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Council reviews budget, slashes proposed increase

The Edenton Town Council's Finance Committee has slashed the Town Manager's proposed 4.5-cent tax increase by 2 cents. The committee will continue its review of the budget, which is scheduled for adoption June 23. Town Manager Anne-Marie Knight on recommended proceeds from 2 of the 4.5-cent tax increase (\$50,000) be used to fund a capital reserve fund.

Finance Committee Chairman Jerry Parks said that although the council is still committed to establishing a capital reserve fund, starting one with a tax increase was not in the best interests of the taxpayers. "I support the establishment of a capital reserve fund, but

the timing is wrong," Parks said.

Councilman Steve Biggs agreed. "I cannot and will not support a 4.5-cent tax increase," he said. "I would rather have the taxpayer save his money in his pocket, than us tax it."

Mayor Roland Vaughan concurred with the committee's proposal. "I am not in favor of raising taxes to put money in a savings account. A lot of things can change in a year; the economy may improve and our sales tax receipts might come in higher than projected," Vaughan said. The mayor went on to note that he wanted to be funding a

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Main Street chooses Edenton

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL
Staff Writer

NC Gov. Mike Easley announced Monday that Edenton is one of four communities chosen to participate in the NC Main Street Program. The program provides an opportunity for smaller towns to focus on creating new jobs and investment by helping to revitalize downtown areas.

"The Main Street program has a proven track record of success in revitalizing downtowns across North Carolina," Easley said in making the announcement. "Encouraging new business investment and job creation, as well as supporting the continued growth of our downtown areas in our smaller cities, is vital for their success."

According to a press release issued by Easley's staff, Edenton, Forest City, Marion and Eden, NC will be added to the 46 designated communities under the initiative. The re-



Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton and Mayor Roland Vaughan sport big smiles as they read the announcement of Edenton's selection as a new Main Street community. (Staff photo by Bud Weagly)

lease noted that since 1980, previously designated Main Street communities have realized more than 2,400 building renovations and new businesses, creating more than

10,000 jobs and nearly \$800 million in revenue.

For Edenton, local officials stress, the emphasis will be on continuing to build on what is already a solid foundation in

the downtown business district.

"We are honored and excited to be named as a Main Street community," says Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton. "The technical expertise that we will be getting from this program will be very beneficial to helping our downtown grow. What is good for downtown Edenton is good for all of Edenton and Chowan County."

Mayor Roland Vaughan noted that "competition for this recognition was very intense and to be chosen is a reflection of our commitment to do all that we can to make Edenton a more attractive and commercially viable community. We are excited and anxious to get started with the Main Street program."

Belinda Washlesky, former director of the Perquimans Main Street initiative, assisted Edenton in its successful bid. "I am elated and actually did

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Local grocery will close for good

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL
Staff Writer

Family Foods IGA will close its doors for the last time on June 15. The supermarket, which has been in the West Queen neighborhood for well over a decade, will be replaced by a Dollar General. The Store's possible closing was met with heated debate back when the issue of terminating IGA'S lease was proposed at a March Board of Adjustment meeting. At that meeting citizens and IGA employees were concerned about job cuts and senior citizens and other residents "that walk to the supermarket" because of the store's convenient location.

"It's really going to hurt the older residents who don't have the transportation to get across town," states IGA store manager Louise Reed.

"I would like to see it stay. It's convenient and they have good



Edenton's IGA/Family Foods will close its doors for good on June 15. The store is closing to make way for a Dollar General. (Staff photo by Bud Weagly)

specials," says Lois Owens, long time customer of IGA. "They have really friendly service I'm going to miss."

Mike Self, general manager for IGA/Family Food who was very adamant about wanting to remain in Edenton, ex-

pressed disappointment about having to close the Edenton store. "We are very disappointed that we have to do this (close the Edenton store)," said Self. "Our employees already know."

Self added, "We are very ap-

preciative of our customers in Edenton and Chowan County. We invite them to visit our other locations."

Family Foods IGA had other benefits besides it's convenient

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Music, water festival nears

BY ROBBIE LAUGHTON
Contributing Writer

The Edenton Waterfront Park will be the place to be on Saturday, June 14 from noon - 8 p.m. if you are an outdoor enthusiast, a water sports lover or music lover. A day packed with canoe and kayak demonstrations, leisure paddling events, games, sailboat races, and a variety of music and entertainment has been planned for persons of all ages. There will also be educational displays and food vendors on site throughout the day making it a true community event. And best of all, most of it is free!

When organizers were planning the events for the day, they broke things down into

two segments. The first segment is full of activities that allow participants opportunities to have fun and be on the water. Instructors will be on hand to demonstrate canoe and kayak handling techniques, then will lead anyone interested in two leisure paddling events. Beginners may want to take the 2-mile venture up Queen Anne Creek, while more experienced paddlers may take a 5-mile paddle up Pembroke Creek. The paddling demonstrations begin at 12:00. The Queen Anne paddle starts at 1:00 and the Pembroke Creek paddle starts at 2:00. All ages are welcome in the paddle events, but anyone under age 18 must

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CMS Odyssey team 8th in world

A Chowan Middle School Odyssey of the Mind team placed eighth in world competition May 28 in Ames, Iowa, competing against 39 other teams in their category.

