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Berrys buying Garden of Readin' bookstore, 5A

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Wednesday, September 24, 2014

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Future unclear on Northeast Commission building

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

The town council spent considerable time discussing the future of the Northeast Commission building at its work session Monday night but could not reach a consensus on what the first steps should be once the commission vacates the building in early October for new offices in Williamston. Council members expressed

differing views regarding the possible future use of the building, which sits in a prime location on the downtown Edenton waterfront.

"The highest and best use for the property is not office space," Mayor Roland Vaughan said. "There are opportunities here."

Vaughan suggested that the council hire an appraiser to determine the value of the property and then move forward in

thinking about the best use of the property.

Councilman Steve Biggs asked whether Town Attorney Hood Ellis had determined whether there were any existing covenants or deed restrictions attached to the building that might prevent the town from selling it.

"He is doing research on that right now," Town Manager

See FUTURE, 6A

Economic development group moving away

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

The economic development organization formerly known as the Northeast Commission is moving its headquarters from Edenton to Williamston as a cost-saving measure.

Executive Director Vann Rogerson explained that the organization,

which is now known as the Northeast Alliance, stopped receiving its state funding after June 30 and was now operating as a private nonprofit.

The nonprofit has been looking for private funders and counties to partner with it in its work, Rogerson said.

See MOVING, 6A

FAIR CONTINUES THROUGH SATURDAY

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer



STAFF PHOTOS BY REBECCA BUNCH

Chowan County farmer Emmett Winborne's grandchildren watch over some extra large pumpkins from their perch in his pick-up truck before unloading for the Chowan County Regional Fair. They are (l-r) Andrew Layden, 12, Carley Layden, 4, and Morgan Winborne, 8.

American Legion Post 40 was a beehive of activity over the weekend as volunteers signed in those dropping off items for the educational exhibits at the Chowan County Regional Fair.

Once paperwork was completed on the items they were given to runners who placed them around the exhibit hall in the appropriate category.

Among the runners was Whitney Cranford, who said this was her first year volunteering at the fair. The John A. Holmes High School sophomore said she was having a good time helping to organize things.

"I'm really enjoying seeing what people are bringing in," Cranford said. "I especially like a lot of the photographs. I think some of them are very unique. I love the ones with the horses; they are really beautiful."

Among the exhibitors returning to this year's fair is Nora Bonner of Edenton. Bonner said she has been entering a variety of items for the past 20 to 25 years and has the ribbons to prove it.

This year her entries include a silk floral wreath, a honeybun cake and molasses bread.

"I'm looking for a blue ribbon for my honeybun cake and my molasses bread," said Bonner, 76.

Besides educational exhibits the fair also offers local residents an opportunity to show everything from flowers, pumpkins and gourds to a variety of animals that includes chickens, ducks and even the occasional peacock.

On Sunday afternoon Kaelyn Melton of Ryland was taking photos of two baby peacocks her family

See FAIR, 6A



Fair volunteer Danny Long (left) places vegetables among those grown locally for entry into the fair. Kaelyn Melton (right) looks at a photo she's just taken of two young peacocks that her family has entered in the Chowan County Regional Fair.



Town seeks grant for tech firm office work

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

The Edenton Town Council voted unanimously Monday to apply for a grant on behalf of a medical finance technology company that is relocating from New York City to the upper floor of Town Hall.

The council reached the agreement during a special meeting that was part of its Monday evening work ses-

sion. The vote authorized a resolution that would allow the town to apply for a grant on behalf of the business, Standard Medical Acceptance.

The grant would be obtained through the Building Reuse Program of the N.C. Department of Commerce.

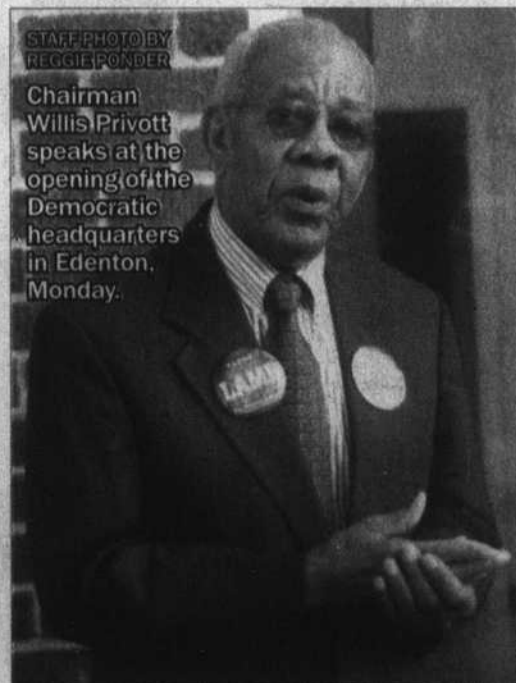
SMA announced in February that it would be relocating its Manhattan headquarters to Edenton. The company is expected to bring high-paying jobs to the community.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton told council during the meeting

See GRANT, 6A

Dems open HQ on East King St.

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor



Chairman Willis Privott speaks at the opening of the Democratic headquarters in Edenton, Monday.

The Chowan County Democratic Party opened its campaign headquarters Monday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and brief speeches by local and regional candidates.

Chowan Democratic Party Chairman Willis Privott offered an opening prayer, asking God to bless the efforts of those working to improve the community and country. The prayer was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Five candidates for local and regional office spoke at the ceremony: Nancy Lamb, who is running for district attorney; John Mitchener, who is seeking reelection as a county commissioner; Garry Meiggs, who is run-

ning for the N.C. House of Representatives in the 1st District; Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin, who is seeking reelection; and Edenton-Chowan Board of Education Chairman John Guard, who is seeking reelection.

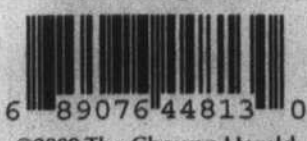
Guard pointed out in his remarks that the board of education race is nonpartisan. He explained that he had been invited to attend the Democratic Party event.

Privott urged the party faithful to keep up their work through Election Day on Nov. 4.

"I got on my knees this morning to ask you not to quit now," Privott said, adding "we have been making great gains."

John Morehead, a local attorney who also attended the

See DEM HQ, 6A



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39th ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE BANDS COMPETITION

Sat., October 4th
 John A Holmes Athletic Complex

CHICKEN/BBQ PLATES 11AM-2PM & 4-7PM
 \$8.00 PER PLATE, BY LEON NIXON CATERING
 COMPETITION BEGINS 5PM / \$8 PER PERSON. KIDS UNDER 10 FREE

Good food and musical entertainment for all.

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT JOHN A. HOLMES HIGH SCHOOL & CHOWAN MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS