COMMUNITY

2A THE CHOWAN HERALD, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2015

Early voting way ahead of 2011 numbers

BY REGGIE PONDER Editor

There were 143 early votes cast in this year's Edenton available at presstime. Re-Municipal Election – more than three times as many as lished in Wednesday's Daily in 2011 when the same offices were on the ballot.

day. Voters went to the polls p.m. Tuesday. at the town's two precincts on Tuesday.

Election results were not sults were slated to be pub-Advance and online at www. dailvadvance.com.

Early voting ended Satur- . The polls closed at 7:30

This year's election features one contested race, with George Grother challenging incumbent Councilman Sambo Dixon for the 2nd Ward seat on the town council.

Mayor pro tem Jimmy Stallings is unopposed for partly account for only 41

man Steve Biggs is unopposed for an at-large seat and Mayor Roland Vaughan is unopposed in his reelection bid.

Dixon, Biggs, Stallings and Vaughan all ran unopposed in 2011, which might

the 1st Ward seat, Council- early votes being cast and only 157 total votes tallied in the entire election.

Chowan County Elections Director Rebecca Lowe said that the trend also had been election was 4.76 percent. toward more people voting early rather than casting their ballots on Election Day.

At the time of the 2011 Municipal Election there were 3,298 registered voters in the Town of Edenton.

Voter turnout in the 2011

At the time of this year's election the town had 3,142 registered voters, according to county elections staff.

EIC celebrates 50 years of service, legacies of employees

Longtime Head Start instructors honored

BY CORINNE SAUNDERS The Daily Advance

hree buildings received new names during a gala celebrating he 50th anniversary of the Edenton-based Economic Improvement Council. Inc., which took place Saturday afternoon at Elizabeth City State University's K.E. White Center

The Head Start buildings in Hyde and Perquimans counties will now be named for longtime Head Start teachers Ethel Whitaker and Jovce Felton, respectively; and the EIC building in Manteo is to be named in honor of longtime EIC social worker Dellerva "Dell" Collins.

The ElC operates four programs geared toward fighting poverty in 10 counties in northeastern North Carolina: Section 8 housing.

Head Start, a weatherization program and Community Services Block Grants.

Head Start is a federally funded preschool program geared toward readying lowincome children for school.

Whitaker has worked with Hyde County Head Start for 50 years and will retire in May.

She "has been and is an amazing blessing to our Head Start program," said Landon Mason. EIC executive director.

He praised her diligent work, even as the program has seen major changes. When Whitaker began teach- teachers and that she "has ing, no requirements existed set the pace for children ... for teachers. Mason noted. mannerly children." but Whitaker pursued and x late's degree



STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNEY

Ethel Whitaker (left), supervisor of the Head Start Center, waves to the audience while being recognized by EIC Executive Director Landon Mason Rr. at the Economic Improvement Council Inc.'s 50th anniversary Black and White Gala at the K.E. White Center, Saturday.

A woman who identified herself as a fellow Hyde Head Start employee for about 25 years noted that she has seen Whitaker demonstrate more energy than far younger

ld-school discipline. she sured journey," Whitaker said in her brief remarks.

Whitaker said she plans to continue mentoring children children instead of 20," and as a volunteer with Head also work with children with Start after she retires.

Felton, who worked for 45 years at the Perquimans ability myself," she noted. Head Start Center, is already Whitaker "still has that retired but still volunteering board of directors, which with the organization. She encouraged gala attendees to also volunteer with Head Start

asked to join administration, where she was told she could "work with 300-some disabilities.

"I love that; I have a dis-Mason thanked the EIC

willingly agreed to rename

legacy, which included 36 D-N.C., gave greetings at the years of service as an EIC social worker and 26 years of service to her hometown of Manteo as a town commissioner and mayor pro tem.

Ashby also noted that while a "quiet spirit," Collins got things done.

Also honored at the gala

gala via a recorded video, as he was unable to attend in person.

Butterfield praised the EIC's efforts to EIC "to improve the lives of eastern North Carolinians," and pledged his support in fighting poverty.

at "well over 60" years old.

Whitaker "is well respected in the Hyde (County) community, and we appreciate herservice." Mason added

Start classroom is required to have at least one teacher. holding a minimum of an associates degree according to the US Department of Health and Human Services. website

FAMILY DENTISTRY

said. "She knows how to be able to talk to children without raising her voice and get their respect.

Upon finding out that Since fall 2011, each Head Whitaker is still teaching at 80 years old, gala attendees gave Whitaker a standing ovation.

This program not only gave me the resources to shape young minds, (but was) a fulfilling and trea-

Felton is "constantly giving of herself and of her time to make life better for other people." Mason stated, and has even given her own money to provide college scholarship funding for area Head Start teachers.

"When you give to someone. God will give it back ing," Felton said. to you." Felton said, to applause

"Head Start (or) any human service program is about giving." she said.

Start for 21 years, then was lamation honoring Collins'

both the Hyde and Perquimans Head Start centers. Staff will have to answer the phones with the full name of the center, including the name of each respective honoree. The EIC wanted to honor the two longtime employees while they're living, he said.

"I thank God I can see this and hear this while I'm liv-

The third named building is in honor of a deceased individual, Collins.

Beulah Charity Ashby of the Dare County Water Felton taught with Head Department, read a proc-

was Roger E. McCobb, board of directors chairman. McCobb is nearing the end

of his second five-year term. which is the maximum allowed under board bylaws, and he served eight of his 10 years as board chairman. Mason said.

Butts III said that McCobb treats him like a little brother, and Butts in turn has a big former U.S. President Lynbrother-like respect for him,

Butts praised his responsible leadership: "I didn't do anything as vice chair because he was always there (at meetings)," he said.

McCobb's example directed all board members "to show up, roll up our sleeves and get to work," Butts said.

Mason said that more than 200 people attended the gala, hailing from all 10 counties in the EIC's service area.

"The response has been great," Mason said, noting local politicians, the faith community, local businesspersons, retired schoolteachers. Vice Chairman Albert and EIC staff were present, among others.

> The EIC traces its roots to don B. Johnson's Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

Countless "community really have opportunity to action agencies launched in 1965," including the EIC Mason said, and many other agencies across the country are thus also celebrating 50 years of service this year.

"Community action embodies the spirit of hope,"







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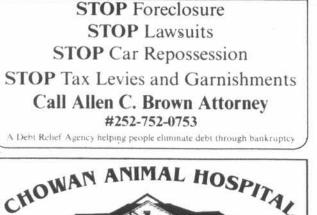
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