



Shalom International Church presents 'A Different Kind of Christmas' - 6B

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Town seeks lease agreement with state for airport space

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Edenton town officials are seeking to end a stalemate with the state on an office space lease at the Northeastern Regional Airport that Mayor Roland Vaughan said has left the town owed \$100,000 in back rent "with no end in sight."

Vaughan has appointed a special committee to meet with state officials to secure a current lease for the portion of the airport property in Edenton occupied by state Department of Transportation staff.

Committee members will include Jim Kalbach and Chuck Schmeiler, chair and vice chair of the

local airport commission; town attorney Hood Ellis; Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton and Councilman Steve Biggs. Biggs serves as liaison between the town and the airport.

The action came Monday night at the town council's monthly work session.

In naming the committee, the

mayor emphasized that the town had been very satisfied with having DOT offices at the site since the original lease began in 1996.

Knighton explained in a Nov. 23 memo to the council that the town has been negotiating "in good faith" with NCDOT since last January in an effort to renew the lease for the office space at the airport

terminal building that is occupied by Division One highway staff.

"I have previously advised you of the frustrations we have encountered," she wrote in the memo. "The lease must be formally approved by the N.C. Council of State. The assistant director of the

See AIRPORT, 2A

MULTI-DAY 'BLACK FRIDAY' KICKS OFF HOLIDAY SHOPPING

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Local retailers reported a positive start to the annual Christmas shopping season even as sales events on Thanksgiving Day and even Thanksgiving Eve stole some of the thunder from the traditional Black Friday shopping extravaganza.

One of those shopping Friday morning at Peebles in downtown Edenton was Marvin McCleave.

McCleave was born and reared in Edenton, he said, "but I've been gone about 50 years."

Every two or three months, though, he comes back to see his father and sisters.

McCleave came home for Thanksgiving and on Friday morning was browsing Black Friday deals at Peebles.

"Just seeing what they've got," McCleave said. "Really I'm just looking for some jeans."

McCleave said his wife is the main shopper in the family and she stayed back in Maryland.

"I'm just looking around and if I see something I like I'll get it," McCleave said.

Jadelle Wagner, manager at Peebles, said Black Friday actually started on



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Tahlia Jefferson, a cashier at Peebles, rings up a customer Friday as manager Jadelle Wagner - who like Jefferson is adorned with festive holiday headwear - looks on.

See BLACK FRIDAY, 4A

Small Business Saturday shines light on local shops

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Small business owners are motivated to get into that line of work for a variety of reasons - everything from a desire to be their own boss to a desire to offer more personalized service within a community.

But all agree that small businesses play an important role in a town like Edenton. And a day like last Saturday, Small Business Saturday, is the perfect vehicle for getting customers thinking about the part that they play in community life.

Amy Roberson, whose business, FindersKeepers, is a little off the beaten path - her shop is located on Court Street just a short distance from the main Broad Street business district - is a believer.

"As a small business owner, I know

"I know it's not as convenient sometimes as shopping online from home, but small local shops really pride ourselves in trying to provide curated gifts and décor that are really one of a kind and special."

Amy Roberson
FindersKeepers

I personally need and appreciate every single purchase, no matter how small, from my store," she said. "I genuinely cherish all of the new friends and acquaintances I have gained and am honored to get to help furnish our customers' homes and provide personal gifts



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and customized décor to anyone and everyone that walks in our doors.

"I know it's not as convenient sometimes as shopping online from home, but small local shops really pride ourselves in trying to provide curated gifts and décor that are really one of a kind and special," she added.

Another challenge a small business can face is being taken over by new ownership. That's the case with one of the town's most popular eateries, the Nothin' Fancy Café and Market on North Broad Street.

Co-owner Frankie Eason said he has worked in the restaurant business

See BUSINESS, 4A

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Amy Roberson celebrates the Christmas season and the 'shop small' promotion that encourages shoppers to patronize small businesses in their communities.



Multiple arrests made in connection with break-ins

From staff reports

The Chowan County Sheriff's Office has arrested three local men in connection with a rash of daytime break-ins in rural parts of the county.

Sha'Quean Qui'Mahri Nix-



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on, 22, of Edenton, has been charged with three counts of felony breaking and entering, felony larceny after breaking and entering, and felony possession of stolen goods, and one additional count of felony breaking and entering. His bond has been set at \$70,000, secured, according to Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin.

Dy' Benz Kenyi Roulac, 20, of Edenton, has been charged with two counts of felony breaking and entering, felony larceny after break-



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ROULAC

ing and entering, and felony possession of stolen goods, and one additional count of felony breaking and entering. His bond has been set at \$35,000, secured, according to the sheriff's office.

Devonte Raekwon Dillard, 20, of Edenton, has been charged with three counts of felony breaking and entering, felony larceny after breaking and entering, and felony possession of stolen goods, and one additional count of felony breaking and entering. His bond has been set at \$50,000, secured, according

to the sheriff's office.

Goodwin said there had been seven or eight daytime break-ins in the Tip Toe Road area and northern sections of the county. These arrests solve many of those cases, he said.

Property has been recovered in connection with a number of the break-ins, Goodwin said. A variety of property was stolen from the homes, including electronics, guns, jewelry and cash, he said.

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ROCKY HOCK Opry FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2nd, 7:00PM
 Christmas Show
 Sponsored by the Rocky Hock Ruritan's Relay for Life Team
 Tickets \$10.00
 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd, 7:00PM
 Perquimans Co. High School Auditorium
 Hertford, NC
 Tickets Available at various locations or call 252-221-4875 or 252-340-3438. Email rockyhock opry@live.com