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Ballance nonprofit investigated

From Staff Reports

The John A. Hyman Memorial Youth Foundation, a nonprofit organization led by North Carolina's own Representative Frank Ballance has been under intense scrutiny by the FBI, the US Attorney's Office and the State Auditor for alleged misuse of funds.

According to state audit reports, Ballance, a long time North Carolina State legislator, paid thousands of dollars to his relatives and campaign workers out of the organization's funds.

The audit report showed the foundation was riddled with



Ballance

obvious conflicts of interests and had no formal structure for awarding mini-grants to churches and programs designed to fight alcohol and drug abuse.

Here are a few of audit documented inconsistencies: The Hyman Foundation did not comply with federal and state regulations that require finan-

cial reporting by nonprofit corporations, retained state appropriations by transferring \$30,000 in funds and classifying the money as "administrative costs," paid the foundation board members to attend the organization's annual meeting, an item in violation of the foundation bylaws, reimbursed Rev. Eddie Lawrence of the Greenwood Baptist Church for an expense that was also reimbursed by the state, and the foundation wrote a \$35,000 check to Greenwood Baptist Church for rent without any supporting documentation.

Additionally the Green-

wood Baptist Church leases office space to the Hyman Foundation. Lawrence serves as executive director of the foundation. In that position Lawrence was paid \$90,000 from 2001-2003. Rep. Ballance also happens to be the Chairman of the Board of Deacons at the church. The organization had its accounts frozen at the beginning of the week pending further investigation.

At press time the N.C. State Attorney General's Office, the SBI and the U.S. Department of Justice were all considering launching separate investigations.

Lowney to lead COA campus

Robert (Bob) Lowney has been named Interim Dean of College of The Albemarle's Edenton-Chowan Campus, effective Nov. 1.

Lowney, Culinary Program Coordinator and Curriculum Coordinator for the campus, has been with the college since 1996 when he joined as an adjunct instructor at what was then the Chowan County Center.

In 1999, Lowney became a full-time instructor for college teaching at Pasquotank Correctional Institute. He



Lowney

moved to the Chowan County Center in 2002 after completing the application and obtaining fast tracked state approval for a Culinary Technology program. Lowney has gained significant adminis-

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Chamber, Partnership host opportunities luncheon

BY TAMIKA SPRUILL
Staff Writer

Sixteen representatives from Chowan County's Business and Industry community attended the Chowan County Existing Business & Industry Opportunities Luncheon hosted by North Carolina's Northeast Partnership and the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the luncheon was to lay groundwork for better communication between local industry/businesses, the Edenton-Chowan Chamber and the Northeast Partnership.

"We (the Chamber) work hand in hand with the Partnership to bring the benefits straight to you," said Executive Director of the Chamber Richard Bunch during the

welcome and introductions. "Thank you for letting me knock on your doors and talk with you. The existing industries and businesses are what give Edenton its flavor."

Representatives from the Governor's Office, the NC Dept. of Commerce and Senator Mark Basnight's Office were on hand to offer support to the Northeast Partnership and talk about the benefits available to area industries and businesses.

"The Partnership is bringing more resources to the table," said John Gurganus, Existing Industry Specialist of the North Carolina Department of Commerce. "I think their organization has worked out well for the Northeast."

According to President and CEO, Rick Watson, one re-



Joan and Owen Maxwell, owners of Regulator Marine (at right), talk with Rick Watson, CEO of the Northeast Partnership during a Business and Industry Opportunities Luncheon hosted by the Partnership and the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce. (Staff photo by Tamika Spruill)

source that the Northeast Partnership is working on is the creation of a buyer/supplier database to keep money in the

northeast region. "It became apparent that a majority of new businesses in this region are being created

from old businesses," Watson stated. "With that in mind we are building a buyer/supplier network portal that will contain information about area businesses and suppliers. So we can do business with each other."

Many businesses and industry representatives expressed concerns to the Partnership about the lack of qualified help in the area and with the number of qualified workers that commute to the southern Virginia area to work, a problem that Watson said he would directly look into.

"If we can get more companies to locate here, the trained labor force will come here instead of driving to Virginia," Watson noted. "The Buyers/Suppliers portal will help."

Watson also talked about the

possibility of building a relationship with Suffolk and Chesapeake to help recruit labor.

"Suffolk and Chesapeake have more in common with us than they do with Norfolk or Virginia Beach," Watson stated. "They can be a part of this partnership if we choose to do it."

The Partnership and the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce also visited a number of companies to discuss the Business & Industries Opportunities Program. Additional visits are being planned.

