



Lassiter finds ministry in working with kids — 4B

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Board appoints Turner assistant superintendent

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Chowan Middle School Principal Tanya Turner has been named assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for the Edenton-Chowan Schools effective July 1.

The school board gave its approval during its Jan. 5 monthly board meeting. Superintendent Rob Jackson

recommended Turner for the position at the conclusion of a month-long application and selection process, school officials said.

"I am very pleased that Ms. Turner will serve the school system as the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction," Jackson said in a news release an-



TURNER

nouncing her new position. "I am excited about the leadership and expertise Ms. Turner will bring to our K-12 curricular and instructional program as she works with our teachers, principals and directors in continuing to move our school system forward."

Turner said she felt "humbled" to have been chosen to fill the position that has been vacant since Rob Boyce's retirement in the fall of 2009.

"I feel incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to serve the staff and students of our county in this role," she said.

Turner said that her role would involve providing leadership in strategic planning at the school and sys-

tem-wide level to improve curriculum development and delivery.

"This will also involve helping individual schools and teachers to analyze and use assessment data to improve staff and student performance," she said.

Michelle Maddox, human resources director for the school system said no additional funds would be required as a result of Turner's

hiring.

"The position was re-established by the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education through a reorganization of existing positions and assignments made possible through attrition," said Michelle Maddox, the school system's human resources director. "The position does not add additional staff

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NEW PUSH UNDERWAY TO RESTORE PRESERVATION TAX CREDITS

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

With the 2015 North Carolina General Assembly session scheduled to convene in Raleigh today (Wednesday), many Chowan County residents and state officials are hoping legislators will make restoration of historic preservation tax credits a priority.

The tax credits that had been in effect since 1998 expired Dec. 31, 2014.

But support for their return voiced by Gov. Pat McCrory has led to hope that they will be restored in some form.

Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, has seen firsthand how the tax credits have benefited Chowan County residents and says he will continue to "strongly support" them as a way to encourage the rehabilitation of historic homes and buildings in the community.

Jennifer Harriss, director of Destination Edenton Inc., said the DDE Board would be discussing a potential resolution in support of the tax credits at its meeting this week.

"Historic tax credits have been instrumental in Edenton's success in historic preservation thus far and are crucial for the preservation and economic development of our historic properties in the future," Harriss said.

Harriss, who represents the Northeast Region on the N.C. Downtown Development Association Board, said NCDDA encourages everyone to sign the online petition in support of the tax credits at www.historic-taxcredits.org.



STAFF PHOTOS BY REBECCA BUNCH

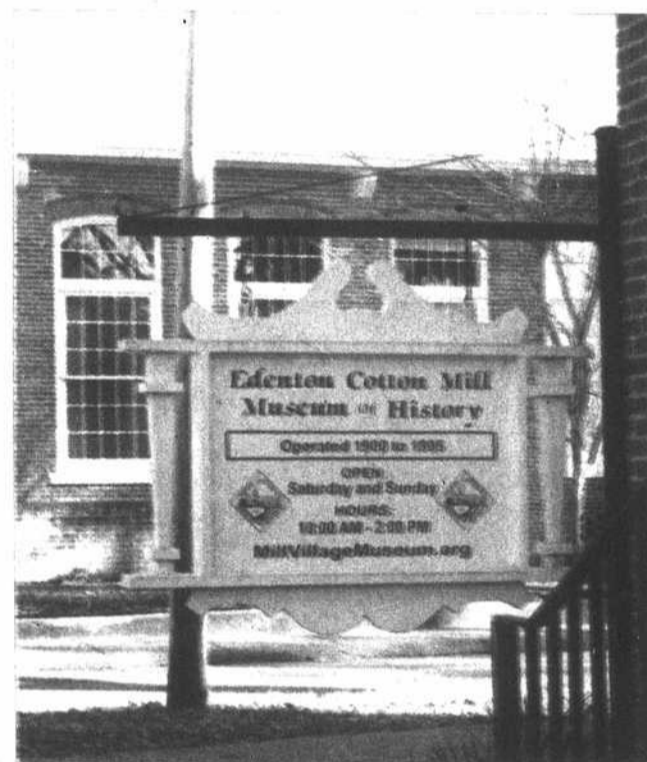
Brigid Bohl points out some of the work being done at the Mill office building that houses the Cotton Mill Museum. She and her husband Dan used both sets of state tax preservation tax credits, one for their condo and the other for the historic Mill office.

