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Teams end regular season with wins — 1B

482-4418

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

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## Commissioners approve solar farm permit

Strings attached to board's 6-1 vote on Monday

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Staff Writer

For more than four hours Monday, Chowan County commissioners listened to presentations and discussed whether to approve permitting for a proposed 5-megawatt solar farm in the northern end of the county.

Ryland Road Solar, a SunEnergy1 company, applied for a conditional use

permit to develop the solar farm at 3448 Virginia Road, north of the Ryland Road intersection in Tyner. Ryland Road Solar is proposing to build the solar farm on 65 acres of an approximately 106-acre tract.

The Chowan County Planning Commission recommended approval of Ryland Road Solar's request for the conditional use permit in January.

Monday, the county commission held a public hearing topped by a quasi-judicial hearing to determine

how to proceed. Overall, commissioners voted 6-1 in favor of the company's permit but with some strings attached.

For example, the company will need to look at perhaps increasing the bonding needed should the project ever need to be decommissioned. The current proposal has \$60K bond whereas other projects' bond have been set much higher.

Bonding amount is determined not by the company, but by a third party contractor.

Linda Nwadike, a SunEnergy1 representative, said the company would look into potentially increasing \$60K to \$100K. She said if the project was ever decommissioned, commissioners could recover any salvage costs by selling the metals and materials utilized by the solar farm.

Another condition commissioners sought was moving the fence line from the property's borders closer to the affected development so as to provide more of a buffer between Virginia Road



Location of proposed 5 MW solar farm on about 65 acres

GOOGLE MAPS

Ryland Road Solar has applied for a conditional use permit to develop a solar farm on 65 acres of land on Virginia Road.

and abutting property owners.

Also, commissioners sought improvements to

any trees and foliage located within the buffer zones

See SOLAR, 3A

## Warrant issued for stabbing

Dwight Coston's death still under investigation

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Staff Writer

Edenton police have released the cause of death of an Edenton man killed Thursday afternoon.

Dwight Coston was critically injured after being stabbed in an incident that took place around 3 p.m. near North



COOPER

Granville and West Carteret streets, Police Chief Henry King said.

Coston, 36, was taken to Vidant Chowan Hospital, where he later died.

Coston's death is being investigated as a homicide, King said.

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Andrew Jerome Cooper.

Police said Cooper is considered extremely dangerous and wanted for a homicide.

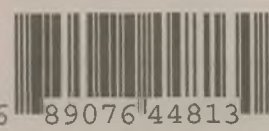
Police identified Cooper, 31, of Brown Summit as a black male, 6 feet tall, with black hair and brown eyes. If anyone has information on the whereabouts of Cooper, they are requested to call 911 immediately. Do not attempt to detain him. A cash reward is being offered for information leading to Cooper's arrest.

King said State Bureau of Investigation agents are working with Edenton police on the probe into Coston's death. He asked that anyone who may have witnessed the incident that led to Coston's death to contact Special Agent

See WARRANT, 2A



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## SOME ENCHANTED EVENING



PHOTOS BY MILES LAYTON

Broadway star Randal Keith is belting out either a song from "Phantom of the Opera" or "South Pacific."

## Masquerade Ball highlights historic Wessington

Masked partygoers attend Commission fundraiser

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Staff Writer

EDENTON — Masquerade Ball was an elegant, fantastic, magical and masked affair held Saturday evening at Wessington House.

The party served as a fundraiser for the Edenton Historical Commission, a group that works to preserve Chowan County's architectural heritage.

One of the event's key organizers, Joy Harvill, spoke of the party and historic Wessington House, the antebellum brick home at the

intersection of West King Street and South Granville streets.

"I want people to be talking about this party for years to come," she said. "Our goal is to preserve historic buildings, so having it at Wessington was really important to me. Getting folks in there and talking about it increases their appreciation for our local architecture and history. This was more than a party. It was an invitation for people to become more aware and involved in what we are doing as an organization."

The Historical Commission is made up of volun-

See MASQUERADE, 4A



Though there were no kegs stands or rounds of Truth or Dare played, the party did feature exotic masks, formal attire and good times.

## Hospital to file for bankruptcy

Washington County officials seek possession of facility

From Staff Reports

PLYMOUTH — The Washington County Board of Commissioners met Monday in an emergency session to consult with legal counsel regarding the county's limited options available in the aftermath of Washington County Hospital's recent announcement on Feb. 14 that all hospital medical services, including its emergency department, were suspended that evening until further notice.

After careful thought and consideration of the information available to the county at this time, the Board voted unanimously to transmit a letter to the hospital ownership declaring its position that its

See HOSPITAL, 3A

## Hardy-Lassiter to run for mayor

Owner hopes to create opportunities for residents

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON  
 Editor

A newcomer to local politics and native of Edenton is running for mayor.

Jacqueline Hardy-Lassiter announced her bid to run for mayor last week. The owner of Victorian's Boutique for Him and Her on South Broad

See MAYOR, 2A

## World of Harry Potter coming to library

Extravaganza celebrating book series set for March 2

BY GERARD COONEY  
 For the Chowan Herald

What book series, first published in 1998, became one of the most popular fiction series of all time? That's easy! The Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling.

Of course, if you are a fan of the series, you know that Muggles are people who don't recognize any magical abilities in themselves. However, that may change as the Shepard-Pruden

Memorial Library Friends are hosting a Harry Potter Extravaganza Party from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 2. Magic wands will be waved, and you will reappear on Platform 9 3/4 in London's King's Cross Train Station.

To coincide with the event, the Taylor Theater will host two free screenings of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, March 1. The screenings are for children under 12 years of age who attend with an adult.

"The whole library will be an open house of displays,

activities, games, and many more things that are so special that we are keeping them very, very secretive until the Party," whispered Lee Lolkema, president of the Friends of the Library. "Hey, the New York Library and the Chicago Museum held Harry Potter shows, so Edenton's Public Library is next in line."

"For a preview of what's in store for you on March 2nd, stop by the Library anytime and see the fabulous display on Harry Potter in the lobby," Lolkema said.

See POTTER, 3A



PHOTO COURTESY GERARD COONEY

FOL Board members (l-r) Beth Brabble, Brandy Goodwin, Sarah McLoughlin and President Lee Lolkema proudly stand in front of Harry Potter preview display created by Vonna O'Neill.

### Harry Potter Extravaganza!

Saturday, March 2nd, 2019  
 Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library  
 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

### AND Free Events!

Friday, March 1st at 11:00 and 2:00... *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*  
 Free entry at the Taylor Twin (Children under 12 with an Adult)  
 Fun on Teachers' Workday!