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EDENTON STEAMERS HOST JUNIOR HOME RUN DERBY — B4

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019

75¢

Commission OKs permit for solar facility

Neighbor wants ditch along Sign Pine Road site

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff writer

Poet Robert Frost once wrote, "Good fences make good neighbors."

Wonder if that sentiment would apply to a drainage ditch between a proposed solar farm and a longtime family farm deep in the

heart of Chowan County?

During Monday's county commission meeting, such a ditch was a major sticking point during discussions before a decision was made to grant a conditional-use permit for Gliden Solar, a division of SunEnergy1, to develop a 5-megawatt solar farm on 414 Sign Pine Road.

Gliden is proposing to build the facility on 56

acres of an 82-acre tract owned by Eugene N. Jordan and his family. A farmer, Jordan also chairs the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education. He made an impassioned plea in favor of the solar farm and said he's done his best to work with his neighbors to reduce the project's impact on their property.

Jordan's neighbor, Colbert Byrum Jr., said he is

worried that his field would become a holding pond without a drainage ditch because the land where the solar site is to be built is at a higher elevation than his land. He noted that other property he owns on Jehu Road is adversely affected by the presence of a nearby solar farm.

A topographical map that was part of company's

presentation indicated that most of any runoff would drain away into what experts called a "swampy" area, rather than Byrum's field.

County planner Brandon Shoaf said he witnessed standing water during his visit to the area.

Byrum was represented by one of the area's top legal talents, Thomas Wood of Godwin and Wood, who

made a strong case his client's property would be adversely affected without a drainage ditch. He noted Shoaf's testimony about the standing water, as well as drainage patterns in the area.

"It's not too much to ask for a ditch," he said.

Linda Nwadike, of SunEnergy1, contends

See SOLAR, A2



Cecelia Haigler (center) speeds to the finish line as her father, Ted Haigler, follows Saturday during the Edenton-Chowan Kiwanis 5K.

5K raises \$8K for Kiwanis programs

124 participate in annual race Saturday morning

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff writer

Racers and pacers lined up for the ninth annual Edenton-Chowan Kiwanis Club 5K Saturday morning on West Gale Street.

The race featured a record turnout — 124 runners registered — to raise more than \$8,000 for Kiwanis programs and scholarships. Congrats!

A solitary second separated the top overall male medalists — that must have been some sprint up the straightaway to the shoot at the end — but to quote the movie the Highlander, "There can be only one."

Fourteen-year-old Axel Preciado (21:02) narrowly edged out 13-year-old Chohan Middle School distance phenom Jackson Stegall (21:03) in the 3.1 mile race. Vidant's Brian White took home the bronze with a time of 21:30 minutes. Vidant had a



Fourteen-year-old Axel Preciado (21:02) narrowly edged out 13-year-old Chohan Middle School distance phenom Jackson Stegall (21:03) to win the ninth annual Kiwanis 5K on Saturday in Edenton.

strong presence for this race with several staff members wearing teal shirts with "I'm all about that pace" on the back. Thanks for supporting the community!

Per the women's side of the ledger, Victoria Brinson won the race (23:35) followed by Miriam Calvo in second (23:46) and Sarah Hunting in third (24:20).

There were many fa-

miliar faces in the group and a few standout performances from folks who pushed themselves to the limit while zipping through the scenic downtown neighborhood in temperatures hovering in the upper 70s along with more than a bit of humidity.

Police Chief Henry King ran the race wearing his bullet proof vest, which probably weighs between

6-10 pounds. His 9-year-old son Amarii also competed.

Thomas DiMartino ran the race without wearing any shoes. And yes, his feet look as though as hobbit's feet. Many mornings, DiMartino can be seen jogging barefoot through the fields bordering Hayes Plantation with his trusty dog.

Stegall's teammate Logan Garman won his age division and placed fourth overall (22:22). If these two can keep at it, future Aces' cross country teams will dominate the Albemarle Athletic Conference. Aces' long distance star Blake Meadows finished the race with a respectable time of 24:55 minutes.

Sisters Amy and Amanda Turner, both Aces' cross country runners, finished side-by-side.

More than a few moms or dads ran with their children. Worth noting, 4-year-old Cecilia Haigler beat her father Ted by three seconds

See KIWANIS, A2

Thomas Shepard Sr., ex-magistrate, dies

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff writer



SHEPARD

A tribute was offered for the record when Chohan County Superior Court opened

for business Monday.

"Tom was a pillar of our community, and loved by all. He was a gentleman farmer and agribusiness professional," McArthur said.

Thomas Hoskins Shepard Sr., 94, a former clerk of Superior Court, magistrate and agribusiness man passed away on Friday, May 3, in his home. A member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Shepard's funeral was Monday at the church he loved. He is buried in the family plot at Beaver Hill Cemetery.

According to Mike McArthur, eight-term clerk of Superior Court, Shepard served as the appointed Clerk of Superior Court in Chohan County between 1959 and 1961. He served as a justice of the peace before being appointed clerk, then left office and became a magistrate through about 1974.

Many stories were shared during Shepard's funeral service. Former county commissioner John Mitchener relayed this story from Shepard's son, Blount.

See SHEPARD, A3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Paddleboarding and boat cruises will be among the many activities taking place May 17-18 during the Edenton Music and Water Festival.

Music, Water Fest set for May 17-18

SUBMITTED REPORTS

The 21st annual Edenton Music and Water Festival has announced activities full of fun and music.

The event, held May 17-18, will provide visitors and residents a chance to get on the water either in a boat or kayak at no cost.

A sunset paddle will be held Friday, May 17. Launch from Elizabeth Vann Moore Park at 6:30 p.m. and wind down with light refreshments. If in need of a kayak, one can be reserved by contacting 252-482-0300 or 800-775-0111 ahead of time.

See FEST, A2

Firefighters train on controlled burn

Two vacant buildings were destroyed on N. Oakum St.

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
Editor

The Edenton Fire Department conducted a live burn exercise Saturday on two vacant buildings in the 200 block of North Oakum Street.

A small crowd gathered to watch as 16 firefighters worked the blaze that started around 10 a.m. and was extinguished at approximately 4 p.m.

A fire hose on the department's ladder truck sprayed down a house on East Gale Street that Fire Department Chief Billy Bass said was in the process of being repaired. Another hose, set up like a sprinkler, kept a nearby duplex on North Oakum Street from catching on fire.

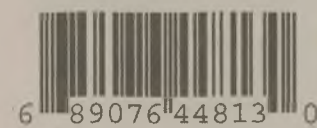
"This is an important training as it allows our new and veteran firefighters the opportunity to experience firefighting in a controlled environment,"

See BURN, A4



Edenton firefighters watch a controlled burn at two vacant houses Saturday in the 200 block of North Oakum Street. To the left, the ladder truck is spraying water on a home on East Gale Street to prevent it from catching on fire.

What's Happening in Chowan County



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CAC student art exhibit opens Thursday. — A7

Obituaries — A3

Mattie Jane Burns
Audrey L. Copeland
Janis Comer Jordan

Mary Midgett Robinson
Thomas Hoskins Shepard Sr.

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21st Annual Edenton Music & Water Festival
May 17-18, 2019

Presented by: **SOUND BANK**
Sound Thinking. Solid Results.

Sponsored by: **KITTY HAWK KITES**

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Chowan Hospital

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