



Food pantry sees increased demand

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

While there has been an estimated 20-plus percent increase in the demand for services from the Edenton-Chowan Food Pantry over the past 12 months, the community has risen to the challenge, according to Food Pantry Director Ray Wells.

"The community has been very generous in providing for those who needed their help," Wells

said, "and we've been able to meet that need."

But he cautioned the community not to discontinue its support now that the holidays have passed.

Wells expressed gratitude to those who have held events and given private donations. He also offered his thanks to the Edenton-Chowan Schools for the Lock Up Hunger fundraiser that is taking place now and to the Unitarian group that will be hosting a Fill Up the Pantry

fundraiser on Feb. 22 at the Nothin' Fancy Café & Market in Edenton.

"It is always encouraging to see young people become aware of what the need is and want to help," Wells said. "And the UU group put on a tremendous fundraiser for us last year. We're looking forward to a very enjoyable evening of delicious food for a good cause."

Wells said he also

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FILE PHOTO
In this Chowan Herald file photo, volunteers Jeanette Drew and Bob Zembraski back boxes of food that will be distributed at the Edenton-Chowan Food Pantry.



Roy Harrell

Harrell, former mayor, dies at 83

Served as mayor of Edenton for 19 years

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Former Edenton Mayor Roy Harrell died Monday.

Harrell, 83, had served as mayor for 19 years. He had also served several terms on the town council.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said she would always remember Harrell for his love of service to the community.

"He loved being mayor," Knighton said. "And I think in particular he got a lot of satisfaction and joy from seeing the town's recreation department grow. I think he was proud of the recreation programs that were developed over the years that he served as mayor."

Knighton, a Massachusetts native, said that she and Harrell shared a love of baseball.

"He knew I was a big baseball fan, especially of the Boston Red Sox, and when we would see each other in the years after he left office we would talk about baseball," Knighton said.

Councilman Willis Privott, who recently retired after more than 30 years of service on the town council, shared some memories of Harrell as well.

Privott said that Harrell had a deep love for Edenton and its people — especially those that did not have as much as others.

"Roy always had the best interests of the town and the people at heart in everything he did," Privott said. "He was always trying to lift people up."

Privott said that when he was a brand new council member Harrell took him

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GETTING GUNS OFF THE STREETS

