Edenton, brought Chowan County citizens of all races and ages together to remember him through music and words.

And, keynote speaker, Diana Jones-Wilson, also urged the crowd to remember him through their actions as well. "We must save the dream," she said. "Affirmative action is in jeopardy...we must not remain

in denial. These are hard times."

Jones-Wilson, an Edenton native who had rescheduled a planned visit to the White House to speak at the King program in her hometown, is president of Faith Partnerships Inc., based in Raleigh, NC.

She noted that in addition to the danger posed by support from President George W. Bush and others who want to end Affirmative Action, welfare reform remains a key concern. And voting, too, she said, is a hard-won right that African Americans must not ignore. "You must vote so you can have a voice," she said.



Diana Jones-Wilson

The speaker added that citizens must not wait for another great leader like Dr. King to come along, but must instead take up the dream and the work he left behind and continue to push ahead for progress in all areas of daily living. The challenges, she said, are many. They include poverty, homelessness, and unemployment.

"Today is a time when our values are being challenged," she said. "It's a new day and we have to be about the business of making a difference for ourselves, and for others. It is time for us to act."

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'We won't sell out,' King tells mass meeting

(Editor's Note: In December 1962, at the urging of Edentonian Golden Frinks, a fellow Civil Rights activist, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. traveled to our community to speak. We would like to thank Rosalie Boyd of the Shepard-Pruden Library in Edenton for sharing the following article on that visit with our readers. It originally appeared in the Carolina Times, Durham, NC).
EDENTON — "We will not sell our birthright for a mess

of pottage," Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. told an audience of more than 500 persons in a gathering here Thursday night.

Dr. King, in one of the first appearances of a major civil rights figure in this heavily Negro populated section of the state, stressed the fact that the Negro in America was finally through with all

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Board eases strain of 'No Child Left Behind' process

Teachers honored at meeting

BY GLENDA JAKUBOWSKI
Edenton-Chowan Schools

Edenton-Chowan Schools teacher assistants will receive a financial break filling No Child Left Behind Act obligations, thanks to a unanimous Board of Education vote.

The board agreed at its Jan. 6 meeting to reimburse textbook costs for teacher assistants enrolling in college courses to bring their post secondary education up to the new federal requirements.

The No Child Left Behind Act requires teacher assistants hired as of 2002-2003 to have a two-year degree or 48 semester-hours of relevant college courses. Teacher assistants already with the sys-



Chowan County Teacher of the Year Angie Lewis accepts an award from Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education member Tom Abbott, right, as board member Randy White looks on. The board recognized Teachers of the Year, the newest National Board Certified teachers, and former board member Thurlis Little at its January meeting.

tem have until 2005 to complete the degree requirement or to earn certification through a series of Department of Labor courses. The assistants also

can satisfy the requirements through other means, but most Edenton-Chowan teacher assistants are choosing the Department of Labor or college

options.

The majority of the assistants are about four courses shy of meeting the new requirements, according to Edenton-Chowan Schools personnel director Michelle Alexander. The board action will reimburse the textbook costs for up to four courses for each teacher assistant, eliminating those costs for the majority and reducing costs for the assistants who choose to go beyond the requirements and pursue a four-year degree.

About 65 Edenton-Chowan teacher assistants are taking the newly required courses. The cost to the system will be about \$19,500 between now and 2005.

In other board news, architect Larry Deckard reported plans for Phase II renovations at John A. Holmes High School. Several water-damaged classrooms will have ceiling, floor and wall repairs. Outdated radiators,

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Jeffrey N. Sackrison

Sackrison to head Chowan Hospital

GREENVILLE, NC - Officials with University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina have hired Jeffrey N. Sackrison of Drums, Pa., as the new president of Chowan Hospital in Edenton. Sackrison will begin March 3.

Sackrison comes to Edenton from the Greater Hazleton Health Alliance in Hazleton, Pa., where he has served as se-

nior vice president/chief operating officer since 1996 when the alliance was formed. He began working at Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center as vice president of nursing services in 1985 and was subsequently promoted to the positions of vice president of patient services in 1990 and

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Job Fair to be held Saturday

New employment opportunities are available in Edenton and Chowan County if potential applicants turn out for an upcoming job fair this Saturday. The job fair will take place from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the Seminar Room at the College of the Albemarle in Edenton.

This event is co-sponsored by North Carolina's Northeast Partnership, the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Com-

merce, The College of the Albemarle and Employment Security Commission of North Carolina.

The company looking for new employees is the George C. Moore Company. Founded in 1909, the George C. Moore Company stands today as the leader in narrow weaving technology, development, and sup-

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Chamber banquet set

The Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce will host its 2003 Annual Banquet Thursday, Jan. 30, at the Chowan Golf and Country Club.

The traditional chairman's reception begins at 6 p.m., followed by dinner. The meal, catered by Sean's Kitchen at The Club Room, starts at 7 p.m.

After dinner, at 8 p.m., an awards presentation ceremony will get underway. Awards scheduled to be presented include Volunteer of the Year, Businessperson of the Year, and Humanitarian of the Year.

Tickets are \$25 each and must be purchased in advance from any Chamber board member or by calling 482-3400.



Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton thanks retired police officer McCoy Parker and his son, Frank, (right) for the new bench donated in honor of all emergency workers who serve the citizens of Chowan County, as other town personnel look on.

Bench tribute to special folks

If you have been strolling in the Town's Colonial Park lately, you probably have noticed a new place to sit and enjoy the waterfront view.

Thanks to retired Town of

Edenton Police Sergeant McCoy Parker and son, Frank Parker, owner of Parker Monuments, residents and visitors can rest, relax and hopefully reflect.

Sgt. Parker dedicated the bench to all emergency service workers who serve the citizens of Chowan County.

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Larceny suspects caught

Two Edenton men have been arrested and charged with breaking and entering and larceny, according to Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill.

Spruill said that at about 4:51 p.m. last Saturday afternoon, a call was received by Chowan Central 911 Communication Center by an observant citizen reporting that there was a suspicious white car at the back of a neighbor's Paradise Road residence.

According to the neighbor, Spruill said, one male entered the back door of the residence by breaking the glass window while the other stayed outside to act as a lookout. "The caller stayed on the line with the 911 Center," Spruill added, "and advised them of several firearms being taken from the

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LAS VEGAS NIGHT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2003 7:10 PM - (Gaming, Silent Auction, Light Supper) 10:12 PM - (Live Auction of great prizes)

National Gaurd Armory

\$50.00 per ticket per person,
call 482-6400 for more information

To benefit charitable projects of the Chowan Regional Health Care Foundation