

THE CHOWAN HERALD

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USDA loan funds library expansion

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

A USDA loan for \$1.8 million for the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library expansion project was approved at the March meeting of the Chowan County Commissioners, clearing the way for the project to move forward. The total project cost is an estimated \$2.6 million which will be used to double the square footage of the library, double the number of shelves, triple the number of computer stations and provide additional storage for archives, equipment, etc.



Miller

Rosalie Miller, County Librarian, spoke on behalf of the Trustees and Friends of the Library, shared her excitement concerning the upcoming project.

"As you know our county library is more than 40 years old," Miller said, "so it is definitely time to expand and improve." Miller also mentioned the county's increasing population (7.6% each decade) as a motivating factor for pushing forward with the project.

The expansion design is one that was reviewed over a year ago when the project was first on the table, prior to Hurricane Isabel, Peter Rascoe, Special Projects Officer for Chowan County explained. And the land behind Town Hall that will be needed for the expansion is currently in the process of transfer from the town to the county, Architect Jerry Traub said.

Many members of the Friends of the Library spoke in support of the project and praised the commissioners for approving it.

The USDA loan has a 4 1/2 % interest rate for the 30-year

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White Oak preschool earns five star rating

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Meeting the state-mandated needs of the area's preschool youth has resulted in a five-star licensing for White Oak Elementary, the highest rate that can be achieved. The preschool licensing requirements and news of the local achievement was presented to the Board of Education Monday night at their March meeting.

White Oak Principal, Linda Mathias explained the minimum requirements required by the Department of Public Instruction and the State of



Linda Mathias

North Carolina, which includes meeting standards for health, safety and education. "When a facility meets the

minimum need it receives one star, beyond that the facility has to apply for additional stars," Mathias said.

Three areas of standards are scored: program standards, staff education and compliance history.

"From the beginning (Superintendent) Dr. (Allan) Smith said that he wanted 5 stars which is very difficult to achieve," Mathias added. "These licensing requirements are not set up for schools, but for daycare facilities. So the difficulty was meeting the 5-star goal without compromising our belief about early

childhood education. The results were a system-wide effort with everyone from the custodians to the central office staff working together."

Currently the White Oak preschool program serves 45 students or 25 percent of the preschool age children in the county. Mathias' goal is to open up the preschool program to the whole county so that the program will serve even more children.

Funding for the preschool program comes from the Exceptional Children's Program, "More At 4" a statewide initiative to assist those in 'at-risk'

situations and local monies.

Smith added that in the 11 counties served by the licensing inspector who came to Edenton-Chowan Schools, only two counties received the 5-star rating, "so I think this says a great deal about the top-notch program students in Chowan County are able to receive," he said.

In other business:

The Student Accountability Policy which requires students to make a passing grade in their class in addition to a level 2.5 on their EOG/EOC (end of

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Passion for learning

Dr. P has high hopes for his AG students; pushes them to expand their horizons

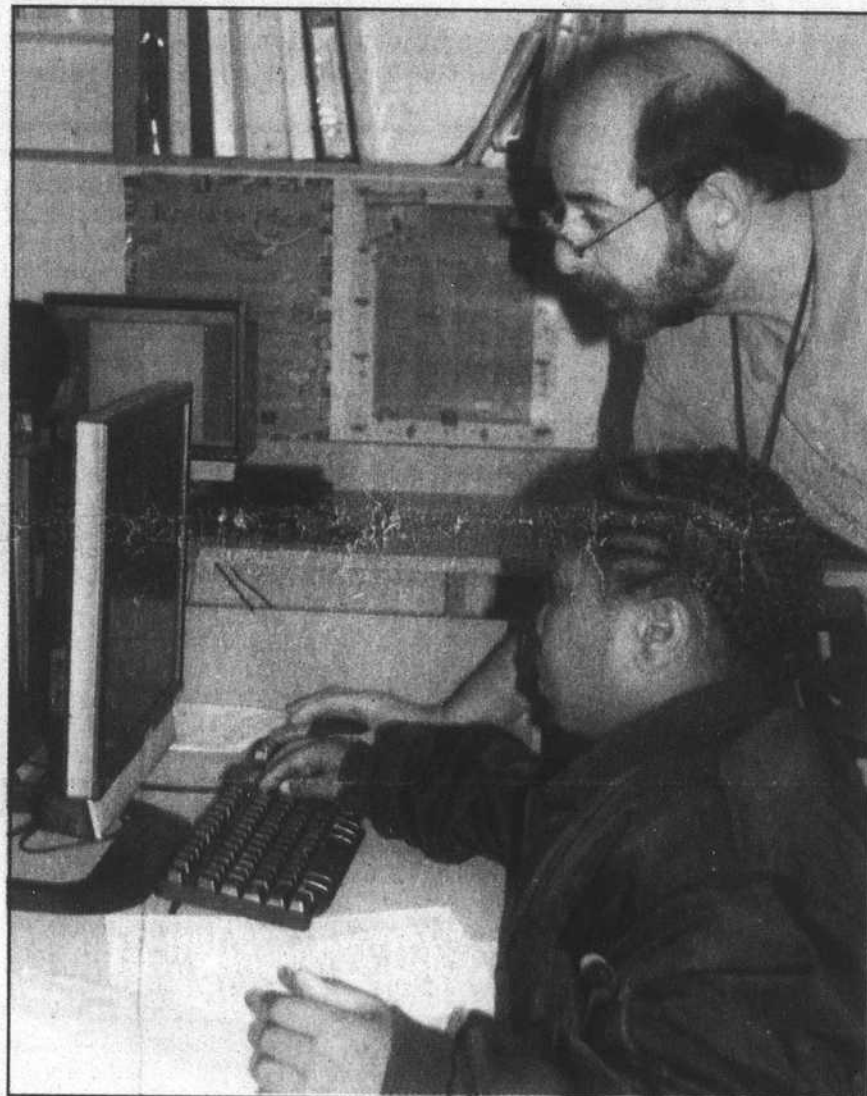
During NIE Week March 6-10, we profile one of many local teachers who are making a difference in the classroom everyday.

