



Golden LEAF stakeholders identify 2 priorities

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Community stakeholders wasted little time narrowing their scope in pursuit of \$2 million in grant money from the Golden LEAF fund.

At Golden LEAF's most recent meeting held at the College of The Albemarle's Edenton campus, stakeholders chose to focus on two specific areas: economic

development/infrastructure and education/workforce development. By doing so, the group eliminated as many as seven other previously selected targets, including those that concentrated more on human-related services.



Rich

that concentrated more on human-related services.

Dan Gerlach, Golden LEAF president, said last week that the group's unity is a good sign.

"I think the group is showing great consensus," Gerlach said. "They're coming along at a great pace."

Neither was Gerlach surprised at the group's top choices.

"Economic development and education are pretty common," he added. "I'm not surprised these are the key areas."

Attendance has been strong at the community meetings. After stakeholders selected two focal points, the group was divided into halves and separated into different rooms. One group brainstormed about economic development while the other dissected education. Part of each group's objective was to assign goals that are measurable.

"We just ask folks what they want to see happen and whether

or not the investment moves the needle," said Pat Cabe, vice president of Golden LEAF's programs.

Gerlach cautioned that future objectives should refrain from being too specific, broad enough to generate more ideas.

"Some of the goals need to be aspirated," Gerlach said. "No one project is going to meet all

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STUDENTS HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL

Opening day goes with few glitches

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

Jadelle Wagner suspected that her 7-year-old son, Loghan, was really looking forward to seeing school start again on Monday.

But she found out just how excited when the youngster woke her up extra early that morning so he could be sure he wasn't late for his first day.

"He got up at 5:30 this morning, and was soon dressed and ready to go," said a smiling Wagner.

For Melissa Oliver, it was her son Darius' inaugural day of school ever. The 5-year-old attended his first day of kindergarten at White Oak Elementary as school opened for the new year.

"He (Darius) was extremely excited," Oliver said with a grin. "He smiled all the way here. He was especially excited to be seeing all his friends again."

Edenton-Chowan school officials said that other students had an equally pleasant experience on their first day with only a few glitches.

"I think it was probably one of the smoother back to school days that we've had," said Brad Bass, maintenance and transportation director for the school system.

"We did have two buses that ran a few minutes late this morning," Bass said. "One was due to a



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Students await their teacher's assistance as they wait to board buses after ending their first full day of school at White Oak Elementary, Monday.

new driver and the other was caused by a minor mechanical issue that was taken care of quickly."

Bass said that even the rerouting of four of the

school system's buses made necessary due to unfinished work on the Queen Anne Creek bridge replacement did not create headaches.

"It went very well this morning," Bass said of the detour. "We had the police department graciously show up at the end of the (Hayes) bridge to

help with any potential problems but everything went fine."

John A. Holmes High School principal Sheila Evans said that even the

earlier start time of 7:45 a.m. that will be the norm at her school this year worked out fine. Most of

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Steinburg questions Luton's business practices

Democrat denies accusations

By **REGGIE PONDER**
Staff Writer

Republican State House candidate Bob Steinburg has accused Democratic candidate Bill Luton of "a reckless pattern of mismanagement and disregard for the law with his businesses," but Luton says Steinburg is "making things up."

State and local officials corroborated Luton's ac-

count of his business activities. But, records also indicate his businesses were dissolved for failure to file annual reports.

An Aug. 16 press release from Steinburg is headed by the statement, "Can Taxpayers Trust Bill Luton With Their Money? The Luton Record: Failure to Pay Taxes, Dissolved Businesses."

The statement claims that a business incorporated in Luton's name and another incorporated in the name of his wife, Britney Luton, were both dis-



Luton



Steinburg

solved by the N.C. Secretary of State office in August 2010 for failure to file annual reports,

and that one of the businesses also was placed on a revenue suspension by the N.C. Department of Revenue in 2010.

The statement claims the Secretary of State took "punitive" action against Luton for failure to file reports and pay fees for a family winery business. It also claims the state dissolved Britney Luton's business, Flash Grill and

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Minges' talk sparks 300th plans



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Lynn Minges, assistant secretary of tourism, marketing and global branding for the North Carolina Department of Commerce, talks about the importance of tourism statewide, and in Chowan County, during an Aug. 21 luncheon held at the 1767 Chowan Courthouse in Edenton.

NC ranks as nation's 6th most visited

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

Last year visitor spending in Chowan County totaled \$17.2 million up 4.4 percent over the previous year, according to Lynn Minges, assistant secretary of tourism, marketing and global branding for the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

Occupancy taxes collected in Chowan County amounted to \$95,930, she said.

Minges was the keynote speaker at an Aug. 21 luncheon and tourism program sponsored by the Edenton-Chowan Partnership. Partnership

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