

CHOWAN HERALD

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CHAMBER HONORS OPTIMISTS,
TOURISM BOOSTERS — 1B

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CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Alishia Simpson (left) joins White Oak School Principal Michelle White (right) in admiring the creativity of Amahni Norman, 5, and Walter Norman Jr., 4, during a children's workshop at the Shepard-Pruden Library, Saturday. The workshop was co-sponsored by Friends of the Library and the local Smart Start. See more photos from event at DailyAdvance.com.

Biz upbeat about prospects for growth

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The crowd at the sold-out Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting and banquet Thursday was mostly upbeat about the prospects for growth and prosperity in 2015.

The program featured progress reports on Chamber activities by April Layton, who served as the 2014 Chamber president, and Scott Noble, the 2015 Chamber president.

Awards were presented in six categories: Business Person of the Year; Volunteer of the Year; Humanitarian of the Year; Main Street Champion; Excellence in Tourism; and Organization of the Year.

Organization of the Year was a new category for 2014.

Business people who attended the event were mostly optimistic about the current business climate in the area and the opportunities for growth in 2015.

Noble said his own business is doing well.

"We're quite busy at this point," he said.

Bill Gardner, who has started selling cars at Edenton Motors after 25 years in the insurance business, said auto sales seem to have picked up significantly in recent months.

"The last four months have re-



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

April Layton, the 2014 president of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, presents the president's gavel to 2015 president Scott Noble during Thursday's annual Chamber meeting and banquet at the Chowan Golf and Country Club. See more photos on Page 6B and at DailyAdvance.com.

ally been great," Gardner said.

Dr. Stephen Benkusky of Edenton's Eye Care Center said his fellow business people in the community help make this a good place to do business.

"For a small community, Edenton has got a good core of business-minded people," Benkusky said. "The future hope-

fully will be bright."

Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton presented Vidant Chowan Hospital President Jeffrey Sackrison the 2014 John A. Mitchener Jr. Business Person of the Year Award.

Sackrison has been promoted to division president at Vidant and will be moving into that new

role early next month. Jeff Dial will take the reins as president of Vidant Chowan Hospital.

Knighton said she admires the work Sackrison does. He grew up in a hardworking family that instilled in him the habit of giving 100 percent to everything he

See CHAMBER, 4A

Barrow headed overseas for National Guard mission

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Edenton Town Planner Sam Barrow will soon leave to become part of a NATO peacekeeping mission in Eastern Europe.

Barrow, a captain in the North Carolina Army National Guard, serves as company commander for Company A, 1st Battalion 252 Armor Regiment, 30th Armor Brigade Combat Team based in Williamston. He and the 130-man infantry



FILE PHOTO

First Lt. Sam Barrow of the N.C. National Guard, offers a tribute to military servicemen and women during the 2012 Veterans Day ceremony at the Chowan County Veterans Memorial in Edenton.

while this will be his third deployment with the National Guard, it would be his first outside of the Middle East. Overseas deployments with the National Guard became commonplace after Sept. 11, 2001. At that point in addition to its traditional domestic role, the National Guard assumed a federal role supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and others

company will mobilize in the near future to the Balkans to support ongoing peacekeeping operations.

Barrow has been a member of the North Carolina National

Guard for the past 10 years, and is a veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

"I've been told it's a pretty secure area," Barrow said of Kosovo. Barrow said that

See BARROW, 3A

Resolution: Restore NC tax credit

From staff reports

Chowan County officials have joined their town of Edenton counterparts in backing the restoration of the state's historic preservation tax credit.

The Chowan Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the preservation tax credit at its Feb. 2 meeting.

The state's historic preservation tax credits ended Dec. 31.

Commissioner John Mitchener told his fellow commissioners that the Destination Downtown Edenton Board had adopted a resolution in support of restoring the state tax credit for historic preservation, and had asked the county commissioners to adopt a similar resolution of support.

Commissioner Keith Nixon made the motion to adopt the resolution.

A resolution backing the state historic preservation tax credit also has been adopted by the Edenton Town Council.

Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, is an outspoken supporter of the preservation tax credit in the House. But Steinburg has acknowledged that the tax credit faces an uphill battle in the Senate.

Senate leaders have been very strongly opposed to all tax credits as a matter of principle, according to Steinburg.

At the town council's Jan. 13 regular monthly meeting, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton noted that with support voiced by Gov. Pat McCrory and Secretary of Cultural Resources Susan Klutz has come "a groundswell of support" for the tax credit to be restored.

"We're also asking citizens to sign the petition that's online and will be taking to social media to help spread

See RESOLUTION, 3A

Howard outlines biz challenges

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

County Manager Kevin Howard told a gathering at American Legion Post 40 last week that Chowan faces the kinds of economic development hurdles that all rural counties deal with but is working to overcome them.

During a question-and-answer session following Howard's remarks, Post 40 Commander Max Graybill talked about the need for jobs in the community.

"Our young people are not staying in the town, because there are no jobs for them," Graybill said.

Howard acknowledged it's a challenge to bring jobs to the community.

"It's a struggle for most rural counties to get jobs to come," Howard said. He added that's not an excuse; county officials are working to attract new business and industry to the community.

Boatbuilding is one of the industries that local officials are focusing on in cooperation with the N.C. East Alliance and other groups, according to Howard.

Howard also said the county is working with College of The Albemarle on using more of the Edenton-Chowan Campus and offering more programs here.

Economic development is an important part of what the county does, with the county participating in the Edenton-Chowan Partnership, Howard said during his remarks.

"We have several things in the works," Howard said, referring to industrial recruitment. He said he wasn't able to talk about any of those things at this time.

See HOWARD, 4A



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to get a singing Valentine.

Have the Barbershop Quartet deliver two love songs and a red rose \$35

Proceeds go to local school choral teachers.