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Senior Center repairs awaiting insurance settlement

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Chowan County plans to move ahead with repairs to the flood-damaged Senior Center once the insurance settlement is resolved.

County Manager Kevin Howard explained the process at the meeting Monday of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners.

Several members of the public addressed the board during the public comment period, urging swift action to repair the facility and get popular programs such as fitness and billiards back in full swing.

Commissioner John Mitchener echoed those concerns in his comments later in the meeting.

"I want everyone to listen

to them," Mitchener said of the concerns expressed by the public.

John Powell, Shari Farless, Ann Forehand, Barbara Ramsey and Jerald Perry all asked the board to move quickly in repairing the Senior Center.

Powell mentioned the importance that the center's fitness programs have for many peo-

ple in the community. He said he has used the fitness equipment four or five days a week himself. He noted that on average 140 people a day sign in.

Farless said the Senior Center has been recognized as a Center of Excellence and indicated that the designation might be in jeopardy if the facility was not repaired soon. She also men-

tioned the popularity of the Silver Sneaker and Silver Fit programs.

Forehand said she and others benefit from the fitness programs at the center.

"We need y'all now to bring our Senior Center back so we can use it," she said.

Ramsey pointed out that fitness equipment, two com-

puters, a ping pong table and resource library had all been lost in the flooding.

Perry said he would like the commissioners to give as much consideration as possible to the restoration of the Senior Center.

Howard said the Senior Center was damaged in the severe flooding last fall and

See SENIOR, 2A



Donna H. Winborne (right) accepts the 2016 John A. Mitchener Jr. Business Person of the Year Award from Jennifer Bergevin.

WINBORNE IS BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Accountant Donna H. Winborne is the 2016 recipient of the John A. Mitchener Jr. Business Person of the Year Award.

Jennifer Bergevin presented the award to Winborne Thursday night at the annual Edenton-Chowan County Chamber of Commerce awards dinner. The dinner was held at the Links at Mulberry Hill.

A visibly surprised Winborne thanked the Chamber for the award.

"This means a lot," Winborne said. "Thank you."

In presenting the Business Person of the Year Award, Bergevin described Winborne as someone who makes others happy; puts others first; shows a genuine concern for those around her; is generous, helpful and the first to show up with a helping hand; and takes the time to listen.

Bergevin said Winborne is a true leader in business and the community, who believes in investing time and energy in young graduates and is focused on serving clients and providing employees with a nice place to work every day. She cares about employees as people and has remained strong in the midst of great struggles, Bergevin said.

Winborne truly is one of the kindest, smartest, most generous, hardworking and compassionate people she has ever met, Bergevin said.



Brian Harvill, 2017 president of the Edenton-Chowan County Chamber of Commerce, enjoys a light-hearted moment with Lisa Turner, the 2016 president.

When Winborne arrived at the podium to accept the award she remarked that as she listened to Bergevin's description she kept wondering who in the world she could be talking about.

In addition to presenting the Business Person of the Year Award and other awards recognizing community service and community spirit, the Chamber also took a moment

to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the rest of this one.

Lisa Turner, the Chamber's 2016 president, recognized special guests and said it was great to see all the improvements at the Links at Mulberry Hill.

Turner cited activities during the past year,

See BIZ, 2A

Local man arrested on drug charges

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

An Edenton businessman was arrested last week on cocaine possession and driving while impaired charges.

John Lee Allen Gay, 54,

of Country Club Drive in Edenton, was arrested Jan. 31 at 7:15 p.m. and charged with possession of cocaine with intent to sell and deliver, and with driving while impaired, according to John McArthur of the Chowan County Sheriff's Office.

Gay operates John Gay studios in downtown Edenton.

Gay was released shortly after the arrest when he posted bond, according to McArthur. Gay had been placed under \$10,000 secured bond on the drug charge and \$1,000 unsecured bond on the DWI charge.

McArthur said the arrest was the result of a joint

See GAY, 2A

Survey looks at access to broadband

BY PETER WILLIAMS
The Perquimans Weekly

The Hertford-based Albemarle Commission is conducting a survey of the 10-county area to find out what kind of broadband Internet is really out there.

Chowan County Commissioner John Mitchener put in a plug for the survey Monday night at the meeting of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, noting the importance of Internet access for everyone from business owners to public school students.

Albemarle Commission Director Cathy Davison said once the commission gets the full picture and finds out what people want and need, it can work with industry and government to fill in the gaps.

"As part of our ongoing planning and economic development work for the region, we realized that we couldn't leave broadband access and infrastructure out of the equation," Davison said.

Davison believes having broadband services isn't a luxury, but something the

See SURVEY, 2A

Town, county proclaim '2016 Aces Football Day'

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

A rare joint session of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners and Edenton Town Council was convened Monday to adopt a joint town-county resolution proclaiming this Friday as 2016 Aces Football Day in honor of the team's trip to the 2A state championship game in December.

The resolution states that the town and county wish

to honor "2016 Aces players, coaches, cheerleaders, managers, teachers and the fans that supported the Aces during their championship season."

The Aces finished second in the state in the 2A classification, falling to the Reidsville Rams on Dec. 17 in the 2A State Championship game.

During the playoffs leading up to that game the Aces defeated Beddingfield High School 45-22, Kinston High School 51-33 and Northeastern High School 35-21.

The Aces won the 2A Eastern Regional Championship on Dec. 9, defeating South Columbus High School 50-14.

The resolutions urges all

citizens on Friday to "reflect upon the dedication and determination that enabled this team to become the Eastern Regional Champions."

Chowan Board of Commissioners Chairman Jeff Smith and Edenton Mayor Roland Vaughan remarked that it was an especially happy event that had brought the two boards together for the meeting.

The county commissioners and town council passed the resolution unanimously.

Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Rob Jackson, members of the school board, teachers and administrators from John A. Holmes High School, and players

See FOOTBALL, 2A



Town, county and school officials join Edenton Aces football players and coaches in celebrating the 2016 2A Eastern Regional Champions, the Edenton Aces.

