

Jordan, Guard in District 2, Seat 1 school race

BY REGGIE PONDER
Chowan Herald

There is now a contested race for District 2, seat 1 on the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education. Rhonda Jordan, 65, filed this week as a candidate for the seat...

The N.C. General Assembly last year passed a local bill changing the terms on the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education from six years to four. Under that law, some seats will initially serve one two-year term before switching to the four-year term in order to maintain the sys-



GUARD



JORDAN

tem of staggered terms on the board. In the November election Burroughs will be running for a four-year term but Guard and Jordan will be running for a two-year term. This is Jordan's first campaign for elective office. She described her interest in

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good back to my community; this opportunity to serve seems to fit my need," she said in a statement emailed to the Chowan Herald. Jordan said she became interested in seeking a seat on the local board of education when she spoke at a county commission meeting in favor of reducing the board members' term of office from six years to four. "My desire grew further as the See SCHOOL RACE, 3A

Archaeologists uncover evidence of foundation

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

During their first day of excavation at the Courthouse Green in Edenton, archaeologists uncovered some evidence of a possible brick foundation. A major focus of their investigation is to search for the location of the original Chowan County Courthouse built in the early 1700s. "We have recovered 30-plus brick fragments and are planning to open this area up wider tomorrow," said team member Lauren Souther. "I can't say if it is part of a wall or a foundation for the courthouse but it is in keeping with what we're trying to find," Souther added. Other findings, according to Shawn Patch, principal investigator and geophysics specialist for Greensboro-based New South Associates, said other findings today had included nails as well as oyster shell and glass fragments including one large chunk of glass that he said appeared to have formed part of the bottom of a bottle. "This is probably from an 18th century bottle," Patch said. Earlier in the day Patch and Souther walked an established grid using a ground penetrating radar device that allowed the team to see what lay five or six feet below the soil. Once they examined the footage from that scan they decided on two separate areas on the Courthouse Green where they would begin their work. "We have a 3-D image now," Patch said, "and



STAFF PHOTOS BY REBECCA BUNCH

Sam Harding (left) was among the youngest visitors to the dig site at the Courthouse Green, Monday. Sam is seen here watching members of the team dig in an area where a possible foundation was uncovered at the site.

that's a huge help. With the radar we now have data on the entire lawn." John Mintz, chief archaeologist with the Office of State Archaeology in Raleigh, was on hand to assist and observe during the first day of the dig. He expressed regret that other obligations would prevent him from being present on Tuesday and Wednesday as the dig continued. "You can basically view this as a cultural landscape," Mintz said. "It's fascinating." Equally intrigued by all the activity at the site were Edenton resident Cynthia Harding and her son, Sam, who was possibly the youngest visitor there on Monday. "We live in the neighborhood and we heard about it, and we were really interested in what they might find," Harding said. "We've only been living here for two years so we're still learning about the history of Edenton. I'm amazed at the patience (the archaeologists) have shown in handling all these little pieces, and being so careful."



Shawn Patch, a principal investigator and geophysics specialist for New South Associates, holds a heavy piece of bottle glass found at the Courthouse Green dig, Monday.

Asset sell-off could reduce electric bills

From staff reports

The N.C. Eastern Municipal Power Agency and Duke Energy Progress have announced an agreement for the purchase of NCEMPA's power-generating assets. The sale still must be approved by regulators but would reduce the debt owed by NCEMPA from \$1.9 billion to approximately \$480 million. The deal could lower power bills significantly for Town of Edenton utility customers. Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton greeted the announcement as good news. "The mayor and council were pleased to hear that the Power Agency and Duke Energy Progress announced that both companies' boards of directors have approved an agreement for Duke Energy Progress to purchase the Agency's generating assets," she said. "The Town Council previously adopted a resolution supporting the negotiations so this is positive news. As Electricities Chief Executive Officer Graham Edwards said this is a complicated transaction that requires federal and state approvals. But today's news is positive and we will keep working to achieve the goal to reduce the Agency's debt and lower the Agency's wholesale electric costs to member cities and towns." Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, noted the agreement follows a plan he advocated in a House resolution that encouraged NCEMPA to pursue a sale of its assets to an investor-owned utility in order to reduce the utility's massive debt, which drove up the cost of electric power significantly higher than other parts of the state.

"Once regulators approve, this positive step forward will lead to more jobs for our area," Steinburg said. "High energy costs are preventing businesses from moving here or new businesses from starting here. Family budgets are tight, and lower energy costs will make a big difference on everyone's bottom line. This approach is the right way to lower costs quickly while maintaining a reliable power supply." Hertford Town Manager Brandt See SELL-OFF, 3A

"The Night Out" set for Tuesday
From staff reports
Two neighborhood parks will be host sites for this year's National Night Out Against Crime in Edenton. The Edenton Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies will host the National Night Out Against Crime Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. There will be hot dogs, cold drinks and crime prevention information while supplies last. The Night Out celebration this year will be held at two locations — Griffith Park on East Freemason Street and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue Playground. Previous year's celebrations have been held at the downtown waterfront, but this year's event will move the celebration into two neighborhoods in town.

Legal filing postpones farmland auction
BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor
Two large tracts of land that had been slated for sale by auction Monday afternoon might not have to be sold after all. A business entity known as the J. Gilliam Wood Family Limited Partnership has filed for relief under chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. The filing was Friday, according to a letter and fax from Amy M. Currin, a New Bern-based attorney who represents the Partnership. A sizeable portion of farmland — roughly 300 acres — along Highway 32 South on the outskirts of Edenton had been scheduled for sale by auction Monday afternoon at the Chowan County Courthouse. That sale was postponed indefinitely as a result of Friday's filing. "The filing of this Bankruptcy proceeding acts as a stay in any actions pending against the Debtor," Currin explained in the letter. Although the family has been involved in a number of residential developments, none of those residential properties were included in the notice of the sale that had been slated for Monday afternoon. The tracts involved in the notice of sale consisted entirely of farmland along both sides of Highway 32 South. Currin explained that the Partnership was formed for limited purposes related to the ownership of the two See FARMLAND, 3A

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