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Wednesday, January 22, 2014

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## Medical finance firm to locate in Edenton

From staff reports

Gov. Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced Tuesday that Standard Medical Acceptance Corporation will locate its offices in Chowan County. The company plans to create 32 jobs and invest more than \$552,000 over the next three years in Edenton.

“Employers looking to expand or relocate their businesses continue to choose Eastern North Carolina for its strong job creation climate and skilled workforce,” McCrory said. “The North Carolina model is a blueprint for job creation, and the investment Standard Medical Acceptance is making in Edenton with more than 32 high-paying jobs opens the door to significant opportunities

for Chowan County and its families.”  
 SMA enables health care providers to realize the true current collateral value of their receivables and enables them to receive next day bank funding at attractive rates while protecting the bank against overvaluation of their collateral.  
 “The Department of Commerce is committed to working with existing companies

to grow jobs,” Decker said. “We congratulate Standard Medical Acceptance Corporation for its success and for investing in Chowan County.”  
 Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$63,906 plus benefits. The Chowan County average annual wage is \$31,646.  
 Frank Miglorie, director of the Edenton Chowan

Partnership, said what he thinks was ideal about this particular effort was the level of collaboration from the governor to the commerce department to local officials, with assistance from the Golden LEAF Foundation and the N.C. Support Center.  
 “I look at this as a first step toward this vision we have of revitalizing the community with a stronger

economic base and more job opportunities,” Miglorie said.  
 Chowan Board of Commissioners Chairman Keith Nixon said Miglorie and Cy Rich had done a great job on the project and both deserve a lot of credit.  
 “This is a good win for Chowan County and for Edenton,” Nixon said.

See BUSINESS, 2A

## Wind farm developers address concerns

BY REGGIE PONDER  
 Staff Writer

The company planning a large wind farm along the Chowan-Perquimans county line sought last week to ease the anxiety of airport officials concerning the project's affect on local aviation.

Tyson Utt of Apex Clean Energy Inc. told the Northeast Regional Airport Commission during its meeting Jan. 15 that the company would not erect wind turbines within six miles of the end of the runway at the airport and would be willing to put that in writing in a memorandum of understanding with the airport.

Utt said the company's goal is to build the 300-megawatt Timbermill Wind Farm along the county line in 2016. He told the airport commissioners that Apex had recently completed a 300-megawatt wind energy project in Oklahoma near Oklahoma City and was able to get it built within a nine-month period.

Utt said Apex has been monitoring wind speeds at the site for more than seven months.

“That has been looking really good,” Utt said.

Ben Doyle of Capital Airspace Group was at the meeting to answer questions about the aviation study that he has done for the Timbermill Wind Farm project. Doyle said he is a former military air traffic controller and his firm refuses to take on a job that would have a net negative impact on aviation.

Utt explained that Apex asks Doyle's firm to tell the company where it should not build a wind turbine. The purpose of that process is to figure things out on the front end to avoid running afoul of the Federal Aviation Administration review.

Doyle's study looked at numerous issues including proximity to the Northeast Regional Airport, effect on navigation devices and military airspace concerns, and concluded that the locations being proposed for the wind turbines — and their potential 600-foot height — would not hamper aviation safety.

When airport Commissioner Chuck Schmieler

See WIND FARM, 2A



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## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY



STAFF PHOTOS BY REGGIE PONDER

Members of the audience hold hands while singing “We Shall Overcome” at the close of an MLK Day Celebration at Swain Auditorium, Monday.

## Banks weaves story with civil rights history

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
 Staff Writer

Attorney Sherrod Banks paid tribute Monday afternoon to the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during his keynote speech at the annual celebration honoring the visionary civil rights leader.

His remarks also encompassed the struggles of blacks during the Civil Rights Movement and during the years since.

“Dr. King was here (in Edenton) in 1962 because he wanted me to go as far as my God-given talents and hard work would take me,” Banks declared of a visit King made to the community that year, one of two during his lifetime.

And Banks did. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill cum laude in 1985. Three years later, he was awarded his Juris Doctor degree from the UNC School of Law. Banks practices law in Durham at the Banks Law Firm. In 2001 he

established the Banks Foundation and since then has helped over 40 families become homeowners.

Banks also paid tribute to those in the Old Hertford Road neighborhood who mentored and nurtured him as he was growing up, as well as teachers like former John A. Holmes High School Band Director Otis Strother who had befriended and taught him.

“I know who I am and I know what this community has done for me,” Banks said. “And if my life is a (testament) to his (King's) work, then I say, he did a damn good job!”

Glorious Elliott, who emceed the program and serves on the celebration committee, said Banks' remarks held an important message for students in the audience — that they should move confidently into the future.

“Keep riding up that hill,” Elliott, a member of the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education, said. “Don't look back. If Sherrod Banks had looked back he wouldn't be



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Sherrod Banks, an Edenton native and Durham-based attorney, who was the keynote speaker for the Martin Luther King Day Celebration Monday at Swain Auditorium, accepts a plaque from Celebration Committee Chairwoman Angela Taylor Welch.

where he is today.”  
 A heartwarming moment during the program came when the Emerg-

ing Young Leaders from Chowan Middle School recited sayings from Dr. King and explained what

they meant to them.  
 For instance, LaMya Holley said, Dr. King once said, “A man can't ride your back unless it's bent.”

“I believe he was trying to tell us to stand tall and have confidence in ourselves,” Holley said. “People may try to put you down or upset you. Don't help them by bending down. Plant your feet on solid ground and stand tall.”

Chasity Pate shared a comment Dr. King made about love — “Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.”

Pate said, “I believe he was trying to tell us that our enemies are not expecting us to love them. If you give an unexpected gift or show an act of kindness, an enemy can become a friend. Love and kindness are very powerful forces that can lead to forgiveness between enemies who can now start the healing process to become friends.”

See MLK DAY, 2A

## Town seeks Certified Retirement Community designation

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
 Staff Writer

The Town of Edenton is ready to take its next step toward becoming a North Carolina Certified Retirement Community.

The town council unanimously agreed at its Jan. 14 monthly meeting to allow town staff to submit an application necessary to complete the process. The application

must be completed and submitted to the N.C. Division of Travel & Tourism by Jan. 31, according to Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton.

“An enormous amount of work has gone into preparing this application,” Knighton told the council.

Councilman Bob Quinn led the effort to complete the lengthy application. He was assisted by Edenton Chowan Partnership board

member Jerry Climer and Chowan Tourism Director Nancy Nicholls.

Knighton said that along with the application the town is also required to send in a \$10,000 fee. Those funds are being provided by the Edenton Chowan Partnership, the Chowan Tourism Development Authority and the Edenton Historical Commission.

According to the applica-

tion form, the primary objective of the program is to encourage retirees and those planning to retire the chance to make North Carolina their home and promote the state as a desirable retirement destination. Other goals of the program are to assist communities in their efforts to market themselves as retirement locations, assist in the development of retirement communities and continuing

care facilities and to encourage mature market travel and tourism to the Tarheel State to evaluate the state's desirability as a retirement location.

Climer prepared a required narrative about the community designed to accompany the application.

As part of the narrative, Climer explained why

See RETIREMENT, 2A

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