



## Chancellor visits town, pitches ECSU vision

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

The new chancellor of Elizabeth City State University told an audience in Edenton Monday that the university is committed to being a good partner in strengthening the economy of northeastern North Carolina.

Chancellor Thomas Conway said he wants to hear from economic developers in the area, from school system superintendents and Chambers of Commerce. The university wants to understand where economic development leaders want to go in the region and how the institution can be part of that, he said.

"That's where we want to go as a good regional partner at Elizabeth City State University," Conway said during remarks to a group of business leaders, educational leaders, local officials and ECSU alumni in the Culinary Arts Building on the Edenton-Chowan Campus of College of The Albemarle.

The Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce helped organize the event.

Conway, who took the reins at the university about two weeks ago, said ECSU was founded in order to infuse economic development efforts into northeastern North Carolina.

In 1891, ECSU founder Hugh Cale was astute enough to realize education was needed in northeastern North Carolina as a key to economic development, according to Conway.

"We need to be careful about how we talk about protecting our educational systems and how they fit into the process," Conway said.

Conway said he knows that ECSU adds value to the region.

"I also know that economic



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Elizabeth City State University Chancellor Thomas Conway speaks to business leaders, local officials and ECSU alumni Monday at the Edenton-Chowan Campus of College of The Albemarle.

See CONWAY, 4A



CHOWAN HERALD

The 2015 John A. Mitchener Jr. Businessperson of the Year Award was presented to Roland and Peggy Anne Vaughan. The award was presented by John Dowd.

## Vaughans earn Chamber's top biz award

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

The longtime owner-operators of downtown Edenton's iconic jewelry store took the top business honor last week at the annual awards banquet of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce.

The 2015 John A. Mitchener Jr. Businessperson of the Year Award was presented to Roland and Peggy Anne Vaughan. The award was presented by John Dowd.

The banquet was held Thursday night at The Links at Mulberry Hill, formerly known as Chowan Golf and Country Club.

In a message sent to Chamber Executive Director Win Dale, the Vaughans thanked Dale, the Chamber Board and the Chamber membership for the award.

"Over the course of 28 years, we have celebrated so many joyful occasions with our customers," the message said. "We have also shared their heartaches and tried to be a positive influence in our community. Through it all, we have made lifelong friendships and stored up wonderful memories. After last night, our 'memory bank' is full and for that, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

Dowd noted the award was established in 1985. He said the husband

and wife team operated a successful Broad Street retail store for 28 years, which he pointed out is a tough feat to pull off in this time of big box retailers and Amazon.

Dowd said the Vaughans got into the retail business by Divine Providence. Ben Riddick saw Roland Vaughan one day and asked him if he knew anyone who would be interested in buying the store, Dowd told the audience. Although Vaughan didn't initially have an interest in purchasing the store, he mentioned it to his wife and she thought they should buy the business.

So the Vaughans bought the jewelry

See VAUGHANS, 4A

## Apex: Permit application likely this spring

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

The developer of the proposed Timbermill Wind Project in Chowan and Perquimans counties told the Chowan County Board of Commissioners last week that the company plans to file a permit application for the project this spring.

In a brief presentation at the commissioners' Feb. 1 meeting, Tyson Utt of Charlottesville, Va.-based Apex Clean Energy Inc. said Apex was continuing to work on the project and collecting data. Apex hopes to file a permit application sometime later this spring, Utt said.

Early in the board's meeting there was an extensive discussion concerning whether to allow Utt to address the board as part of the agenda — as originally scheduled — or whether to instead remove Utt's presentation from the agenda and simply allow him to speak during the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting.

Speakers in the public comment period are limited to three minutes and the commissioners do not

See APPLICATION, 2A

## Consultant to report on potential grocery stores in March

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

A consultant retained by the Edenton Chowan Partnership in collaboration with ElectricCities is expected to produce a report on potential new grocery stores for the community by mid-March, local officials said.

"We will invest up to \$4,500 to match ElectricCities' financial support for this project," said ECP executive director Frank Miglorie. "ElectricCities targeted this professional as one who has extensive experience working within the grocery market."

Miglorie said that the consultant is working for the Partnership during the month of February.

"His task is to study the market in this area and

See STORES, 4A

## Driver license services offered in mobile unit

From staff reports

Services at the Edenton Driver License Office, located at 705 N. Broad St., will continue uninterrupted onsite by the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles mobile unit while the of-

### QUESTIONS?

Customers may call the office at (252) 214-0660 to confirm appointments and operating hours.

office undergoes an assessment of the building's condition, according to information provided by NCDMV. The mobile unit began operation onsite behind the Broad Street office beginning Feb. 1.

The mobile unit will keep regular

hours at the Edenton office, open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

NCDMV also offers online driver license renewals and other services, available at [www.ncdot.gov/dmv](http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv).

Customers may call the office at (252) 214-0660 to confirm appointments and operating hours.

Issues stemming from a roof leak at the DMV office reportedly are being addressed now.

The roof issues did not affect the nearby Albemarle Urgent Care Office.

