



**Chowan Art Council to move to Chero's Building — 6A**

## Edenton remembers Congressman Jones

Funeral to be held Thursday in Greenville

**BY MILES LAYTON AND BOBBY BURNS**  
Adams Publishing Group

U.S. Rep. Walter Jones, who campaigned hard for Eastern North Carolina all his life, has most likely won the only election that matters — a spot in heaven.

Jones, 76, died Sunday after struggling with health problems including a bro-



**JONES**

ken hip. In lieu of flowers, the family asks to consider donations to the Semper Fi Fund, The Service League of Greenville Inpatient Hospice, or The ALS Association-NC Chapter.

Congressman Jones will lie in repose from 4-8 p.m. today, Feb. 13, at St. Peter Catholic Church in Green-

ville for those who wish to pay their respects. The funeral will be held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, at St. Peter Catholic Church, Greenville.

Private family interment to follow. Online condolences may be made at the Farmville Funeral Home website, [www.farmvillefh.com](http://www.farmvillefh.com).

Jones, a Republican from the Pitt County town of Farmville, represented the 3rd Congressional District. He was re-elected to his 13th term in November and

announced he would retire at the end of the term. He became ill before the new session began, however, and was excused on Dec. 11.

Jones' office said at the time he took the oath that he was expected to return to his seat. However, he underwent surgery for a broken hip on Jan. 15 and his office announced on Jan. 26 that he had entered hospice. His office announced at 6 p.m. Sunday that he had died earlier in the afternoon. The statement gave a nod to

Jones' deep faith. He was a Catholic, who long opposed abortion.

"Congressman Jones was a man of the people," the statement said. "With a kind heart and the courage of his convictions, he dedicated his life to serving his savior and to standing up for Americans who needed a voice. He was a champion for our men and women in uniform and their families, always mindful of their service and sacrifice."

NC Sen. Bob Steinburg,

R-Chowan, was among those who offered their condolences.

"Please join my wife Marie and me in praying for the family of Congressman Walter Jones," he said. "Walter passed away today at the age of 76. Whether one agreed with him or not, no one could ever say that he was not a man of deep faith and deep conviction. I am confident in saying that Walter Jones will be remem-

See JONES, 4A

## ACES PRIDE

### Banquet honors football players

**BY MILES LAYTON**  
Sports Writer

A lot of history, truly a legacy on display, was shared during the Henry Overton Football Banquet.

Perhaps it was fitting that the annual banquet took place Thursday at Edenton Baptist Church, founded in 1817.

Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce Director Win Dale gave an inspiring keynote speech.

"Remember the blood, sweat and tears of practices and games," said Dale, himself a member of the Aces long blue and gold line. "Remember the last-second wins, and the gut-wrenching losses. Remember your teammates and the bonds you've developed that will last a lifetime. But most of all remember how special you are to this school and to this community, and that you're set apart from all others. Your accomplishments and your legacy will be forever remembered. Good luck and God Speed to you the rest of this year and into the future."

Before this country writer talks about the stats that Dale shared, let's get some business out of the way first — academic achievement. Coach Paul Hoggard and Athletic Director Wes Matterna put a strong emphasis on grades, studying and going to class. Not every school can say the same.

Let's say it: Before that dynamic duo took over five years ago or so, more than a few players were flunking two or more classes. Average grade point average then was 2.3 — a low "C" — whereas today's team boasts an average 3.4 GPA — a very solid "B".

So far this year, 17 mem-



PHOTO COURTESY KIM ULLOM

Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Win Dale gave the keynote speech Thursday at the annual Henry Overton Football Banquet. Dale not only spoke of the Aces' legacy, but offered a treasure trove of statistics that show a team that knows, by God's grace, how to play and how to win.



H.O.G.S — that stands for Honor Our Great Students.

bers of the football team earned a place on the school's Honor Roll.

Alex Bergevin achieved

the highest grade point average for the freshmen players.

Seth Simmons topped the

sophomore class and Jake Bass for the junior players.

Jackson Ray leads the senior squad.

Back to the Overton banquet with Dale as he offered a spate of statistics that should truly make this team and our community beam with pride. A self-described numbers geek, Dale laid out how the team's humble beginnings in 1926 led to the present day — 1,000 games played.

"You are part of a football tradition that dates back to 1926," said Dale, who has pursued painstaking research using old editions of

See FOOTBALL, 7A



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Rocky Hock Playhouse, located on NC 32 outside of Edenton, held annual Christmas productions, such as 2017's "What Child is This?" The upcoming Easter program, "It is Finished," will be the Christian musical theater's last.

### Curtain closing on Rocky Hock Playhouse

Theater may continue under new ownership, new format

**BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON**  
Editor

After almost 20 years of entertaining Chowan County residents and visitors from throughout the region, the curtain will be closing at the Rocky Hock Playhouse Dinner Theatre.

Jeff Emmerich and his wife, Gloria, announced that the Easter show, "It Is Finished," will be the

#### INFORMATION

"It Is Finished" will be performed March 23-April 27 at the Rocky Hock Playhouse Dinner Theatre. For information, visit <http://www.rockyhockplayhouse.com/>

theater's last as the couple prepares to retire and move back to the West Coast.

While the Rocky Hock Playhouse may be finished in its current form, there are

See PLAYHOUSE, 3A

### Advocate seeks better NC broadband access

Says funding approach flawed, potentially wasteful

**BY JON HAWLEY**  
The Daily Advance

Everyone seems to agree that fast, affordable internet access is important in rural North Carolina.

Local leaders for cities, counties, schools and economic development all talk about it. Republicans and Democrats both agree on



**SANDERS**

#### INSIDE

Access to broadband fundamental right — 5A

it, and even campaign on the issue.

Yet the state only put \$10 million toward expanding access to broadband last year — and that small pot of money may be spent on connections that are too slow, say both local lawmakers and an advocate for broadband expansion in rural communities.

Last week, the North

See BROADBAND, 3A

### Industrial Park project receives \$65K grant

Will extend underground utilities to Midway Drive area

**Adams Publishing Group**

An underground utility project for a Chowan County industrial park is among the projects that will receive \$3.1 million in grants awarded the region by the

Golden LEAF Foundation on Thursday.

The foundation, which is based in Rocky Mount, announced grants for six different projects in four area counties. The grants are funded with the foundation's share of money sent to North Carolina as a result of the state's 1999 settlement with the tobacco industry.

In Chowan County, the Edenton-Chowan Partnership will receive a grant for \$65,000 to extend electrical services to an industrial park.

Discussing the Edenton-Chowan Partnership grant, Thomas Mallory Denham, the agency's executive director, said the partnership sought the grant to con-

struct underground utilities at the Midway Drive Industrial Park. Of the \$65,000 awarded, \$15,000 will go toward engineering and design costs while the remainder is for construction.

"The Edenton-Chowan Partnership would like express it thanks to the Golden LEAF Foundation for their award of \$65,000," he said.

Currituck was awarded the single-largest grant from the foundation — \$1 million. It plans to use the LEAF funds helping expand a wastewater treatment plant to accommodate Currituck Station, a large development project planned

See GRANT, 3A



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