

CHOWAN HERALD



Former Edenton officer wins statewide award - 3A

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Vidant: 'Pungo' issues not plaguing local hospital

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Vidant Health officials said this week that Vidant Chowan Hospital is in sound financial shape and is moving forward with its \$3.3 million remodeling project.

Asked about Vidant Chowan's future in light of last week's announcement that the Vidant Pungo Hos-

pital in Beaufort County will be closing over the next few months, Vidant officials said the situation at the Chowan facility is very different and the hospital here is set to move forward with the capital project in rehabilitation services and outpatient specialty clinics.

Jeffrey Sackrison, president of Vidant Chowan Hospital, and Roger Robertson, president of Vidant Community Hospitals, said that while end-of-year financial performance is difficult to predict due to year-end adjustments, both expect Vidant Chowan Hospital to end its fiscal year a few weeks from now in the black — in a "positive-to-budget" position.

"Chowan has a very strong financial position," Robertson said, with a patient volume that supports the level of services offered here.

That was not the case with the Pungo facility, according to Robertson.

Robertson explained that when Vidant took over Pungo Hospital in 2011, Vidant officials knew there were problems with the building. But the full extent of those

problems was not understood until Vidant became involved in day-to-day operations at Pungo.

"The building was in worse condition than we had anticipated," Robertson said. In addition, the patient volume at Pungo was not adequate to sustain the existing level of service there in the long term, Robertson

said. Sackrison noted that Vidant Chowan Hospital has awarded the contract on the \$3.3 million capital project and mobilization by the contractor is expected around Oct. 7.

"We look forward to continuing to provide the health care services that are

See HOSPITAL, 6A

Summer school costs drop

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

An innovative approach to summer school at John A. Holmes this year resulted in a greater number of subjects being offered as well as a cost savings to students who signed up.

Holmes Assistant Principal Olinka Baker, who served as principal of the summer school for the first time this summer, told the school board during its monthly meeting Monday night that the summer school used a blended approach this year that utilized the Apple-based Apex Learning System as well as the services of five part-time staff at a cost of \$7,380.47. The cost per student, she said, was \$123.

"The Apex system is self-guided," Baker said, "but there were staff members on hand to help the students if necessary."

In comparison, last year's summer school utilized the services of one full-time staff person at \$4,088. A maximum of 10 students were served at a per student cost that ranged from \$408 to \$2,044 depending on the number of students

See SCHOOL, 4A

BLACKBEARD RETURNS



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Sam Harding, 6, joins in on the metal cup as musical historian Simon Spalding plays a tune on the fiddle during the opening reception for the Queen Anne's Revenge exhibit. Spalding explained to Harding and others in the audience that metal cups and other commonplace items were sometimes used as percussion instruments by pirates and other sailors.

Queen Anne's Revenge exhibit opens

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

About three centuries after Blackbeard's Queen Anne's Revenge went down near Beaufort, artifacts from the ship are making a splash once again in

a traveling exhibit that opened in Edenton over the weekend.

Thomas Tate, 13, of Coinjock, was one of the visitors who took in the sights Saturday at the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse. The exhibit is housed on the second floor of the historic courthouse and

will be there through Oct. 16.

Saturday was the first full day the exhibit was open to the public here. An opening reception was held Friday evening.

For Tate, who made the trip from Currituck County with his sister, Lauren Tate, 14, and his grand-

mother, Cheryl Tate, found the artifacts intriguing. He spent several minutes viewing a glass case that contains items such as a grinding stone fragment, lead patch, lead weight and straight pins.

See BLACKBEARD, 6A

Candidates address economic development issues

From staff reports

This week, candidates for Edenton Town Council turn to the topic of jobs and the economy.

This series of "Question of the Week" items the Chowan Herald is running in advance of the Nov. 5 Municipal Election is intended to provide council candidates an opportunity to address a number of important issues. In addition, the newspaper also will be interviewing candidates for profile stories in each council race.

Those profile stories are slated to run beginning Sept. 25.

One-stop voting begins Oct. 17 and ends at 1 p.m.

See COUNCIL, 2A



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BOB QUINN
AT-LARGE SEAT
INCUMBENT

There is no one easy answer to this question. Most people who know me are aware of my opinion that tourism and attracting retirees represents Edenton's best short-term answer to invigorating our economy. Edenton has outstanding assets (One of America's Prettiest Town, its history and its waterfront) that properly utilized can bring increased tourism. In 2012 Edenton-Chowan County's tourism brought revenues of \$18.13 million to our county, jobs for 140 employees with a payroll of \$2.58 million. Our tourism industry paid \$1.12 Million tax revenue to our town-county. Tourism ranks

See QUIJNN, 2A



NORMA SIMPSON
3RD WARD SEAT
INCUMBENT

I think that there are a number of ways the town can help strengthen the local economy and bring jobs to our community.

It is important that we continue to focus on tourism and attracting retirees as a key strategy for keeping the local economy on a sound foundation.

Among the assets the town can take advantage of to keep tourists and retirees coming here are the waterfront and promoting the town's historical significance. Special events such as the Biennial Pilgrimage and the Christmas Candlelight Tour can also continue to attract visitors to Edenton.

Continuing to strengthen

See SIMPSON, 2A



ROSCOE POOLE JR.
3RD WARD SEAT

I believe the council, mayor and town manager have in place a retail alliance with an agreement between the industrial association, Chamber of Commerce, special committees, nonprofit economic development association, low-interest loans and grants.

We must sell the region first and your community second. Retailers are not looking for one location, like an industrial prospect, but want to expand in the region with multiple outlets for effective product distribution.

Rural markets have a great challenge recruiting

See POOLE, 2A



LORIANN CURTIN
4TH WARD SEAT

This question really hits home for me. I lost my job over a year ago. In the last decade this community has lost a lot of jobs. We need to be able to attract and keep new business and industry that will provide jobs with competitive salaries. Edenton and Chowan must continue working with the State on incentives that will bring industry back to our region. We need to offer new businesses something they can't get anywhere else.

We also must educate our prospective workers on what to expect from new industry and how

See CURTIN, 2A



ELTON L. BOND JR.
4TH WARD SEAT

Our town's economy was really hurt when we lost several of our blue collar jobs like George C. Moore, Dye Plant and Pelikan to either other states or to overseas companies. Since so many towns are in the same shape we are, that means we have to compete for business. The town has to be ready to offer incentives to prospective businesses who are thinking about locating in Edenton. We have to continue to apply for grant money to use for incentives along with helping with the infrastructure and use town labor when possible. When

See BOND, 2A

Center Hill Crossroads Fire Department  SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST • 12PM-6PM
FIREHOUSE CHICKEN \$8.00 per plate