



## Holmes fields USFIRST robotics team

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students of the Retro Robot Aces (John A. Holmes) team proudly stand by the chassis of their robot. Pictured (l-r) are Markel Nowell, Ke'Vonte Norman, San Coston, CJ Owens, Jr., Burrows, Allen Fox, Eddie Moor, Haywood Holley, Azrocky Drew, DJ Cather and Shamar White.



By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**  
Editor

Add the John A. Holmes Aces Retro Robot Aces Squad to the high school's list of competing teams.

What began as a seedling last summer bore fruit Jan. 8 after a group of team members and mentors traveled to Raleigh to an official kickoff of the USFIRST Robotics Championship for 2011. More than

900 students, mentors and team leaders assembled at Dorton Arena and watched a broadcast on closed circuit TV, featuring USFIRST founder Dean Kamen issue this year's competition rules and tasks required of team robots.

Part of an effort to promote science and technology among local high schoolers, USFIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technol-

ogy) Robotics Competition (FRC) pit the innovative talents between students. Organizers call FRC a "varsity sport for the mind." It combines the thrill of sport with the demands of science and technology that creates a simulation of "real world" engineering.

Organizers consider this an opportunity to creatively introduce students

See **ROBOTICS**, 3A

## THE DREAM STAYS ALIVE



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Audience members link hands as they sing "We Shall Overcome" at the conclusion of Monday's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at Swain Auditorium.

### King celebration stirs memories of sacrifice, triumph

By **REBECCA BUNCH**  
Staff Writer

Locals attending the Dr. Martin Luther King Day celebration at Swain Auditorium Monday said their lives are better because he lived.

Among them was Daisy Bembrly of Edenton who said she has had job opportunities that she would never have had otherwise. "I worked at the hospital for a long time but now I do some teaching," Bembrly said.

Bembrly, a retired nurse's aide, said she also loved the fact that blacks and whites now worship together at her church, Shalom International.

Bembrly said the holiday honoring Dr. King's legacy and his life's work was important to her. "To me, it symbolizes a day of

*"To me, it symbolizes a day of freedom. I thank God for what Dr. King did to help us, even though it cost him his life."*

**Daisy Bembrly**  
Local at Dr. Martin Luther King Day celebration

freedom," Bembrly said. "I thank God for what Dr. King did to help us, even though it cost him his life."

Fletcher Bond of Bertie County said he comes to Edenton

### For further coverage

Pastor Jordan speaks at King celebration, **PAGE 6B**.

every year to attend the celebration honoring Dr. King. Bond, who is retired, said life has improved since he was a young boy growing up in the South.

"Things are definitely better than they used to be," Bond said. "People treat me a lot better than they used to."

Susan Brothers, who is a learning enhancement coordinator at D.F. Walker School, said for her the day is a time for remembering.

See **KING DAY**, 4A



STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNEY

U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., shakes hands with Joslin White at the Chowan Senior Center, Jan. 12.

## Hagan: Jobs top priority

### Conversations with Kay brought to area

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**  
Editor

U.S. Sen. Kay R. Hagan, D-N.C., visited Edenton last Wednesday and talked with local residents and elected officials at the Chowan County Senior Center, part of her Conversations with

Kay that also took her to Camden and Manteo.

Before talking one-on-one with visitors seated at tables, Hagan addressed the crowd of about 30 and reminded them that job creation is her main focus, followed by reducing the national debt and developing military-related contracts in North Carolina.

See **HAGAN**, 5A

## Hagan requests security for visit

### Locals express no fear after shooting

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**  
Editor

Despite Saturday's tragedy in Arizona that killed six and wounded 14, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, those attending U.S. Sen. Kay R. Hagan's, D-N.C., Wednesday visit to Edenton expressed little concern about similar violence here.

Those present at Conversations with Kay at the Chowan County Senior Center mostly said they consider the Tucson shooting spree an isolated act of violence from a deranged gunman and not likely to occur in a sleepy town like Edenton.

"Nobody's going to shoot anybody here," said John Powell. "That was an isolated incident."

Powell added that the

See **SECURITY**, 5A

## Grant application to aid Kellogg Building Supply

### Company could net \$61K, make 12 jobs

By **REBECCA BUNCH**  
Staff Writer

In an effort to boost job creation, the town plans to apply for a grant to benefit a building supply compa-

ny that will soon open its doors here.

Town Council members agreed unanimously at a Jan. 11 board meeting to have Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton apply for a Building Renovation and Reuse Grant from the North Carolina Rural Center to benefit Kellogg Building Supply. The Rural Center is expected to announce the names of grant recipients in late February.

Kellogg will soon take over the West Queen Street location that formerly

housed M.G. Brown.

Kellogg announced plans in November to sign a 5-year lease with Gary Foreman, the owner of the M.G. Brown building, with an option to renew. The company expects to generate 12 new jobs as a result.

"We have been meeting with Kellogg for years, trying to entice them into our market," Knighton said. "When I was meeting with Tom Blanchard (owner of Kellogg) recently, it struck me that he might be eligible for this grant."

Knighton said that based

on the estimated cost of renovations—which Chris O'Neill, vice-president of Kellogg said is expected to total \$200,000—the company should be eligible for a \$61,250 grant. The business would be required to provide a cash match equal to the grant request amount and the town would have to contribute 3 percent of the grant amount in cash or in-kind services.

"If the grant is approved, Kellogg and the property owner would be required to execute several documents, including a loan

agreement, a performance agreement and a promissory note," Knighton said. "Mr. (Tom) Blanchard is confident the property owner will execute all the requirements of the grant," Knighton added.

"The town would be required to execute a formal grant agreement with the Rural Center," Knighton added.

Several council members said they supported giving the business any help possible, citing the dire need for jobs in the community. "I think it's an excellent

opportunity for the town, and for Kellogg," said Councilman Bob Quinn.

And Councilman Willis Privott said that when he goes to Lowe's in Elizabeth City, he sees lots of people from Edenton shopping there.

"This (having Kellogg) may help us to keep some of that business here in Edenton," Privott said.

Mayor Roland Vaughan added that Blanchard "is a good friend of mine. He is astounded by the number

See **KELLOGG**, 4A



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Thursday, January 20, 2011

Cocktails 6 PM

Dinner Buffet 7 PM

**CHOWAN COUNTY**

American Legion Post 40

Catering provided by Edenton Bay Oyster Bar & Seafood

Tickets are \$50 and include buffet and membership, and will be available at door.

**DUCKS UNLIMITED BANQUET**

Door prizes, Gun Auction, Prints, Decoys and More!



Prime Rib | Shrimp  
Soft-shell Crabs | Tuna Bites