



Review team ranks top 11 Golden LEAF projects

COA misses cut on campus rehab

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

The list of 17 applicants pursuing \$2 million in Golden LEAF Foundation grant funds has been narrowed to 11.

Chowan County's appointed Community Assistance Initiative review team also ranked the sub-

mitted projects in an order of priority, based on each proposal's score. Collectively, the final list of projects total \$2.3 million, down significantly from the original request of \$6.2 million. Golden LEAF will next pare the list down to what it believes will yield the most effective results in terms of economic development.

"There's some pain yet to come," said Dan Gerlach, Golden LEAF presi-

dent. "Just because they're on the list does not mean they're going to get funding."

It appears certain that Edenton-Chowan Schools will receive funding after two of its applications secured the review team's top and third ranking. The sys-



Smith

tem's \$677,500 request to fund its Learning Initiative that includes adding technological learning devices. The schools also want to earmark \$285,000 toward secondary STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) curriculum.

"Both projects will enhance the learning environment and promote the development of 21st Century skills for middle and high school students,"

said Superintendent Allan Smith. "It is anticipated these projects will result in even more students graduating from John A. Holmes High School with the skills to be successful in whatever endeavor they choose to pursue."

The bulk of the remaining projects align with efforts to rely on tourism as the community's economic engine.

In most cases Golden LEAF has kept its awarded

projects to a smaller number, usually no more than five.

"You don't want the grants to be so small you can't see any (economic) movement," Gerlach said. "I don't believe that's the case with this review team."

He added that he recognizes that Edenton-Chowan's overall plan integrates various facets of tourism

See GOLDEN LEAF, 3A

Property revaluations set to get under way

DMV offices to collect vehicular taxes

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

County property owners should expect a visiting appraiser any day now.

Eight years since the last one, it's time for property revaluations to begin. Revaluations will not go into effect until July 2014, but the data gathering process typically takes a year to complete and is set to begin anytime. The last revaluation occurred in 2006, before the real estate market collapsed and the nation slumped into a recession. As a result, the last property revaluations were based on robust sales.

Despite the distinctly different real estate climates between the revaluation periods, the next revaluations will be based on true-sale transactions, or those with a willing buyer and seller.

"We have to qualify the sales before we begin," said Clyde Kepley, tax administrator. "You're not getting a true value for a family sale. And foreclosures are fire sales."

County Manager Zee Lamb remains confident that this year's revaluation compared to the last one will not be so dramatically different that it results in a higher tax rate from the existing 68.5 cents per \$100 valuation. Chowan's taxed property value currently stands at \$1.26 billion.

"We assumed a 10 percent drop in aggregate values," Lamb said. "Our sales rate is at 98 percent, which suggests that our values have gone up 1 to 2 percent. It could end up as a break-even."

"Some properties will go up, some down. All properties are different," Lamb added.

