

THE CHOWAN HERALD

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County 4-H'ers recognized during Achievement Night

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

A celebration commemorating a successful year for 4-H clubs and individual participants was held Monday, January 24. Packed into a small room at the Extension office, kids and their parents from all around the county sat together, proud of their many accomplishments.

After an informal dinner, 4-H'ers young and old listened as Enoch Bond, former 4-H'er, spoke of the impact the organization left on him. Bond thanks the 4-H group for giving him the leadership skills that have taken him abroad with his studies at NCSU. "When



Justin Karl and Matthew Leary of the Geographically Inspired Students 4-H club present Colleen Karl with a special gift. Without Karl's grant-finding skill the group would not have been formed.

Amy Damrow asked me to speak on how 4-H had impacted my life, the hardest part wasn't figuring out how the program affected me...it was narrowing it down," Bond said.

Like Bond who strove to become president of his Senior class at Holmes High, the young 4-H participants are also learning leadership skills from the programs, evident by the large number of awards given Monday night.

Those honored at the ceremony were Alyssa Miller, 9-10 year old project record book on animal science. Sarah Hupp, 13-15 year old project record book on personal development and leadership. Kelsey Lichtenwalner, 13-15 year old project record book on healthy lifestyles. Sydney Mason, 13-15 year old project record book on communication arts. County champion project record book was awarded to Kelsey Lichtenwalner's horse book. Holly White's horse book will also be going on to the District competition.

At county activity day Diana Mason was awarded a bronze DAD for her speech on the "Life and Times of Homer". Joelisa Anthony was recognized for her competition in the demonstration of "Breakfast Smoothie with a Calcium Kick". Alyssa Miller won a gold DAD and bronze in the state for her demonstration "A

Day in the Life of a Commercial Herring Fisherman". Megan Simpson was recognized for her tough competition in the 5K Run. Sydney Mason was recognized along with Rachel Clark for their demonstration "A Treat of a Different Color". Sarah Hupp took the gold DAD, gold in the state, 6th out of 17 in Ohio, and 5th out of 21 in Kentucky with her speech "Mini Horses with a Mighty Job". Kelsey Lichtenwalner took gold DAD with a demonstration titled "Laminitis".

Those achieving perfect attendance at club meetings were Hunter and Houston

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Utility rate hike eyed by town

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

Edenton residents will likely see a slight increase in their electric bills as of March 1.

During its committee meeting Monday night, the Town Council discussed imposing a 1.4-percent hike in the power rate, an issue the board discussed last fall. The increase is the result of a rise in the wholesale power rate charged to the town.

"It's always an ugly word," Councilman Privott, chairman of council's Utilities Committee, said of the proposed increase.

Council was aware of the boost in the wholesale rate last summer, but opted to delay the cost-increase to its customers as long as it could. The increase to the town became effective in October.

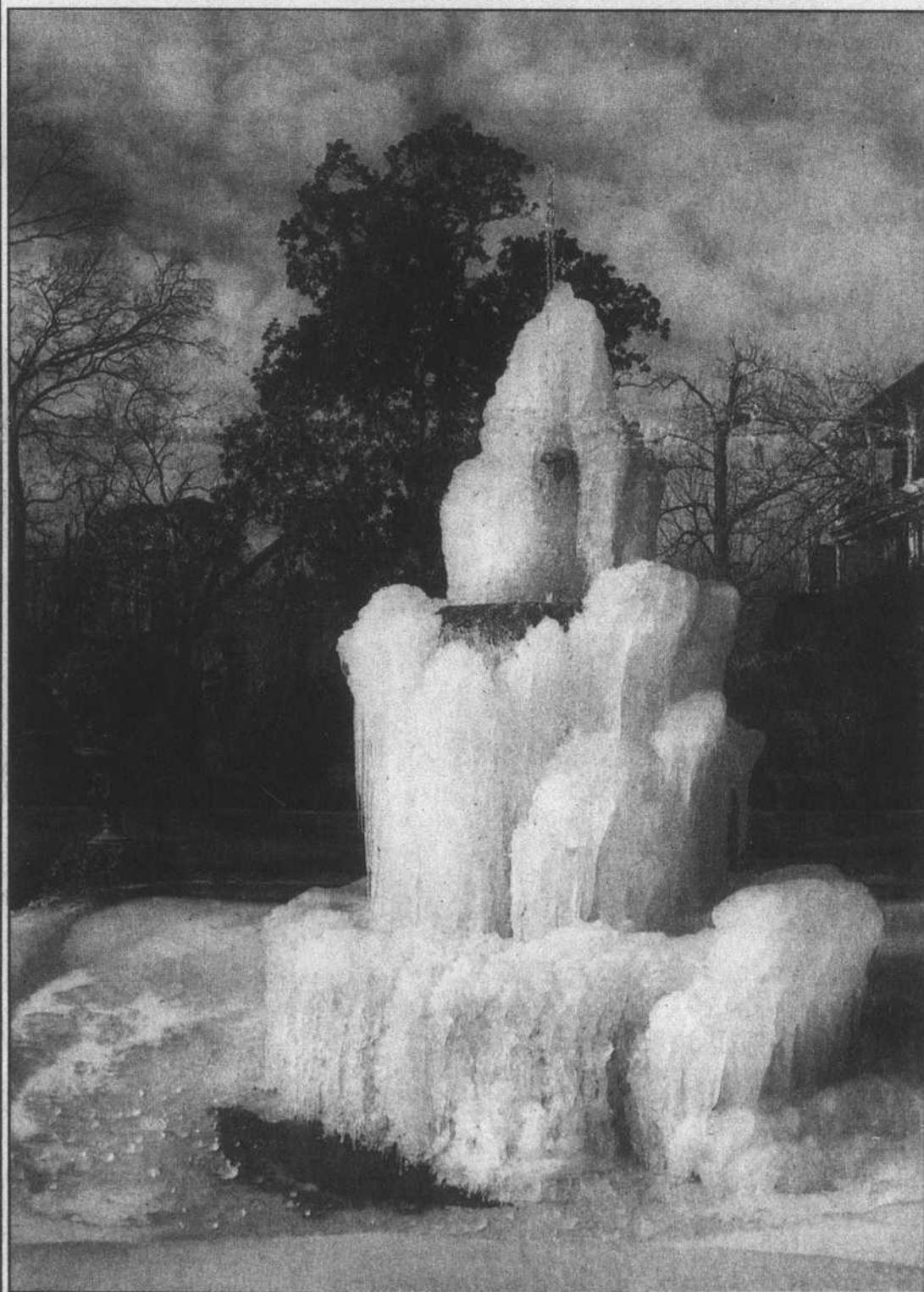
"This is the month (January) that we are going to have to decide," to raise the electric rate, Privott said.

