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Wednesday, April 19, 2017

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Pilgrimage promises to build memories

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

This weekend our community will put its best foot forward as local residents open some of its oldest residences to visitors coming to enjoy the Biennial Pilgrimage Tour of Historic Homes.

The tour will take place Friday and Saturday, April 21-22. Hours will be 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. both days. Homes featured on the tour must be at least 100 years old to qualify for inclusion.

Pilgrimage headquarters will be in the town council chamber at 504 South Broad Street in downtown Edenton. Those who have reserved tickets for the tour may pick

WANT TO ATTEND?

- **What:** Biennial Pilgrimage Tour of Historic Homes
- **When:** Friday and Saturday, April 21-22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Where:** Headquarters will be in the town council chamber at 504 South Broad Street in downtown Edenton
- **Cost:** \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door; Group tickets are \$25 each

them up there. Tickets are \$30 if bought in advance or \$35 the days of the tour. Groups of 10 or more will be able to obtain tickets for \$25 each.

On Friday night, from 7-10 p.m., Destination Downtown Edenton will host "Boogie on Broad," a street dance featuring The Embers and some of North Carolina's best beach

music.

Other special events are scheduled to take place at the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse that is celebrating its 250th birthday this year. Downstairs, tour-goers will be welcomed by author Harriet Jacobs (portrayed by actress Keri Chiodo), who wrote "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl."

Chiodo will be among those appearing in a feature film based on the book published in 1861 that is being planned by T.I.M. Productions, an Atlanta-based production company. Some location shooting is expected to take place here.

On the second floor of the courthouse, visitors will get to enjoy a special exhibit entitled "The Art of the Table" featuring china loaned from Greensboro, NC-based Replacements, Ltd.

Pam Wagner, president of the Edenton Woman's Club that hosts the tour, organized the exhibit with help from committee members Susan

See PILGRIMAGE, 3A



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Juanita and Bill Cawley from West Point, Va. admire the paintings in the John Branning House in this file photo shot during the Biennial Pilgrimage. Tourgoers are greeted by beautifully decorated homes complete with candles and flower arrangements.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Steinburg talks pilot program, marriage

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

State Representative Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, said while he supports traditional marriage, he dismisses a proposal that would ban same-sex marriage.



STEINBURG

Filed last week, the new bill, also called House Bill 780, takes aim at the Supreme Court's ruling that upheld a nationwide right to same-sex marriage. Sponsored by four Republican members, the lawmakers seek to declare the court's 2015 ruling "null and void" in the Tarheel state.

"Although I personally believe that marriage is only between a man and a woman as it relates to that bill, the matter has been resolved by the Supreme Court," Steinburg said. "There is no need to revisit that. The Supreme Court has already settled this matter."

Soon after HB 780 was introduced, House Speaker Tim Moore released a statement dismissing the proposed legislation.

"There are strong constitutional concerns with this legislation given that the U.S. Supreme Court has firmly ruled on the issue, therefore House Bill 780 will

See STEINBURG, 2A

DREAM COMES TO FRUITION



PHOTOS BY REBECCA BUNCH

A large crane lowers a piece of the Hugh Williamson monument onto the ground Tuesday at Elizabeth Vann Moore Park, previously known as the Queen Anne Park, in downtown Edenton. The monument honors Williamson, a prominent citizen who signed the U.S. Constitution.

Monument honors Williamson

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

Years of hoping, dreaming and hard work on the part of two local women — Beth Taylor and Virginia Wood — has finally paid off. Both are members of the Edenton Tea Party Chapter, NSDAR, and their dream has been to see a monument erected in honor of Hugh Williamson, a signer of the United States Constitution, who made his home in Edenton.

On Tuesday morning preparations began at the site where the monument will stand in what has for years been known as Queen Anne Park adjacent to the Hayes Bridge. The park in the future will carry the name of a respected local historian, Elizabeth Vann Moore.

Taylor and Wood both have expressed excitement that the project will finally come to fruition.

"Oh, I am so excited," Wood said. "I am so grateful to the Lord and to



Weighing thousands of pounds, this engraved monument to Hugh Williamson stands as a tribute not only to his place in history, but the efforts of notable Edentonians who made the granite marker a reality for generations to come.

all the people that have helped make this happen. Edenton has such a rich history, we really need to continue to honor it."

Among those who deserve credit for making it happen, she said, are Rep. Bob Steinburg (R-Chowan), who secured the necessary funds for the project, and Edenton Town Councilman Bob Quinn, who will serve as chairman of the official dedication

ceremony that is being planned on Constitution Day, Sept. 17.

The \$60,000 in grant funds came from the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Downtown Revitalization Grant, according to town manager Anne-Marie Knighton.

"I certainly do," Wood answered emphatically when asked if she

See MONUMENT, 3A

Pay house call to doctor's exhibit

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Dressed in Revolutionary era clothing, Dr. Key Stage will be guiding tours of a restored physician's office within the Cupola House which shows how medicine was practiced in the 1700s. The office belonged to Dr. Samuel Dickinson, who owned the home way back when medicine was practiced by country doctors who rode by horseback to see their patients.

"Dr. Dickinson was well regarded as a physician," Stage said. "I thought that since he was the second owner of the Cupola House and generations of his family lived there until the 1920 or so, that it would be important to have a lot of his things restored. What we're trying to do this with exhibit is to recreate some interactive things that people might find of interest."

Dickinson's office at the Cupola House will open for viewing between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Friday, and between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Saturday.

Physicians like Dickinson crafted prescriptions within their chambers as well as tended to other matters that are now handled by a multitude of health care professionals. Stage said syrups, pills and various other concoctions would be mixed using a mortar and pestle — elements of which are on display. When Dickinson was practicing his trade, Stage said, a country doctor didn't necessarily treat patients at

See EXHIBIT, 2A



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'Prayer' paves way to Kadesh AME Zion restoration

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

This weekend during Edenton's Biennial Pilgrimage, local citizens and visitors alike will have the chance to contribute to the restoration of one of the town's oldest churches, Kadesh AME Zion. The church, located at 119 East Gale Street, represents one of the earliest AME Zion congregations started in North Carolina.

A committee of community members with a joint interest in seeing the church restored from interior and exterior damage it sustained during Hurricane Isabel in 2003 includes Sadie Riddick, a lifelong member of the congregation.

"I believe in prayer, and I believe God's going to see us through this," she said. "I don't believe He has brought us this far to leave us now," she said.

The committee is planning a

series of fundraisers starting this weekend with the sale at the Penelope Barker Welcome Center of pewter medallions donated by the Edenton Kiwanis Club.

"I think this was so wonderful of them," said Audrey Bond, restoration committee chair.

A second fundraiser, a fried chicken plate sale, is planned in May. Bond said the committee also intends to hold one fundraiser on the grounds of the historic church.

Besides Bond and Kadesh pastor, the Rev. Michael Gaddy, members of the committee include: Sally Francis Kehayes; Ben Speller; Grace Bean; Kaye Barker; Julius Leary; Darlene Leary; Larry Felton; Ida Felton; Willie Drew; Barbara Drew; Rosa White; Sadie Riddick; Essie Jackson; Teresa Leary; attorneys Sambo Dixon and John Morehead.

See KADESH, 3A

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