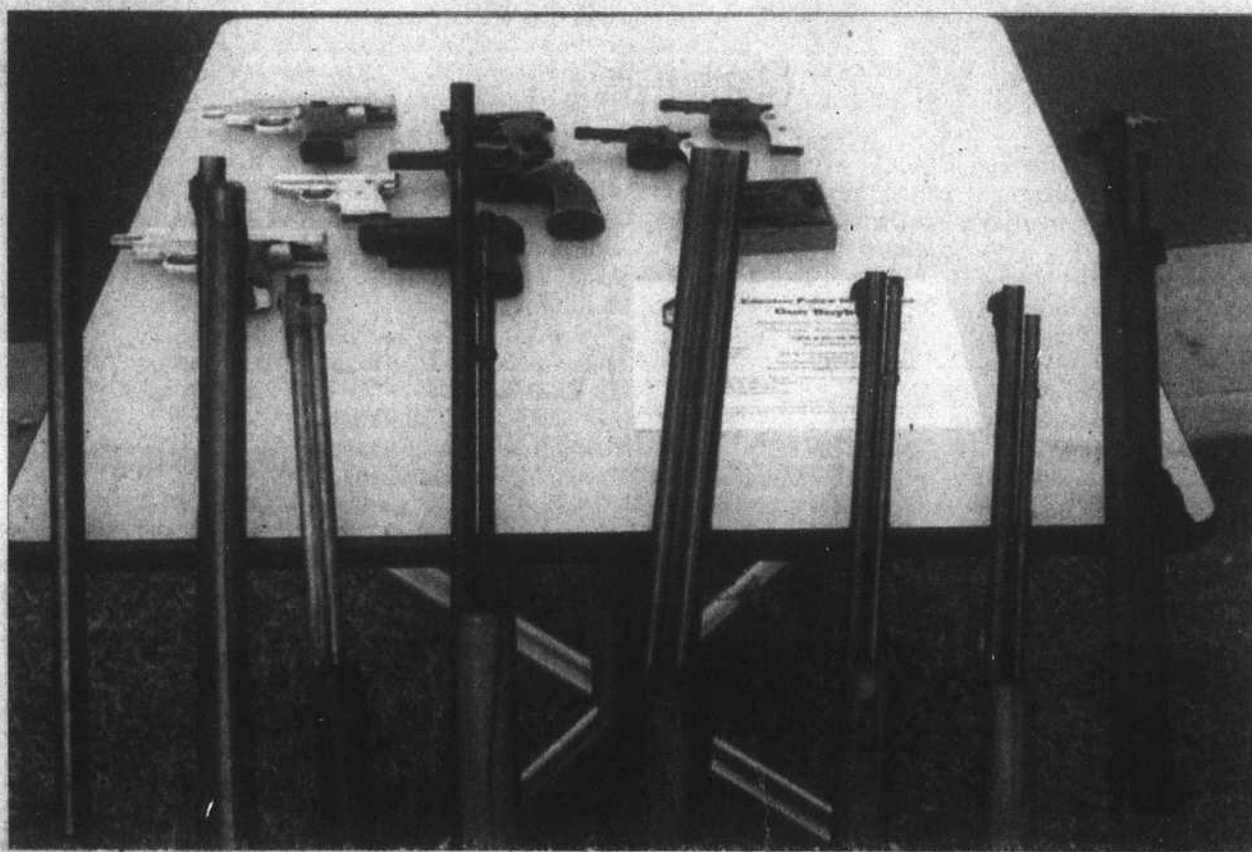


PHOTO COURTESY EDENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

These guns were received during the recent gun buy-back conducted by the Edenton Police Department.

Edenton Police conduct gun buyback

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Town officials say they are pleased with the results of a gun buyback carried out in mid-December by the Edenton Police Department.

Police Chief Jay Fortenbery said that he had been uncertain what the response might be to the event that was held Dec. 18-19. But he was encouraged by the outcome, he said.

"The gun buyback went pretty well," Fortenbery said. "And it helped us get some guns off the street, which is a good thing."

Fortenbery said that the first day of the buyback his department purchased two shotguns, six rifles and nine handguns. On the second day, they purchased three BB guns.

"All total for both days we bought 17 firearms and three BB guns and spent a total of \$940," Forten-

bery said. "We think this is a great way to get extra guns off the street and we will evaluate the cost effectiveness of the program before scheduling another session."

The police chief noted that the BB guns that were purchased were rifles.

"Many BB guns today look just like real guns," Fortenbery said. "Parents need to be careful about allowing children to play with these weapons unpervised."

The town had budgeted a thousand dollars in seed money for the project, said Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton. She said town officials would talk with the town council about the initial results of the program and a decision would be made about whether to continue it. Funds raised from this first effort could be used to help fund future buybacks, Knighton said.

"That's something we're considering," she said.

Roper woman gives birth to New Year's baby

From staff reports

Nineteen-year-old Kadijah Holley of Roper is the mother of the first baby born at Vidant Chowan Hospital in Edenton in the year 2014.

Holley said she was surprised but excited to find out that her daughter Kallyah was Chowan County's New Year's Baby.

The baby was born at 4:12 p.m. on Jan. 1.

"I was really surprised," Holley said on Friday morning. "I didn't find out that she was the New Year's Baby until yesterday."

See BABY, 2A



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Kadijah Holley, 19, of Roper (at left) is the proud mom of the first baby born at Vidant Chowan Hospital during the new year. Above, she holds her daughter Kallyah, as her own mother Sheronda Holley, also of Roper, looks on. Kallyah weighed 6 lbs., 9 ozs. at birth, hospital officials said.

Police seek New Year's Day robber

From staff reports

Police are asking for the public's help in locating a gun-wielding robber who held up an Edenton convenience store on New Year's Day.

Police Chief Jay Fortenbery said that the incident

occurred around 7 a.m. on Jan. 1 at the X-Mart in the 700 block of North Broad Street.

The suspect was described as a black male, medium in build, wearing black clothing, with a black trash bag tied around his head, but with

a hole also cut out so he could see, Fortenbery said.

The suspect, after producing a handgun and after getting an unspecified amount of money, left the store in a green Chevrolet Blazer or a GMC Jimmy with a roof rack, Forten-

bery said. Fortenbery said the vehicle was last spotted going east on Park Avenue, with the vehicle not having a license tag.

Fortenbery said Monday that anyone with information that might help solve the case is encouraged to call the police at 482-5144.

Hardison named interim manager

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Clifton Hardison has been named interim county manager for Chowan County.

The Chowan Board of Commissioners appointed Hardison to the post at the board's regular meeting Monday night.

Hardison will continue to serve as director of social services for the county. He has been the social services director for four years.

The board made the interim appointment as the commissioners continue to search for a county manager to replace Zee Lamb.

Lamb, who started last week as county manager in Nash County, was Chowan's county manager for two years.

Before coming to the Chowan County Department of Social Services, Hardison spent 10 years with the Martin County Department of Social Services — including five years as assistant director of the department.

Hardison is a native of Martin County. He holds a bachelor's degree from Mt. Olive College in business, with a concentration in management and organizational development.

He has taken courses in local government administration from the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Chairman Keith Nixon pointed out during the meeting Monday that Hardison had been with the county through two hurricanes.

After the meeting, Hardison recalled that DSS had set up emergency shelters in 2011 in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene.

The board appointed Hardison unanimously on a motion by Commissioner Emmett Winborne.

Hardison thanked the board for its vote of confidence and then took a seat at the county manager spot to assume his duties as interim county manager.

Winborne asked Hardison, partly in jest, what the county should do about revaluation.

The county is in the midst of the revaluation process, in which properties in the county are assigned new values for tax

See HARDISON, 2A

