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Council OKs sidewalk beer, wine service

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The town council voted Sept. 9 to amend an existing ordinance to allow serving of beer and wine outside downtown businesses.

The council approved the measure on a 4-2 vote with

Councilmen Steve Biggs and Elton Bond Jr. voting in opposition.

Prior to the vote Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton addressed some questions that had been asked at a previous council meeting concerning the amendment. Among them was whether

businesses that wanted to participate would be required to serve meals.

Knighton said that restaurants serving alcohol are required to have a percentage of food sales but restaurants, cafes or other stores such as a wine shop can serve beer and wine as long

as there is food available for purchase.

"For example, Edenton Bay Trading has cheese and crackers available for purchase and therefore the business is able to seek an ABC permit to serve wine and beer on their premises," she said.

Edenton Bay Trading Company and Emilio's are the two downtown businesses that have expressed interest in the opportunity.

Knighton noted that the amendment to the ordinance would state no such service would be offered after 10 p.m. and that the operators

of eligible businesses must not have violated a local ordinance within the last three years.

The designated area to be used would be clearly marked with signs and roping, she said, and the

See SIDEWALK, 4A

Historic hotel renovation gets council green light

■ Developer eyeing return to 'Joseph Hewes' name

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

A proposed Edenton hotel restoration project moved a step closer to getting started after receiving favorable votes from the town council last week.

The two unanimous votes at the council's Sept. 9 meeting came in response to a request from SAGA Construction at the site of the former Hotel Hinton building on East King Street. The developers announced during the meeting that they intended to rename the hotel in honor of Edenton patriot Joseph Hewes.

The votes were cast after public hearings on requests for two conditional use permits, the first of which would allow subdividing of a .39-acre parcel located at the site from a larger tract owned by Chowan County. That larger tract includes other properties owned by the county, including the historic 1905 Jailer's House and the 1825 Chowan County Jail.

The second permit would make possible the creation of 65 hotel rooms, a restaurant, a conference meeting facility and a rooftop lounge, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said.

SAGA representatives are scheduled to meet with the Preservation Commission on Sept. 22 at 1:15 p.m. in the town council chambers. The commission's guidelines require

See HINTON, 3A

PHOTO
COURTESY UNC
ARCHIVES

This postcard shows the historic Hotel Joseph Hewes, later known as the Hotel Hinton before serving as the Chowan County government offices. A developer is planning to renovate the historic structure and resume the "Joseph Hewes" name.



HOTEL JOSEPH HEWES, EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA

GRAPHIC
COURTESY SAGA
CONSTRUCTION

This rendering shows the scale of a proposed rooftop lounge that SAGA Construction plans to create atop the Hotel Hinton building.



Woman sues EC auto dealer over radio ads

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

A Chowan County woman who lost her young son and her home in an April 25 tornado has sued Alliance Nissan, alleging the Elizabeth City auto dealership exploited her personal tragedy for commercial purposes and fraudulently raised money in her name without presenting the collected donations to her.

Ashley Bain's lawsuit was filed in Chowan County Superior Court the first week of September.

The lawsuit, filed by Raleigh attorney Robert H. Jessup, points out Bain lost her 11-month-old son, Gavin, when a tornado destroyed her home on

April 25.

"Less than a week after these events, Defendant Alliance Nissan began a sales campaign premised upon exploiting the Plaintiff's tragedy to sell cars and steal money," the lawsuit states.

The suit seeks damages for medical costs related to anxiety and suffering caused by the ad campaign; punitive damages of three times the compensatory damages, or \$250,000, whichever is greater; and the imposition of a "constructive trust" that will pay to Bain any funds collected through the campaign that claimed it was raising money for her and her family.

The court filing states that Alliance Nissan aired more than 1,000 one-minute radio commercials on a dozen popular radio stations in northeastern North Carolina between April 30 and May 15.

The ads "graphically described the death of the

See RADIO ADS, 4A

Views differ on enrollment-funding

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Enrollment in the Edenton-Chowan Schools is relatively stable this year following several consecutive years of declining enrollment.

Meanwhile, local and state officials disagree regarding the extent to which the schools' enrollment impacts funding.

Superintendent Rob Jackson said last week that 2,220 students had shown up for school so far this year. That figure doesn't include 57 pre-kindergarten students who aren't counted as part of the local school system's average daily membership (ADM).

The state allots funds to school districts across the state based on ADM.

The state potentially could pull back a teaching posi-

tion if there were a sharp drop in ADM by the 20-day mark, but Jackson said he doesn't expect that to happen.

Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, said in recent speeches in the district that the local school district had lost about \$2 million in state funding in recent years because of declining enrollment.

Steinburg said the state might need to reconsider the formula that allocates state education dollars based on enrollment.

But as long as the formula is in place, local school officials need to acknowledge the role that declining enrollment plays in decreased state funding, according to Steinburg.

Asked about Steinburg's assertion, Jackson said he

See VIEWS DIFFER, 4A

Dollar stores eye sites along Va. Road

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Two popular dollar stores have expressed interest in locations in northern Chowan County.

Landin Holland, planning director for the county, mentioned during discussion of a proposed ordinance amendment at Monday's meeting of

the Chowan Board of Commissioners that Dollar General and Family Dollar had approached county planning officials with an interest in sites along Virginia Road.

The two sites are the intersection with Rocky Hock Road across from C.A. Perry and the intersection with Sandy Ridge Road across from White Oak Elementary School.

The information about the two companies' interest in the northern Chowan sites was presented during discussion of a proposed text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to add variety stores and general merchandise stores as a special use in the county's A-1

See STORES, 2A



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