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EDENTON U10 ALL-STARS WIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP — B1

Taco Bell construction reset for Sept.

Council gets update on Peanut Drive water line

BY MILES LAYTON
 Staff writer

Though there is a lot going on with Edenton Town Council, a topic that has generated more than a bit of chatter remains to be

the progress of a Taco Bell.

Before getting to the beans and meat wrapped up in the busy burrito that was Monday's council meeting, here's the latest update about the popular fast food restaurant.

"The project is alive and active," Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton said

before the meeting.

A Virginia Beach, Virginia-based developer announced plans in December to build a Taco Bell restaurant on Virginia Road. The developer, which also does business as Burgerbusters, Inc., plans to build a 2,420-square-foot restaurant on

the site next to Burger King where Southern Bank currently operates an ATM. The bank will relocate the ATM.

"The project manager explained the land acquisition from Chowan Crossing Shopping Center took more time, however, the project manager is hopeful

the property acquisitions for the project will be approved by Burger Busters in early August," said Knighton who spoke to the company Monday.

The property is scheduled to be purchased in early August and construction hopefully will start in September, Knighton said.

Civil engineers for Burger Busters recently secured their driveway opening permit from state Department of Transportation on June 24.

Town of Edenton Director of Planning Elizabeth Bryant has fielded calls

See TACO BELL, A2

Gathering seeks end to gun violence

'Sno Day' honors victims, shows participants peaceful alternatives

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
 Editor

Several people braved the July heat on Saturday to pay tribute to those who have died due to gun violence and to heal their community.

Nicole Jackson, the mother of Marcus Jackson, a John A. Holmes graduate who was killed earlier this year in Durham, organized the first annual "Sno Day" 2019: A Day Dedicated to Marcus Jackson, which was held at Edenton's Colonial Park.

Several attendees wore orange, the color of gun violence awareness. Some shirts memorialized loved ones who were killed by gun violence.

Jackson wore an orange shirt with the words "THIS MOM HAS HAD #ENOUGH." Marcus' 2-year-old son Ma'Khari wore a T-shirt that read "In memory of my Dada" on the front surrounding an orange ribbon.

Latisha Holley, is Nicole Jackson's friend. A few months after Marcus Jackson's death, Holley lost her husband, Cruize Riddick, to gun violence. He died on June 19 after being shot on Badham Road.

Like Nicole talking about Marcus, Latisha Holley and her children still talk about Riddick in first person, as if he is still here helping people at a moment's notice like he always has.

Holley noted that many people are hurt by gun violence, but for the families like hers, they are grieving.

"Some people are hurt and that lasts maybe a few weeks, or a month or two. But for those who are grieving, it lasts a lifetime," she said.

Holley said she hopes that Sno Day and other events like it reduce or eliminate gun violence.

"I hope people learn to talk things out or just walk away," she said. "We need to teach younger people that there is a better way."



Marcus Jackson's family releases doves in memory of those lost to gun violence Saturday at Colonial Park, Edenton.

Holley noted that Riddick was a loving husband and father and a dedicated friend.

"He was one of those people where if you needed him, you could call and he'd be there at a drop of a dime," she said. "There will be no more beach trips. No more trips with him, just with the memory of him."

Edenton Police Chief Henry King attended the event. According to statistics he provided from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, the No. 1 cause of death for African American males between the ages of 12 and 19 is homicide.

"It's sad. You look around at this event, and a lot of kids fit that age range," he said, while standing in the shade at the park.

Citizens must work together to change the narrative of gun violence in their community.

"We need to work together to make things better," he said. "Everyone wants their kids to grow up and to feel safe."

King noted that it was good to

See VIOLENCE, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A visitor to "Sno Day" takes a picture of table decorated with candles and photos of those killed by gun violence Saturday at Colonial Park, Edenton.

Three run for mayor

Edenton Town Council election set for Nov. 5

BY MILES LAYTON
 Staff writer

The ink is dry on the filing forms needed to run for mayor and Edenton Town Council. The candidate filing period ended July 19.

November's ballot will feature a three-way race for mayor between Jacqueline Hardy-Lassiter, a local business owner, and councilmen Jimmy Stallings and Steve Biggs, who serves as mayor pro-tem.

Edenton also will have a race for 2nd Ward councilor between Tray Taylor and incumbent Sambo Dixon.

William Hackney High Jr., a local attorney, is running uncontested for the 1st Ward seat currently held by Stallings.

Roger Coleman is unopposed for the at-large council seat currently held by Biggs.

Election day is Nov. 5.

Current Mayor Roland Vaughan already announced he's not seeking re-election after 24 years of service, which means there is change ahead, the passing of a torch.

Candidate's answers appear in alphabetical order for the names of those folks running — a

See MAYOR, A3

Biggs joins Edenton mayor race

BY MILES LAYTON
 Staff writer

Mayor pro tem Steve Biggs has thrown his hat in the ring to run for mayor.

"I've always thought that service to your community is a calling and a privilege," he said. "I been horned that the citizens of Edenton have allowed me to be a voice for them as their councilman for 24 years. I want to continue to help build a community that will thrive economically

See BIGGS, A3

Tobias: Edenton feels like home

BY MILES LAYTON
 Staff writer

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Early Friday morning, Jonathan Tobias sits by Edenton Coffee House's big windows. Even before coffee, Tobias is alert and welcoming when most folks are shaking off the morning.

As to welcoming, Tobias has a warm demeanor, perhaps his speech patterns and maybe this same fashion sense reminds someone of Mr. Fred Rogers, famed host of a children's show and whose life will soon

include a biographical film to be released in November, maybe featured at Taylor Theater.

Before we get to the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox priest part of Tobias' story — yes, Jonathan has the black robe and that cool square hat — let's start with the Mr. Rogers.

Whether real or imagined, Tobias and Rogers share some of the same dialect and speech patterns. Why? Both men

spent more than a bit of time in Pittsburgh — a Pennsylvania city that may be known to more than few folks in the area.

"Steeler Nation has an outpost here," he said. "Even my neighbor flies a Steelers' flag."

Tobias shared his opinion, perhaps a feeling shared by many who've moved away from the Rust Belt, about why he chose a small town to big

See TOBIAS, A2



NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Jonathan Tobias sits for a recent interview at the Edenton Coffee House.

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JULY 26 @ 7PM
 VS MOREHEAD CITY
 PERQUIMANS COUNTY NIGHT
 STRIKE OUT ALS
 KIDS RUN THE BASES

JULY 29 @ 7PM
 VS HOLLY SPRINGS
 LITTLE LEAGUE NIGHT
 50¢ HOT DOGS