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Local Relay for Life sets lofty goal

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

Organizers for the Chowan-Perquimans Relay for Life have set an ambitious goal for 2007 — they expect to raise \$140,000.

That announcement was made last Thursday evening during a kickoff dinner at First Presbyterian Church in Edenton.

Local Relay Chair Debbie Burroughs acknowledged that a lot of hard work, organizing and participation would be required to achieve that level. But she expressed confidence that it could be done.

"I know it sounds like a lot of money and it is," she said. "But it's doable. We've got some new teams, and we've also gotten off to a good start. I think we'll make it."

Events planned include bake sales, spaghetti lunches, and musical performances by the cast of the Rocky Hock Opry. Another very special activity will be a raffle where the winner will take home a framed drawing of a blue crab by Chowan County artist Ashlee Birkhead.

Birkhead's artistic ability is even more extraordinary given that she has Down syndrome. In sharing her talent with the public, her parents, Susan and Thomas, have said, "We hope Ashlee's art inspires you to celebrate abilities rather than disabilities."

The artwork has been donated in honor of Birkhead's grandparents, both of whom are cancer survivors.

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Keeping the legacy alive



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

Lula Johnson, Hope Ford and Esther Freeman, members of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. community choir of Edenton join the hundreds of attendees in song Monday afternoon.

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Althea Riddick picked out one sentence from a slain American Civil Rights leader's most famous speech during a celebration Monday in his honor in Edenton.

Riddick, the keynote speaker during the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. event at Swain Auditorium, said King's famed "I Have a Dream" speech doesn't need to be read aloud in full for it to have an impact.

The speech's focus on judging someone by the content of their character and not the color of their skin is enough to start with, Riddick told a crowd of roughly 300 people.

During his speech, King said: "I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

Riddick said that one quote could be used to illustrate the heart and soul of King's dream of freedom and equality for all Americans.

"There's so much hidden in there," she said of King's speech delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in August 1963 — less than five years before the Nobel Peace Prize-winner was assassinated.

With youth being the backbone of America's future, young people need appropriate role



Riddick

models, she said. And those role models are the parents.

Some parents, Riddick said, aren't doing enough to mold their children into adults with good character.

"It's household by household," Riddick said of the progress she envisions in order to help the country achieve King's dream of racial justice and equality for all Americans.

But some parents have to get back to basics, the vice-president of instruction at College of The Albemarle said.

"I don't understand that parents want to be friends with their children," she said, adding that parents must be authoritarians with their kids.

And then there's the lack of respect — for themselves and others — that some children display at home, she said.

"It's not up to the school system to raise your child," she said. "They don't change because you put them on a yellow bus."

Poor character traits can result in a poor education, she added. The entire community must give all it can to ensure that today's students can become tomorrow's educated leaders, she said.

"If you think education is expensive," she said, "try ignorance."

Riddick and other speakers ap-

ELSEWHERE

Local pastors gather for dinner to pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Page C8.

plauded the contingent of youngsters and teens on hand for the event.

After her stirring 20-minute speech, Riddick was greeted with a standing ovation.

Though Riddick was the anchor of the nearly two-hour program, singers provided some of the afternoon's more emotional entertainment.

Song after song not only rejoiced about King's ongoing legacy, they also rekindled his passion for religion and preaching.

Joining the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Choir on the bill were the Jericho Singers led by Ebony Rankins.

"You're beautiful," Ralph Cole, chairman of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, told the singers.

Monday's event was held on King's actual birthday. He would have been 78.

Speaker Jamye K. Copeland also noted King's 1962 visit to Edenton. King spoke to an estimated 500 people inside the old National Guard Armory build-

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Local Boys & Girls Club celebrates second anniversary

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Local man stabbed during Sunday fight at town's public basketball courts

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Lawrence students step into history School, C4

Farm Fresh delayed

Buyout deal pushes opening date back to May 2008

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Edenton's proposed Farm Fresh supermarket won't open to shoppers as soon as forecast.