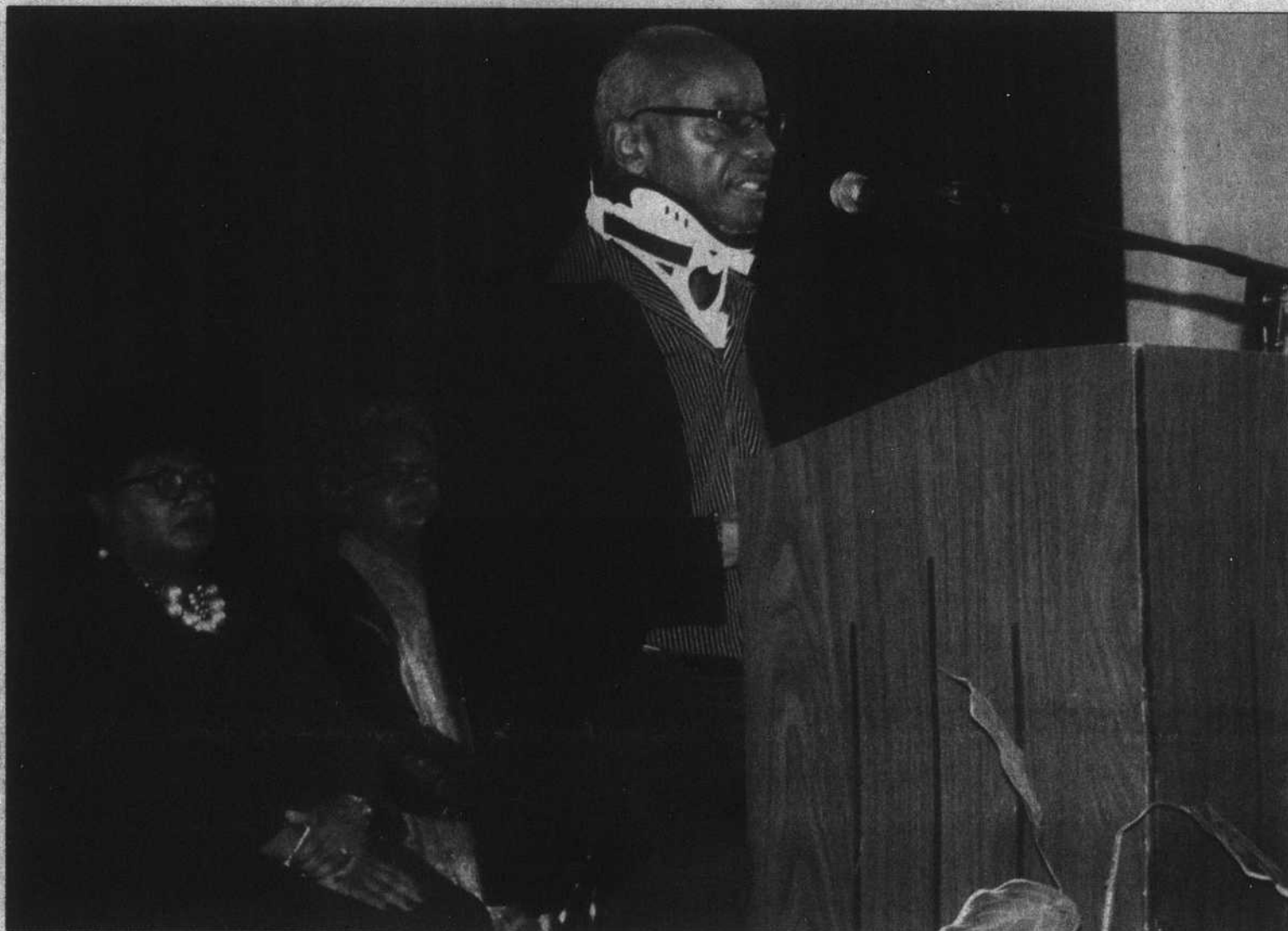
At this time Kepley preferred



Lamb

See VALUES, 3A

REMEMBERING



STAFF PHOTOS BY REBECCA BUNCH

Roger Hathaway, an Edenton native who heads the Office of Education at the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., spoke at the local Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration held at Swain Auditorium, Monday.

MLK Day reminds to keep others dreaming

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Keeping Martin Luther King's dream alive begins by ensuring others fulfill their dreams.

That was Roger Hathaway's message at Monday's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. Hathaway, an Edenton native who heads the Office of Education at the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va. served as the keynote speaker for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at Swain Auditorium.

About 350 people attended the presentation of "Living the Dream for Freedom and Non-Violence."

Hathaway, a former teacher, spoke fondly of his days as a

student at D.F. Walker School and some of the educators who served as major influences on his life.

"The path that I traveled was because of the town where I lived when I was a child," Hathaway said in speaking of his eventual career with NASA.

He also recalled a visit made to Edenton by Dr. King on May 8, 1966. Hathaway said that while he did not attend, his father did and the experience had a profound effect on his family.

"I was a sophomore in high school and I will never forget the look on my father's face, and the way he came home and shared Dr. King's words with us," Hathaway said.

See MLK DAY, 7A



Audience members sing "We Shall Overcome" during the annual celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Police ID break-in suspect

From staff reports

Police have named a suspect in the break-in and theft at the Chowan Agricultural Center.

Warrants have been issued for Robert Keith Beasley, 34, on charges of felonious breaking and entering, according to Edenton Police Chief Jay Fortenbery. Beasley is suspected of breaking into the agricultural building where he ransacked the offices of the N.C. Cooperative

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Beasley

Extension before stealing a credit card on Jan. 13.

A security camera captured a photo of Beasley when he attempted to use the stolen card at an automated teller machine, Fortenbery said. Beasley has a criminal record, including a charge in October for breaking and entering a coin machine at the Wash House on Virginia Road, Fortenbery

See SUSPECT, 2A

Agritourism is a farm's cash cow

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

No longer are farms solely dependent on crops and livestock for as it's only revenue source, at least they don't have to be.

A combination of farmers and tourism leaders converged Thursday in Williamston to learn how they could better work collectively in the interest of



STAFF PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

John Wright, top left, of Sanctuary Vineyards, talks about his efforts to transition a Currituck County farm into a multi-faceted destination at an agritourism conference held in Williamston, Thursday.

See AGRITOURISM, 3A



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