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Wednesday, January 23, 2014

What to look for in the new year from the county, town, hospital and schools — 3A, 4A

2014 50¢

Local man among two pardoned by governor

BY CORRINE SAUNDERS
 The Daily Advance

An Edenton man who completed his sentence for armed robbery three decades ago is one of two men pardoned by Gov. Pat McCrory.

McCrory announced Friday the unconditional pardons of 52-year-old Linwood Paul Britton of Edenton and

of 58-year-old Richard Allen Brown of Panama City, Fla.

According to a governor's office press release, McCrory said the men earned the pardons because they completed their sentences at least 30 years ago and have since become parts of their respective communities.

"Paul Britton and Richard Brown paid for their mistakes, turned their lives

around and have made significant contributions to our community and nation," McCrory said. "They are a testimony to everyone that has been convicted of a crime that it's never too late to turn your life around."

Britton was 17 when he pleaded guilty to the armed robbery of a store in Edenton in 1979. He was sentenced to 10 years in state

prison.

While serving his sentence, Britton earned his General Educational Development degree and took classes in electrical wiring. He also began working for Jimbo's Jumbos, a peanut company in Edenton; as part of a work release program.

After Britton's release from prison in September

1983, he continued to work at the plant. Today, he is Jimbo's Jumbos' vice president of plant operations.

Contacted this week by the Chowan Herald, Britton said he does not wish to comment at this time but plans to make a statement later.

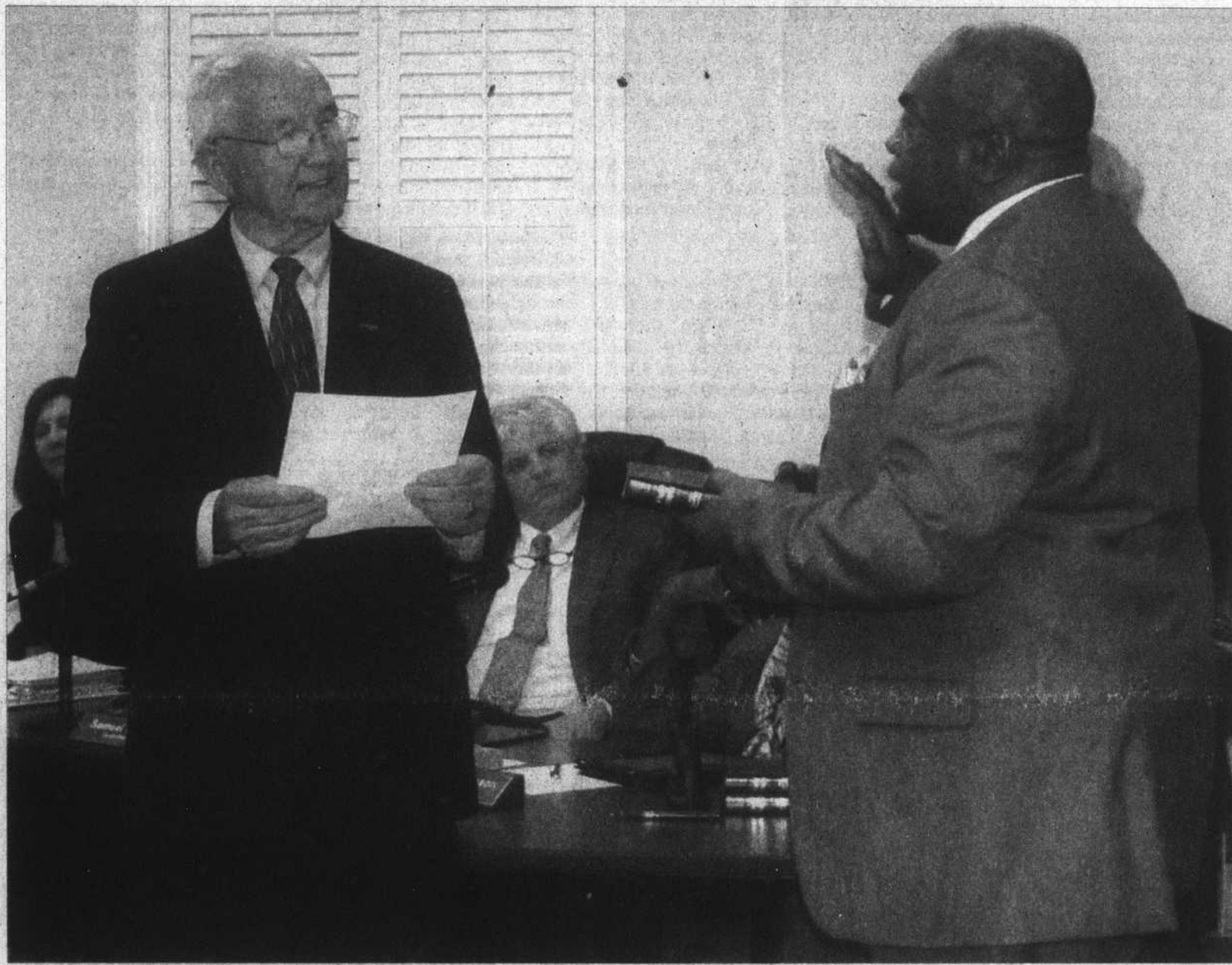
In 1974, Brown pleaded guilty in Guilford County to possession with intent

to distribute a controlled substance. His suspended sentence was terminated the next year so that he could enlist in the U.S. Navy, where he served for 30 years, McCrory's office said.