"Helping to send these students to the world competition proved to be a good investment," said Edenton-Chowan Schools superintendent Allan T. Smith. "They certainly represented us well, and they had the opportunity to broaden their horizons also."

The school system paid for the students' registration fees and room and board. Other expenses for the trip were alleviated through fund raising and donations.

The team, composed of students Liza Boehling, Danny Brusko, Christopher Edmundson, Chris Lane, Nikki Mitchell, Colleen Potocki and Mary Strzyzewski, and coaches Mike Brusko and Marvin Strzyzewski, earned the chance to compete in the world competition by winning second place at the state competition April 5. The team won a first-place award in regional competition earlier this year.

"It was a great experience for the kids, meeting people from other countries," said Kathy Strzyzewski, who helped chaperone the students.

Teams from as far away as Poland and Uzbekistan competed in

the tournament, Strzyzewski said. In all, 660 teams from seven countries participated in the event.

The Chowan team solved the problem, "A Scene From Above."

Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem-solving competition. Each fall, OM publishes 5 new problems for teams to choose from. While the problems are different each year, they generally fall in one of 5 categories: Vehicle-building, Technical (contraptions), Balsa Wood Structures (that must support weight), The Classics (with themes based on history or the arts), and Performance (emphasis is on the creativity of the skit, the props and the presentation).

The "Scene From Above" problem required students to design, build and run three small vehicles to transport items from an "orbit area" to an assembly station. The items had to be added to a 3-D representation of a scene from Earth as viewed from space.

The team also was required to present a humorous performance about the scene and the changes it went through with the additions of the items.

Each of the vehicles had to be powered in different ways, with one vehicle carrying its energy source and the others traveling on the momentum caused by different energy sources.

School board approves new plan

The Edenton - Chowan Schools Board of Education unanimously approved a Career-Technical Education Plan for the coming school year at its Monday meeting, expressing support for the

program's value in spite of looming state budget cuts that will reduce funding by at least \$23,000.

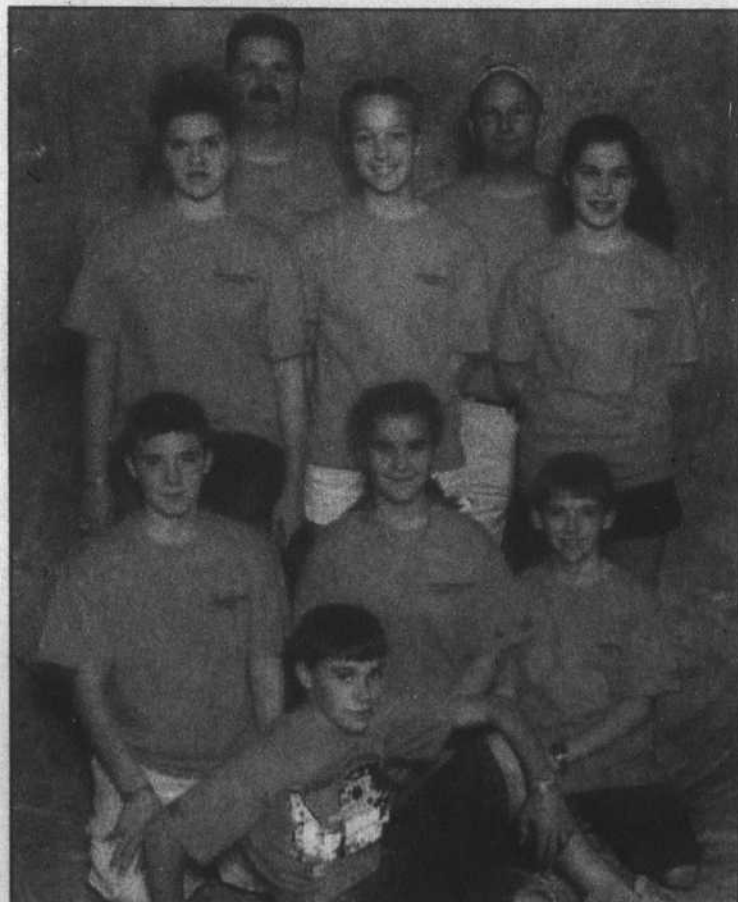
"I wish more people knew about what we're doing to get our kids ready for the work-

place," said board member Ricky Browder. "The schools are doing a great job in meeting the employers' needs."

The Career-Technical Education Plan targets students from the earliest grades

through high school to prepare for productive and successful careers after they leave the school system and enter the workforce.

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Chowan Middle School students made an impressive showing at the Odyssey of the Mind World Competition in Ames, Iowa. Shown: Liza Boehling, Danny Brusko, Christopher Edmundson, Chris Lane, Nikki Mitchell, Colleen Potocki and Mary Strzyzewski, and coaches Mike Brusko and Marvin Strzyzewski. (Submitted photo)

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