According to Reid Thomas, restoration specialist with the Eastern office of NC State Historic Preser-

vation in Greenville, the tax credits have made "a real difference in the preservation and reinvestment of historic properties in Ed-

enton and throughout northeastern North Carolina."

"Fully embraced by the residents of Edenton, the numerous successful tax credit projects have encouraged revitalization of older and historic properties in surrounding communities and rural areas," Thomas added. "Beyond the economic benefits of historic



The old Mill office building that also houses the Cotton Mill Museum is among the historic preservation projects that have benefited from state historic preservation tax credits. Local residents are watching the NC General Assembly as the 2015 legislative session convenes this week and hoping the tax credits will be restored.

older buildings, reinvestment in preservation is a superb tool to help communities with local challenges such as public safety and healthcare as related to dilapidated buildings."

Thomas noted that the non-economic return realized from investing in older and historic properties "connects with real living issues adding to economic benefits and preserving places that matter."

According to Thomas's office, in Edenton and Chowan County there have been 33 income-producing tax credit projects completed with a private investment of \$8,443,115. Non-income

producing projects completed in Edenton and Chowan County include 33 projects with a private investment of \$7,086,395, he said.

Edenton attorney and preservationist Sambo Dixon said that to see how the community has benefited from historic preservation tax credits, citizens only needed to look around them.

"I think if we look around Edenton we will see example after example," he said. "Think of Edenton without Swain School, the Edenton Cotton Mill, the Edenton Peanut Company ... and

See TAX CREDITS, 2A

Bridge closing re-routes traffic through Chowan

BY GENE MOTLEY

Roadside Chowan News-Herald

Emergency repairs on a bridge near Plymouth have resulted in northbound traffic on Highway 45 in Washington County being re-routed across the Sound Bridge into Chowan — and all the way across Chowan County on U.S. 17 into Bertie.

Highway 45, a major thoroughfare connecting Bertie County to Washington County, was closed on the afternoon of Jan. 7 due to the emergency bridge repairs.

According to information sent via email by the N.C. Department of Transportation, at this time there is no

The bridge, which was constructed in 1967 and is located just south of the Three Rivers Bridge at the Bertie-Washington County line, spans Conaby Creek north of Plymouth.

N.C. DOT performed an inspection of the bridge and determined that it should be closed to traffic immediately while crews make emergency repairs to the structure. Plans are currently being developed for the necessary work.

Motorists are advised to use caution while traveling in the area, seek alternate routes and to expect delays. N.C. DOT reminds motorists to watch signs for construction information, stay alert and obey the posted speed limit.

For travel information, visit the Travel section of the NCDOT website, call 511, or follow NCDOT on Twitter.

County mulls farmland care program

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Chowan County officials are considering a proposal to work with Mt. Olive University on a plan for preserving farmland and forest in the county.

Grace Lawrence, coordinator of the Farm and Forest Preservation Program at the Mt. Olive University Business Center, spoke to the Chowan Board of Commissioners about the program at the commissioners' Jan. 5 meeting.

The program is offered at no cost

to the county and includes a survey of the current state of agriculture in the county and recommendations for preserving farmland and family-owned forest.

Chowan already has in place a Voluntary Agriculture District, which is another tool for farmland protection or preservation.

Katy Shook, Chowan's interim extension director, told the commissioners that both the Board of the Commissioners and the Voluntary Agriculture District Board would need to authorize the Mt. Olive program to

proceed with the plan.

The commissioners said they would wait for the Voluntary Agriculture District Board to vote on the proposal before taking their own vote.

The development of the plan involves identifying challenges to family farms and forests and then identifying farmland preservation tools, Lawrence said.

One potential benefit of the plan is that some grant programs assign a higher priority to counties that have a

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Fund balance continues growth in 2013-14

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Chowan County grew its financial reserves by more than \$700,000 during the most recent fiscal year.

That information was part of a presentation by a representative of Martin Starnes & Associates during the Jan. 5 meeting of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners.

The county received an "unmodified opinion" or clean opinion in the report of the audit for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2014.

Much of the commissioners' focus in receiving the audit report is on fund balance, which is generally accepted as a bellwether of overall fiscal soundness.

The available fund balance at June 30, 2013 was \$5,107,715. As of June 30

of last year that figure had increased by \$895,176 to \$6,002,891.

The increase in the fund balance for general fund only — not the "consolidated" figure used by the state's Local Government Commission — was \$716,000.

The available fund balance is 41.2 percent of expenditures. That's well

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estimated to increase for opening of the bridge to traffic.

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