



Groups eye marketing Hotel Hinton

Three non-profits want to pitch in

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Attention has again turned to the future of the former Hotel Hinton that previously served as the county's administrative building.

Now vacant because of its inefficiency, the East King Street structure has drawn renewed interest of stakeholders that pre-

fer the building be rehabilitated for new use. Preservation North Carolina, Destination Downtown Edenton, and the Edenton Chowan Partnership all want to assist Chowan County with couring the future of the 1926 built hotel.

The three stakeholders met with the Chowan County Board of Commissioners at its Feb. 19 work session to tout its intentions amid hopes of securing the county's commitment to stay the course with the efforts.

"This is a property we want to do something with and we want

to do the right thing," said Commissioner Emmett Winborne.

On behalf of PNC, Claudia DeViney reiterated the non-profit's experience at marketing forgotten properties, particularly those with history.

"This is what we do. And we have the track record to prove it," said DeViney, who also talked with commissioners last year about marketing the historic building.

She continued that PNC was prepared to promote the building by either the county donat-

ing the structure or an option to buy. The latter would be exercised after PNC found a buyer, she added.

DeViney compared the project to the former Wilrick Hotel in Sanford.

"It had gotten in terrible condition," DeViney said. "Our building (Hotel Hinton) is in much better shape.

"We would as always look for a buyer who would look for the highest and best use," she added.

In the Wilrick Hotel project,

the new owner converted the building into a mixed-use structure with the middle portion designated as condominiums and the bottom floor as retail. The owner resides in a private quarters on the top floor, DeViney explained.

Commissioners' concerns about a lengthy process prompted DeViney to add that PNC would require at least a one-year commitment to find a buyer.

"Somebody interested in a

See HINTON, 2A

Firetruck spurs possible substation

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The Edenton Fire Department could soon add a second location.

The proposed substation would be located in the southern end of the county, Fire Chief Craig Forlines told the Town Council at its monthly committee meeting session held Monday night.

In response to a question from Councilman Willis Privott regarding a proposed location for the substation, Forlines said he would like to see it established on Haughton Road.

Forlines said that volunteers would operate the substation.

"We have the personnel," Forlines said.

A key part of establishing the substation, Forlines said, would be for the town to accept a 1991 Spartan fire engine that has been declared surplus by the North Carolina Forest Service.

The fire engine has 43,916 miles on it and pumps 1,000 gallons per minute.

There would be no cost to the town for the engine, Forlines said. The only expense would be for insurance and tags, he said.

The engine would be used at the substation to respond to fires, he said.

"My hope is that you'll not allow this opportunity to slip away," Forlines told the council.

Mayor Roland Vaughan questioned how a substation would impact response times.

Forlines said that response time to Drummond Point Road, for example, would be cut from the current 18 minutes to seven minutes.

"I think it's (accepting engine) a great suggestion," Councilman Jimmy Stallings said. "I think we absolutely need to move forward on this."

Stallings asked if there was any way that the council could take action on the request Monday night, as Forlines had hoped, but was told by Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton that under the council's current structure they could not.

Wilderness expedition fills gap year

89-day NOLS experience prompts college decision

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

As high school graduation approached, Garrett Stanley hadn't a clue what he wanted to do next. He was rudderless about his immediate future.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do about college," Garrett remembered.

His father, Gary, agreed about his son's uncertainty about life after high school.

"He was all over the map, thinking about college, the military," Gary said. "He wasn't sure about majors or careers."

His son's confusion apparently began a few years earlier.

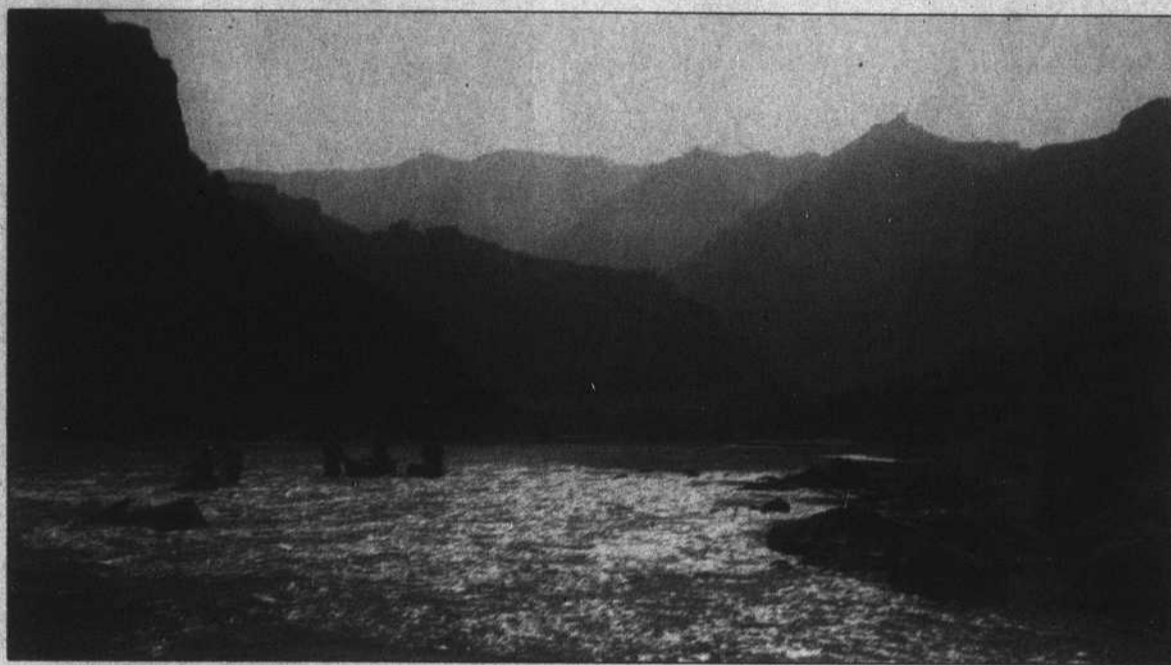
"Garrett first started stressing out about his future in junior high school," Gary added.