Britton and Brown were two of 30 people convicted of crimes in North Carolina ranging from first-degree

See PARDON, 2A

RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND...



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Clerk of Court Mike McArthur (left) sports a smile as he swears in new Councilman Elton Bond Jr. during the Dec. 10 town council meeting.

Hospital exceeds financial target

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

Vidant Chowan Hospital reported unusually strong financial performance for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30.

Vidant Chowan's operating margin — the hospital's net revenues for the year, minus expenses — was \$7.28 million or 14.7 percent. Hospital officials had budgeted a net operating margin of \$2.76 million or 5.7 percent.

The hospital has budgeted an operating margin of \$3.8 million or 7.85 percent for the current fiscal year.

Two main factors contributed to the hospital's better-than-expected financial performance.

Brian Harvil, the hospital's chief financial officer, explained that a significant one-time item in Fiscal Year 2013 was that \$1 million that had been set aside to cover any required repayments to Medicare was added back to the bottom line.

The hospital still has

See HOSPITAL, 2A

Time capsule burial postponed until spring

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

Organizers of the town's 300th anniversary celebration say they are delaying plans to bury a time capsule on New Year's Eve to allow time for more items to be donated.

The burial will take place sometime this spring; a specific date has yet to be determined. A special celebration is being planned to mark the occasion.

Bob Quinn, who chairs the anniversary committee, said he and others associated with the activity felt that with everyone focused on the holiday season it would be difficult to complete preparations before New Year's Eve.

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"People just seemed to have too many other things going on," Quinn said. "So we thought this would be the best thing we could do."

Chowan Tourism Director Nancy Nicholls said she thought the

decision was a good one.

"I agree that giving this more time and having the 300th committee put together an inclusive ceremony will work much better," Nicholls wrote in an email.

Quinn said that the delay would allow for more churches, civic groups and nonprofits to contribute items for the time capsule that is scheduled to be opened 50 years from now. Businesses are also

See CAPSULE, 2A

Barker House to reopen as welcome center

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

Starting Jan. 6, the Barker House will close its doors for three weeks so that necessary restoration and repairs can be made. The historic site will reopen with an additional mission — to be the Chowan-Edenton Welcome Center.

The Historic Edenton

State Historic Site will continue to operate its Visitor Center for the historic sites and, in addition, the Barker House will provide a welcome center for the town and county, said Sally Francis Kehayes, chairwoman of the Edenton Historical Commission that manages the Barker House.

"The Barker House has been known as 'the living room' for our community, providing a warm welcome to visitors," Kehayes said. "This new arrangement provides visitors and community residents with additional services and con-

venience."

EHC Executive Director Gregg Nathan said the closing was necessary to keep the historic site looking its best.

"The first level floors naturally need periodic restoration," Nathan said. "They will be repaired and cleaned by a light screening and then treated with a traditional velvet oil that will beautify and protect them for years to come."

At the same time, Nathan said, the center hall, dining room and kitchen walls will be repaired and painted.

"Historically, January has been the slowest month of

the year for tourism and thus is the best opportunity to close before the Barker House assumes the role of Edenton and Chowan County's Welcome Center."

Nathan said that the concept of having the Barker House become the community's Welcome Center was initiated due to the Sunday and Monday closing of the Historic Edenton State Historic Site Visitor Center, as mandated by the N.C. General Assembly for all state historic sites in this year's state budget. The EHC, with a mission "to effect and encourage preservation, restoration and the

appropriate preservation of the Town of Edenton and Chowan County," agreed that the Barker House could effectively fill the role considering its location on Edenton's downtown waterfront and the fact that it is open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. daily, including weekends.

Nathan pointed out that the Barker House has a history of promoting tourism in the community.

"Over the past four years we have seen a 49 percent increase in visitors," Nathan said.

See WELCOME, 2A

Chowan man killed in shooting

From staff reports

The shooting death of a Chowan County man on Dec. 22 stemmed from an argument that had been going on for more than a year, local authorities said last week.

Dylan Bryne Burton, 21, of Rocky Hook Landing Road, Edenton, was killed Dec. 22 around 8:30 p.m., according to the Chowan County Sheriff's Department.

Joshua Wayne Byrum, 21, of 227 Pamlico Trail,

See SHOOTING, 2A



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