

CHOWAN HERALD

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Juveniles charged in vandalism around town

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GOLD FEVER

Panning for retirement



David Linhardt pans through black sand brought home from his trips to N.C.'s gold mines. Earline White/The Chowan Herald

TV show spurs lucrative hobby for Arrowhead Beach family

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

David Linhardt is building a portfolio for his 401K. He knows that by the time he's eligible for Social Security the program may not exist. Deep in the hard-rock mining pits of Cotton Patch near Albemarle, N.C., and the load-mining camps of Thermal City Gold Mine in Rutherford County, Linhardt and his wife Teresa spend days sorting through red

clay and black sand for their future.

"We were watching the Outdoor Channel show 'Gold Fever,' but thought like everybody else — the old timers have got the gold, there's no more to be had," Linhardt said.

The eastern gold belt begins in the Shenadoah Mountain range in western Virginia and runs south into Georgia.

And when Linhardt learned that only 10 percent of all the gold in the entire world has been discovered, he got up the gumption to check out N.C.'s mines.

"At Thermal City you pay \$5 to pan all day long. That first day I nearly broke my back. But I got hooked. There were people from all over the world — Nova Scotia,

Canada — they're all looking for color [gold].

"The next year I spent two weeks in the creek dredging through rocks while Teresa and Tiara [their daughter] were panning at camp. We came home with nearly an ounce of gold."

Unlike American currency, the value of gold is the same all across the world, Linhardt said.

"If I were to go to Japan with an ounce of gold I would receive \$660, just like in England or Africa."

Gold mining is not for the faint of heart. Many people have died from landslides, hypothermia and exposure to the elements. Linhardt

Gold Facts:

■ Only 10 percent of the gold in the world has been found.

■ Gold is 19 times heavier than water; twice as heavy as lead.

■ Fool's gold [pyrite] does not shine in the shade.

■ America's first gold rush followed the discovery of a 17-pound nugget by a 12-year-old boy, Conrad Reed, in Cabarrus County, N.C. in 1799.

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Officials give thumbs down to curriculum change

More foreign language and math classes would be required

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

Local school leaders oppose two key features in a state proposal that would alter the curriculum at John A. Holmes High School.

One feature would require an additional foreign language for freshmen in 2008-09. The other would toughen math courses required for graduation.



"I'm continually amazed at their [state board of education] lack of foresight."

— Gil Burroughs

Currently, Spanish is the only foreign language being taught on-site in the local schools.

"I don't disagree that in today's world a second language course such as the one being proposed would be very beneficial," Dr. Allan Smith, school superintendent, said.

"But I do believe that a better idea would be to implement the course among younger students rather than waiting until they reach high school."

The second part of the plan calls for all students to successfully pass math classes in Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and another higher-level math class such as calculus in order to receive a diploma.

It would eliminate basic math classes currently being taught for students pursuing a job skills oriented curriculum in favor of a curriculum followed by those wanting a four-year college education.

Plan needs work

Board of Education member Gil Burroughs, a retired teacher who taught chemistry and physics at Holmes, said he thought the plan had been poorly thought out and clearly favored those going to a university while failing to meet the needs of those who wanted to learn job skills.

"When did they get so out of touch?" he said, referring to officials with the state board of education.

"I'm continually amazed at their lack of foresight."

Burroughs remarked that if state education officials would study the future employment trends developed by state labor officials, they would clearly see that the majority of jobs in North Carolina in the future are not projected to be in fields that would require a four-year college degree.

"There's clearly a disconnect there, isn't there?" he said.

"Who's going to tell the Emperor he doesn't have any clothes on?"

Asst. Supt. Rob Boyce said he felt there was a way to address the issue without resorting to measures that would virtually turn the present curriculum on its head.

"Why don't we fix technical math courses, if they need end-of-grade tests, or if the curriculum is too watered down?" he asked.

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No leads in fire on Martin Luther King avenue

Residents with tips are asked to contact detectives

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Edenton police are trying to determine if the cause of a blaze that gutted an abandoned house last week was arson or accidental. The two-story house at 701

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. was unoccupied at the time of the fire, police Det. Aaron Davidson said. The fire was reported shortly after 10 p.m. last Wednesday.

"We have no suspects, no leads," Davidson said.

The house, which had no electricity, had recently been frequented by homeless people and crack cocaine users, Davidson said. He estimates the structure is a total loss as a result of the fire.

"There wasn't much there anyway," he said, "but it's pretty much done now."

Early the following morning, firefighters were called again to the house, after the fire re-ignited, Davidson said.

Investigators are still trying to determine the original cause of the blaze, the detective added.

Anyone with any information about the blaze can call Det. Dwight Rawlins at 482-5144.



An abandoned house at 701 MLK was deemed a total loss after the fire.



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Locals march on the Pentagon in protest of the Iraq war

Community, C1

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