Originally slated to open this summer, the supermarket at Edenton Commons Shopping Center likely won't open until May of 2008, developer Jon Wheeler said yesterday.

Farm Fresh's parent company, SuperValu, recently completed its acquisition of Albertsons supermarkets, Wheeler said. That buyout resulted in a shift in Farm Fresh's current budget.

"It takes a while to digest it," Wheeler said. "But I think they're very happy with their acquisition."

Plans are to put the Edenton supermarket into Farm Fresh's 2008 budget, Wheeler added.

A preliminary approval of the Edenton Farm Fresh site by SuperValu was scheduled to take place yesterday, Wheeler said from his Norfolk, Va., office. Another approval is set for Jan. 25.

"Hopefully, that will be a final-final," Wheeler said.

Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton agrees.

"I have been told this purchase is imminent," Knighton said of the deal to bring Farm Fresh to Edenton.

Farm Fresh will be the anchor of the proposed shopping center to be located on Whitemon Lane, near the intersection of N.C. Highway 32 and U.S. Highway 17.

Farm Fresh is slated to occupy 56,000 square feet, and include a florist, pharmacy, and a Starbucks coffee outlet.

Other, smaller anchor stores at the 64-acre site will range from 6,000 to 21,000 square feet. Those stores will open after Farm Fresh, Wheeler said. Those stores should open in the fall of 2008, he added.

Dozens of other, even smaller, stores are projected to complete the center, officials have said.

Wheeler said the project is not in jeopardy. With the success of the new Farm Fresh in Elizabeth City, the chain is still looking to expand into northeast North Carolina.

"For all intents and purposes," he said, "progress is still good, still on schedule, still will happen."

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Goodwin eyes education as top priority

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

Kenny Goodwin has a personal interest in the education of local youth.

As the father of two young girls, the newly appointed commissioner wants to make sure that rural education remains competitive with that of larger area and across the globe.

Goodwin plans to make education his main focus during his duration as a commissioner.

Goodwin, 34, grew up in Tyner, and is the son of the late county commissioner Wayne Goodwin and Frances Goodwin.

"I want to do what my dad was able to do — take care of the concerns of the people in our area," Goodwin said during an interview Friday.

Though Goodwin has no po-

litical experience himself, he is familiar with the workings of the commission through talks with his father who served on the board for 18 years.

During that time the late Goodwin was able to push forth his agenda of creating a community center in northern Chowan — a dream that was realized in 2000 when the Northern Chowan Community Center was created.

Goodwin, like his father, plans to keep his community in mind and be accessible to the people of the county for their unique and personal input on county issues.

It was Goodwin's speech during the nomination process with the local democratic party (that made the recom-

mendation to the county commissioners) that made him a shoo-in to fill his father's unexpired term.

"But it was the community's feeling of ease with him, their confidence in him as a family man, a farmer, not simply the fact that he is Wayne's son, that the party recommended him," Derrick Wadsworth with the democratic party said.

"He cares for the community, having grown up there himself, and he cares for the history and lifestyle of the county being a farmer," Wadsworth added.

"The county is growing



Goodwin

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Town Council OKs new utility billing system

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Edenton utility customers will see a different type of bill in their mailboxes in March.

The postcard-style bills the town has sent out for years will be replaced by enveloped notices.

The Town Council approved a measure recently that would give a Charlotte-based company the responsibility of printing and mailing the town's monthly utility bills.

"What we're doing now is archaic," Councilman Jerry Parks said during the board's Jan. 9 meeting.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said Total Billings

can produce and mail out the bills at an additional cost to the town of roughly \$430 a month.

"The town has been doing the postcards ourselves forever," Knighton said.

Councilors said the fact the town would avoid purchasing new equipment to continue printing and mailing the bills — in addition to saving town employees time — should reduce that cost to the town dramatically.

"It'll be close to breaking even," Councilman Jimmy Stallings said.

No town employees would lose their jobs due to the new

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