For more information about North Carolina's Northeast Partnership or the Business & Industries Opportunities Program, interested persons may visit www.ncnorth-east.com or call (888) 872-8562.

Dixon: Drugs are societal problem

BY SEAN JACKSON
Contributing Writer

Scouring Edenton's neighborhoods clean of drug dealers is more than a chore for police, it's a job that begins in every home, town officials said Monday night.

In the wake of 15 felony drug-related arrests last month, police said they have delivered results. But the effort needs more than cops armed with warrants. Parents are needed to fill the gaps, Police Chief Greg Bonner told Town Council Monday night.

"It's no secret drugs are a problem in a lot of communities," Bonner said.

Officer Dwight Rawlins led a months-long undercover operation that resulted in scores of felony drug charges. Grand jury indictments were handed

down Sept. 2, Bonner said. Court dates for the suspects are pending.

The suspects were charged with possession of crack and powder cocaine, as well as marijuana, the chief added. Police seized cash and automobiles during the raids. Rawlins said the drugs apparently filtered into the town from outlying areas. He said three to four larger-scale drug operations were identified during the investigation.

"And we already hit two of them," he said.

Nine more drug arrests have been made since the undercover operation. Bonner said Edenton youths may not take penalties seriously.

"I think the young people in the community think this is a

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Edentonian part of Tar Heel Legislature

BY ANGELA PEREZ
Staff Writer

For the past five months, William Miller, an Edenton resident, has been serving as Chowan County's representative for one of the most ignored voices in American society - the elderly. As one of 100 delegates representing each of North Carolina's counties, Miller is serving with the Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL), a legislative group created by the General Assembly in July of 1993. One of the chief sponsors of the bill was Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue, who was serving as a state senator at that time.

The STHL was established to:

- * Provide information to



Bill Miller

senior citizens on the legislative process and matters being considered by the General Assembly.

- * Promote citizen involvement and advocacy concerning

aging issues before the General Assembly.

* Assess the legislative needs of older citizens by convening a forum modeled after the General Assembly.

The delegates must be age 60 or older. The North Carolina Division of Aging provides staff support for Senior Legislature in cooperation with its 17 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), which are responsible for conducting the selection of STHL's delegates and alternates.

Chowan County is part of the state's Albemarle Commission branch of the AAA which is located in Hertford, N.C. The Albemarle Commission also serves Camden,

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Appreciation Banquet scheduled

The American Legion family of Edward G. Bond Post 40 will host an appreciation banquet for the Chowan County/Town of Edenton Hurricane Isabel Emergency Operations Services Workers and their spouses, Thursday, October 30, 2003.

Post Commander Ron Green stated "This is a tribute to all those town and county employees and others who left their own problems to help others. It is our hope that this banquet will let these citizens of our community know that their long hours and efforts are appreciated."

Post 40 is hosting this banquet at no cost to the invited

See BANQUET On Page 3-A

Special tab included

Look for a section, "Schoolyard Science," in today's Chowan Herald.

Dr. Kenneth Manning, a local orthodontist, and *The Chowan Herald* Newspapers in Education Program hope to encourage reading and learning with these special pages.

According to Chowan Herald NIE Coordinator Donna Koppelman, the "Schoolyard Science" tab is "full of ideas for interactive science exper-

iences. All can be done outdoors around the school or at home with easily obtained materials."

"We thank Dr. Manning for sponsoring this great, educational resource," Koppelman added. "We hope teachers, parents, and students alike will enjoy learning together with 'School Science'. There has never been a better time to read and learn with *The Chowan Herald!*"

Unmet needs fund begun to assist Chowan citizens

The County has established an Unmet Needs Committee to establish the administration of the Unmet Needs funds from the Governor's office. Through private donations, the Governor has established this fund to assist counties meet unmet needs as a result of Hurricane Isabel. Chowan County's initial allocation from this fund is \$63,220.82.

"This fund is to go towards unmet needs only," states Ben Rose, Chairman of the committee. "It is geared towards helping those that have not been able to get help from other resources such as FEMA or insurance."

Being that only \$63,000 exists at this time for Chowan County, the committee has established a household cap of

\$632.00 with a goal of helping at least 100 households or businesses. The committee will review requests that are submitted during a specified time period and make final decisions soon thereafter. "It is our goal to get the funds out as quickly as possible so we can help those still in a crunch for cer-

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

Rocky Hock "Beauty Queens" vie for the crown See 12-A

Cutting edge air technology comes to Edenton 1-C

Edenton Peanut Festival kicks off with parade 2-A



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