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

Like all great teachers Dr. Mel Pekofsky has a vision for his young students. Each week his academically-gifted (AG) classes go beyond the 'normal' curriculum—drafting original dictionaries, composing poems modeled after the great writers in history, and learning about the water cycle's role with regards to soil and recycling. Each week they learn the origins of a commonplace phrase, "turning the tables" for example, and study word parts for their new vocabulary words. By pushing them forward, Dr. P, as he is referred to by his students, he is hoping to ignite passion for learning.

"What I hope for them to learn is to put two and two together: Maybe one day they'll hear the phrase "raining cats and dogs" and remember that it has to do with the days when roofs were thatched and animals slept there to stay warm. When it rained the roof would become slick and the cats and dogs would fall to the ground....I want them to understand and recognize word parts so when in science class they will be

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Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Dr. Mel Pekofsky works with Tywon Bond, one of the students in his academically-gifted class to draft completely unique dictionary based on Latin etymology.

Byrum, 19 charged in arson case

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

With the assistance of neighbors in the River Road community, the suspect believed to have started an arson fire last Thursday has been apprehended and is now awaiting trial.



Byrum

Just after 6 p.m. on March 2, a call was put in to the Chowan County Sheriff's Office reporting a fire at 231 River Road. With Center Hill Crossroad Fire Department on the scene extinguishing the blazes and law enforcement on the way, neighbors called the Sheriff's Office with a description of the likely arsonist, who was seen running from the scene of the crime, Deputy Dwayne Goodwin said.

The suspect, Kevin Wade Byrum, 19, of Old Ferry Road, had allegedly set a fire at the back and front of the house, owned by Ruben Roberts. After setting the fires it is believed that Byrum ran through the woods, setting another fire on the way. Byrum reportedly

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Up to 300 homes tagged for district expansion

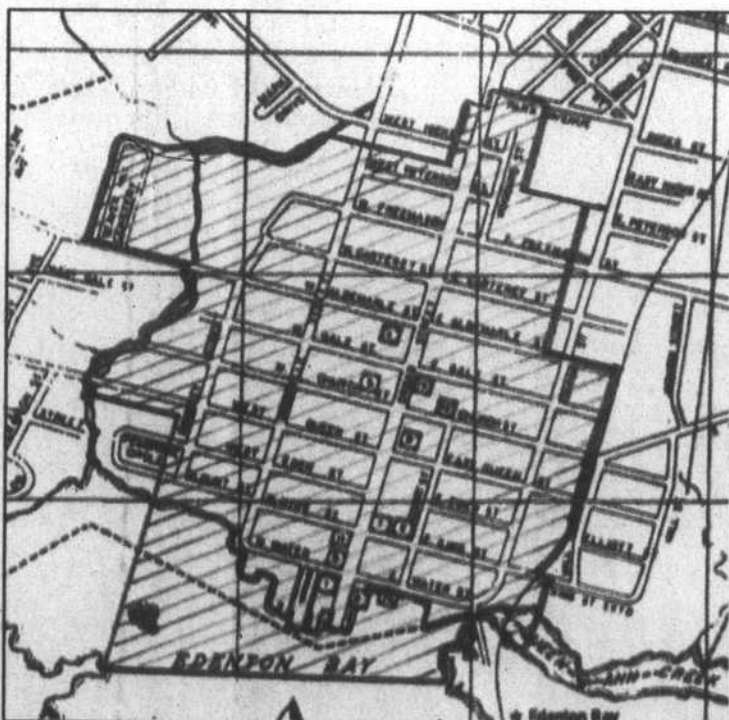
Tax credits will help lower-income families deal with added expense of inclusion on national register

BY REBECCA BUNCH
The Chowan Herald

A proposal before the Edenton Town Council that would expand the boundaries of the National Register Historic District would offer tax credits for homeowners and businesses in those areas if they qualify, but would regulate any changes to the exterior of those properties. The interior of the homes/businesses could be altered without restriction.

For example, the council was told during a recent committee meeting that vinyl siding and vinyl windows would be considered inappropriate and that property owners would not be allowed to install them within the proposed district. Storm windows, those connected to the project said, would be allowed because they would be considered in keeping with the original character of the neighborhoods in

See DISTRICT On Page A3



Heavy blue lines indicate the local neighborhoods tentatively scheduled to be included in the National Register under the current proposal.

Slain family pets found

Local authorities need help to find killers

BY EARLINE WHITE
The Chowan Herald

The killing of two adored family pets in the Yeopim area has the entire community outraged and local Animal Control officers on the hunt for information about the crime.

Tim and Janine Bunch's two dogs, a four year-old Husky named Keira and her 9-month old pup Onyx were found on a hunting path beside Yeopim Road on March 1, both fatally shot. A call to Chowan Animal Control was dispatched around 9 a.m. When

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