Council will make the final decision to raise the power rate in February.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said the increase would result in an average rise of roughly \$13 to \$14 annually. The increase would be affected by the amount of power a customer uses. An average household with two residents uses about 1,000 kilowatts a month, she added.

"This is something nobody at this council table wants to do," Privott said, adding that councilors will also have to pay added electric bill costs.

A GLITTERING SIGHT



Last weekend's freezing temperatures produced some unexpected results. The garden fountain of Edenton resident Sambo Dixon took new form by Monday morning as a frozen ice sculpture.

Countywide zoning now on the horizon; joint discussions held

BY SEAN JACKSON
The Chowan Herald

The days of a lack of countywide zoning in Chowan County may be numbered.

During joint meeting of the county's planning and commissioners boards on Jan. 18, the idea of implementing a zoning map received praise from members of both panels. Implementing a zoning ordinance and map would allow for controlled growth in Chowan, and stem the potential for haphazard development, County Manager Cliff Copeland indicated during the meeting at the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse on East King Street.

"Zoning has to be proactive, not reactive," he said.

Currently, only sexually oriented business are regulated countywide, county planner Elizabeth Bryant said. County planning staff has recommended the county move forward with a comprehensive zoning map, she added.

The majority of surrounding counties, including Perquimans and Pasquotank, have countywide zoning, Copeland said.

Copeland said county officials would move forward with plans to contact a consultant who would help the county develop a proposed zoning map. The initiative wouldn't change the current layout of the county. For example, Copeland said, existing farmland would likely be zoned for agricultural use,

while commercial areas would be labeled for business use.

Commissioner Wayne Goodwin agreed with other county officials that the time is right for Chowan to move forward with zoning plans.

"We're closer (to having countywide zoning) than we've ever been before," Goodwin said. "Basically, something is going to have to be done ... I'm in favor of moving this forward."

Research on the proposal would likely take 12 to 18 months, Bryant said. She said the county could be divided into three sectors — north, central, and south — during the survey process. Public hearings would also be included in the planning phase, she added.

In November, a County Line Road resident appealed to the county to consider establishing a zoning map. In her letter to Copeland and *The Chowan Herald*, Debbie Whitehurst said her property would suffer from the building of four chicken houses near her home.

"Now is the time for countywide zoning," Whitehurst wrote.

In other business, the boards discussed the possibility of requiring new subdivisions with seven or more units to install buffer zones between homes and secondary roads in Chowan County. The proposal would also require subdivisions with five or more lots to include buffer strips for projects located on U.S. Highway 17, and N.C. highways 32, 37, and 94.

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Holmes senior attends Presidential Inauguration

Rocky Hock Opry plans benefit for Relay, Arts Council

Tickets on sale now for March show at Swain

BY REBECCA BUNCH
The Chowan Herald

Jack Evans and his fellow performers with the Rocky Hock Opry know a good cause when they hear one. And they continue to use their musical talents to support them. For years now, the Opry has been a backbone of the financial support offered to the American Cancer Society locally,

through its strong support of the Relay for Life. Now, they've added the Chowan Arts Council to their roster.

Tickets went on sale this week for an Opry show scheduled to benefit the two organizations. The benefit will take place at Swain Auditorium in Edenton on March 18-19. Shows start at 7:30 p.m. nightly.

"Since the Arts Council provides so much for our community and schools, we felt this is an opportunity for us to help with the arts and Relay for Life at the same time," Evans said.

On behalf of the Arts Council, CAC Executive Director Sue Clark expressed gratitude



Johnny Milteer, guitarist with the Rocky Hock Opry. Their next show will be held at Swain Auditorium in March.

for their generosity.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support offered by this wonderful group of folks," said CAC Executive Director Sue Clark.

Clark said the gesture caught her completely by surprise.

"Jack Evans just wandered down here one day and said, 'we'd like to do this'," Clark said. "They're being incredibly generous."

"We are very proud of all of our community-based programs and particularly our work with the Edenton-Chowan public schools," she added. "It is gratifying that the

community values our programming as well."

Evans said the members of the Opry show are looking forward to the opportunity to perform again before a hometown crowd after their highly successful sold-out shows held in December at the COA Auditorium in Elizabeth City.

"The latest two shows were played before a full house as has been the case with all the Opry shows in the past," Evans said. "We are excited about playing in Swain Auditorium, which is a new venue for us."

Evans describes that the

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