Instead of pressuring him to be more decisive as he entered early adulthood, Garrett's parents showed patience and suggested he take a year off — a gap year — to find his way.

So instead of starting college in the fall, he picked up a five-day a week part-time job.

Then Gary encouraged his son to attend a National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) in Wyoming.

"Students on our courses learn leadership by doing. This might mean planning and executing a detailed route and destination on a topographic map, or leading the way down whitewater rapids," said



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Part of the 89-day NOLS expedition included white water canoeing on the Green River in the canyons of Utah. It was here that Garrett Stanley's canoe became submerged in the rapids.

Brent Wallen, NOLS spokesman. "Whatever the day's activities are, the student takes on the tasks, often with minimal to no instructor involvement."

Never a Boy Scout or even an outdoorsman, Garrett embarked on a cross-country excursion that included 89 days in the rugged wilderness of the Rocky Mountains. There he would hike, canoe, camp, and survive the mountainous elements with 10 others.

Phase I of the expedition featured 10 days of hiking in

See EXCURSION, 5A



Garrett Stanley (middle front) poses with his fellow students in the canyons of Utah, part of a 89-day wilderness expedition through the National Outdoor Leadership School.

Water-based businesses eye Edenton Bay

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Two water-based businesses could soon become a reality in Edenton.

The Town Council is expected to take action at its March 12 regular monthly meeting on the requests.

The first is a proposed floating bed and breakfast, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton told the

council Monday night during its committee meeting session.

Knighton said the proposal came from a couple that own a boat docked at Edenton Marina.

They want to offer overnight stays on their boat out in the Bay or harbored at the town dock,

she said.

The second prospective business is owned by a Connecticut couple interested in establishing a harbor tour business. The 21-foot boat in question could be harbored at the town docks utilizing a tie up area where no fees are charged, Knighton said.

Both proposals brought their share of questions.

Councilman Steve Biggs asked, with regard to the floating B&B,

what would happen if the idea proved successful and others who wanted to try similar ventures approached the town.

"I certainly want to promote business, but then do we get into a situation where everyone that has a charter license is coming down here (to the town docks) on Saturday afternoons offering rides?" Biggs wondered aloud.

See BUSINESS, 2A

Scam Jam warns residents of common swindles

Seniors are often targeted

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Many people believe if they don't have a large income scammers won't target them. Seniors — many of whom live on small, fixed incomes — are vulnerable to that kind of thinking, and equally at risk to scammers.

That was the ad-

vice given by Barbara Bennett of Raleigh during a Scam Jam directed at seniors that was held last week in Edenton. Bennett is an investment education specialist with the Securities Division of the N.C. Department of the Secretary of State.

The event, held at Swain Auditorium on Feb. 20, drew about 70 people. Lunch, provided by the Albemarle Commission, followed

downstairs at the Chowan Senior Center.

"Many seniors live from (Social Security) check-to-check," Bennett said. "They have no other income so they think, a scammer's not going to come after me."

But Bennett said that's not necessarily the case.

She explained that scammers are very clever at gaining the trust of others — even going

so far as to pretend a concern for their welfare.

"We want to trust somebody with whom we think we have something in common," Bennett said. "It's just human nature."

A good example of this type of scam, Bennett said, involved a North Carolina man who joined an Asheville-based Alzheimer's Disease support group

See SCAM JAM, 2A



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Barbara Bennett, an investment education specialist for the N.C. Department of the Secretary of State, was one of several speakers at the Scam Jam that took place Feb. 20 at Swain Auditorium in Edenton.



©2009 The Chowan Herald All Rights Reserved

Edenton Lions Club
Breakfast for the Blind-Help the Lions help the Blind \$6⁰⁰
 Edenton Baptist Church - Saturday, March 9 | 7AM - 10:30AM
 Eat In or Take-Out | Tickets from any Lion or Call 482-3608 for more information.