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Rocky Hock Pastor, son remain in hospital after crash

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

EDENTON — A Chowan County pastor and one of his two sons remain in a Virginia hospital following their pickup truck's collision with a school bus last week.

Mike Denny, a children's youth pastor at Rocky Hock Baptist Church, and his two sons — Will and Landon

— were injured when their pickup collided Wednesday morning with an Edenton-Chowan school bus on Harris Landing Road.

Mike Denny, who was driving the pickup, initially was taken to Vidant Chowan Hospital in Edenton before being taken by an ambulance to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital. Denny's sons were flown via medical

"The church is offering our hopes and prayers for a fast recovery. We're praying hard."

James Horton
 Rocky Hock Baptist Church senior pastor

helicopter directly from the crash site to the hospital.

Will Denny has since been released from the hospital, Rocky Hock Baptist Church

Senior Pastor James Horton said late last week. Mike Denny underwent surgery on Friday and is expected to recover, Horton said.

Landon Denny, meanwhile, remains under care at Sentara Norfolk, Horton said.

"The church is offering

our hopes and prayers for a fast recovery," Horton said. "We're praying hard."

Chowan EMS Director Colin Ryan said neither the bus driver nor any of the eight children on the bus sustained any injuries, but they were taken to Vidant Chowan Hospital for evaluation.

See HOSPITAL, 3A

GENEREROUS DONATIONS



A big crowd of more than a hundred people attended the Food Pantry's fundraiser on Saturday. Held at Nothin' Fancy Café and Market in Edenton, the charity event has raised \$2,550 for the nonprofit's Book Bag Buddies program.

PHOTOS BY MILES LAYTON

Book Bag Buddies benefit from fundraiser

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

Saturday night's "Fill the Food Pantry" fundraiser held at the Nothin' Fancy Café and Market in Edenton has raised \$2,550 for the nonprofit's Book Bag Buddies program.

Lee Lolkema, spokeswoman for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship that sponsored the annual event, said 100 people attended.

"Many more bought tickets and gave generous donations," she said.

The program is aimed at making sure that kids in Chowan County receive ample food to take home on weekends and in the summer so that they don't go hungry.

Pantry Director Roger Coleman said that thanks to the strong support offered by the local community his organization's ability to feed hungry children is growing every year.

"I want to thank everyone for their support," he said. "This is a big undertaking."

Coleman said that the program is currently providing



Tasty cuisine was served at Saturday's Food Pantry fundraiser.

weekend meals to 135 children that attend White Oak and D.F. Walker Elementary Schools.

"Our budget currently supports 100 meals each week so fundraising events like the 'Fill

the Pantry' dinner are very important in allowing the Edenton-Chowan Food Pantry to continue meeting the full need of grade school children," he said. "The full cost of provid-

ing food for a child through the Book Bag Buddies program is \$200 per child."

The purpose of the program, Coleman said, is to make sure that children deemed "at-risk" by school counselors are provided adequate food.

"Such nutrition is important not only for maintaining good health but also for ensuring a child's ability to effectively participate in a learning setting," he said.

According to Coleman, major funding for the Book Bag Buddies program comes from Edenton United Methodist Church, Rocky Hock Baptist Church, Regulator Marine and the annual Walk for Hunger.

There are others who also make the program possible through donating their time to volunteer and to assist in the effort in other ways.

"Those who make the program possible, in addition to our generous contributors, are food pantry volunteers that meet each Wednesday morning to package the meals, Vi-

See FUNDRAISER, 4A

Public schools charged a state sales tax

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

A few weeks back during a Chowan County Commission meeting, there was a moment of clarity for everyone — politicians and the public alike — when local schools' Superintendent Rob Jackson mentioned a point about taxes.

During Jackson's presentation, he said school systems near and far are charged a state sales tax.

Among other folks, Commissioner John Mitchener's ears perked up when learning that school districts are one of the few that cannot apply for the state sales tax refund — a tax that has been in effect more than a decade.

"I could not believe my ears when the superintendent mentioned that," Mitchener said during an interview with the Chowan Herald. "I thought to myself, surely 10 years later after the General Assembly put this forward that someone must have jumped on this thing."

During the commission's April 3 meeting,

See TAX, 9A

Chowan Herald 'reboots' its social media presence

From staff reports

The Chowan Herald is expanding its Facebook and social media footprint.

Basically, we've rebooted our Facebook page — /Edenton-ChowanHerald — where you can find daily items related to news, sports and community events.

Most recently, scores from the Aces' baseball and softball games were posted on the Edenton-Chowan Herald's page. Later, there was a video posted about White Oak Elementary's kindergarten's trip to the North Carolina Aquarium. That short clip showed kids touching a crab in the water of a shallow pool within the aquarium.

More videos will be posted to the page as the days and weeks go by.

Sunday, a few photos of Food Pantry's fundraiser were posted.

Monday, a video was posted of children sending "get well" wishes Rev. Mike Denny of Rocky Hock Baptist Church.

So if you want to keep up with Chowan County happenings on a daily basis or know more about what stories will be appearing in the upcoming edition of the newspaper, please "like" our page — Edenton-Chowan Herald — and become our "friends."

Perhaps inspired by President Trump among others, the newspaper has joined the wonderful world of Twitter. This medium allows the Chowan Herald to post snippets of whatever, whoever and whenever for the world wide community to see via the Internet. Please "follow" @chowan_herald. Thanks for reading.

Justice Erwin to discuss NC Supreme Court at courthouse

From staff reports

As a preamble to the May 9 session of the state Supreme Court to be held at the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse, N.C. Supreme Court Justice Sam Erwin will speak at the courthouse Monday, April 24, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. He

will explore the history and functions of the Supreme Court in a free public program. Refreshments will follow the presentation. To reserve a seat, call (252) 482-2637.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for students and the public to connect with and learn about our State

Supreme Court," said Historic Edenton Site Manager Bob Hopkins. "We are very fortunate to have Justice Erwin visiting us."

The seven justices of the Supreme Court will hold two sessions May 9 at the



ERWIN

courthouse, as the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse observes its 250th anniversary.

The public is invited to the sessions at no charge, but reservations are required by calling (252) 482-2637.

"The 1767 Chowan County Courthouse is one of only two places the N.C. Supreme Court holds sessions away from Raleigh," Hopkins continued. "Our courthouse remains a living building where history continues to be made even

See ERWIN, 2A

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