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CHOWAN HERALD



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Wednesday, December 18, 2013

Board seeks public input in superintendent search

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The school board will hear a report at its Jan. 6 meeting on progress being made in a search for a new school superintendent.

Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Allan Smith will be leaving his position at the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

Board of Education Chairman John Guard said that when launching its searching the school board reached out to the N.C. School Board Association. Personnel from that office will be assisting them in reviewing applications and compiling data from an online survey seeking input from citizens as well as teachers and other school

staff about characteristics they think are important in a school superintendent for the community, he said.

"We're trying to make the best decision and find the best person to lead the Edenton-Chowan Schools hopefully for many years," Guard said.

The online survey directed toward citizen input asks them to rank skills

and personal abilities such as people skills, knowledge of technology and a willingness to consider new ideas. Guard said the survey created for school personnel is similar but contains some different questions.

Guard said the school board is hoping for many responses from the community to the online sur-

vey which can be accessed from the Edenton-Chowan Schools website.

The application process began Nov. 21, Guard said, and ends Jan. 21. Online comments must be submitted by Jan. 2.

"If people feel comfortable using a computer to complete the survey we want to encourage them to do so online," Guard said.

For those who don't, he said, printed copies of the survey are available from the school system's central office on West Queen Street and at the Shepherd-Pruden Library in downtown Edenton.

Anyone with questions about the online survey may contact the school system's central office at 482-4436.

SEEING THE SIGHTS



Guests visit the historic Elliott-Sitterson House during last weekend's Candlelight Tour.

PHOTO COURTESY WAYNE WOODBURY

Candlelight tour draws large crowd

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Just over 1,700 people purchased tickets for this year's Candlelight Tour, according to Gregg Nathan, executive director of the Edenton Historical Commission that sponsors the tour.

Nathan said that made the tour — held Friday and Saturday — the third most successful in the event's 32-year history. He said he thought the creation of a user-friendly online ticket purchase system was a big part of the reason.

"People could purchase tickets when we weren't here, when it was conve-

nient for them," Nathan said. "I think that worked really well for us."

Susan Wood, who co-chaired the event, agreed. She said that ticket sales this year were strong and credited the convenience of the online system with helping to boost attendance.

"Having our new online system worked well for the tour," Wood said.

Nathan said that Friday, the first day of the weekend tour, was a perfect day for visiting Edenton and because of predicted heavy rainfall on Saturday many people came then.

See TOUR, 3A



Part-time Edenton resident Rita Bigner, left, and her sister Bettie McDade of North Myrtle Beach, SC look at some gift items at the Barker House Saturday afternoon during the Candlelight Tour.

STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Nixon's Family Restaurant closing Dec. 29

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

A family-owned restaurant started nearly two decades ago by the late Murray Nixon will close its doors for the last time on Dec. 29.

Ricky Nixon and his sister Lynda Harrell, co-owners of Nixon's Family Restaurant on River Road, said the decision was a difficult one to make but that the downturn

in the economy and the resulting drop in new customers combined with the rising cost of doing business with suppliers made it necessary.

"This was daddy's dream," Harrell said Sunday afternoon, looking around the restaurant filled with Nixon family photos as diners filled their plates after church on Sunday. "We really don't want to do what we're doing but we have no choice."

Nixon said that 19 years ago when his father opened the newly established business on Valentine's Day the location was ideal. There were companies such as



Visitors to Nixon's Family Restaurant fill their plates from the buffet which features some of the area's best country cooking. The restaurant, located on River Road in Edenton, will be closing its doors Dec. 29.

CHOWAN HERALD FILE PHOTO



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See NIXON'S, 3A



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Author Troy Kickler signs a copy of "The King's Troublemakers" during a book-signing event at the Barker House Friday afternoon.

Historian signs books at Barker House

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

A unique offering in connection with this year's Candlelight Tour was the opportunity to have historian Troy Kickler sign and personalize a copy of his new book on Edenton's contribution to the founding of the American Republic.

The first printing of Kickler's new book, "The King's Troublemakers," arrived at the Barker House just in time for the tour this past weekend, and Kickler made his made to town to sign copies of the book on Friday afternoon.

"I wanted to remind people that the founding occurred in places other than Boston and Philadelphia — and Edenton had an important role," Kickler said of the book's focus on local founders.

The book is published by the Edenton Historical Commission and is on sale at the Barker House.

Jerry Climer, chairman of the Edenton Historical Commission, said the book signing was an ideal event to hold in conjunction with the tour. Climer noted the event was impromptu — scheduled after the books unexpectedly arrived in advance of the tour.

The commission plans to have Kickler return early next year for a more widely publicized event so he can sign books again and possibly present a lecture on Edenton's role

See SIGNING, 3A

Smoke, fire mar house

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

A fire in the kitchen area damaged a house on Granville Street Monday night — but the family was unharmed.

In addition, firefighters and community volunteers removed Christmas gifts from Jeff Thatcher's home at 201 S. Granville St., and were hopeful that the presents would be OK.

The fire started in the kitchen area

See FIRE, 3A

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