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Wednesday, September 13, 2017

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Food Pantry accepts challenge to raise \$100K

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

A family-centered organization, the 4 Others Foundation, has offered the Edenton-Chowan Food Pantry an incredible opportunity to qualify for a matching grant of \$100,000. The Pantry's challenge is to raise enough funds in the community to meet that challenge.

Roger Coleman, who serves as director of the nonprofit organization dedicated to feeding adults and children in need, said the Pantry needs everyone's help to meet the challenge. They have until Dec. 31 to raise the money.

"We are faced with the task of fundraising this equal sum from the community and this will require an extensive outreach effort," he said. "Our plan is to begin now reaching out to the community to announce the need for us to secure these funds," Coleman added.

He said that some donations for the campaign have already been received and that has allowed the Pantry and its fundraising committee to secure almost \$25,000. But a good deal more support will be needed to raise the remaining funds.

Coleman and Campaign Challenge Chair Amanda Howell credited Edenton's

Mayor Roland Vaughan with getting the ball rolling. Vaughan has long been a friend of Dr. John Phillips, who is affiliated with the 4 Others Foundation. When the mayor learned of his friend's interest in doing something to benefit the community, he suggested that the Food Pantry would be a great venue for helping those in need locally.

Howell is one of a group of educators from the Edenton-Chowan Schools who played an integral role in establishing a local Book Bag Buddies program to ensure that students did not go hungry during times when schools are closed.

"Eighty-two percent of the students in our local schools qualify for free and reduced price lunches," she said. "We're doing all we can to keep them healthy."

Other programs offered by the Food Pantry include regular distribution each month of nutritious food to low-income families, as well as Summer Without Hunger, a summer feeding program geared toward children that is carried out in cooperation with an outreach committee from Edenton United Methodist Church, and also supplemental food made available to low-income, elderly



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Amanda Howell talks about the origins of the Book Bag Buddies program, one of the initiatives of the local Food Pantry that helps to make sure children in the community have healthy, nutritious food to take home with them on weekends during the school year, and in the summer. Looking on is Roger Coleman, Pantry director.

See PANTRY, 3A

Schools scores improve

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

Edenton-Chowan school system officials are expressing excitement over progress in student academic growth and proficiency reported for the 2016-2017 school year reflected in a test/accountability report released last Thursday by the North Carolina State Board of Education.

Michelle Maddox, human resources and public information officer for the school system, said that D.F. Walker Elementary School experienced the highest growth rate among the county's four schools. The school exceeded expected growth for the second consecutive year and moved from a performance grade of C to a grade of B.

"Students at the school increased their growth and percent proficiency in every tested area with an overall growth rate of 88.8 percent," she said.

Michelle White, principal at D.F. Walker, said she and

See SCORES, 5A

EDITOR'S NOTE

Due to Hurricane Irma, the Chowan Herald had a much earlier press deadline for this edition so that we could be sure that the newspaper wouldn't need to risk a delay in publication. Thus coverage of the hurricane as well as Leon and Joyce Evans' 9/11 service will not appear in this edition. And NASCAR fans — blame Irma. That special page will be returning Sept. 20 to the Chowan Herald.



PHOTOS BY KIM ULLOM

"Another Day in Mayberry" was performed recently at Rocky Hock Baptist Church. Give these master thespians a bit of credit for their dedication and ability to perform characters from the much beloved "Andy Griffith Show."

'Another Day in Mayberry'

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

The "Andy Griffith Show" is a part and parcel of being not only a North Carolinian, but the show shared the values that make small town living sweeter than Aunt Bee's butterscotch pecan pies.

To pay homage to the show, "Another Day in Mayberry" was performed last weekend at Rocky Hock Baptist Church. The cast for the show included Andy ((Steve Evans); Barney (Mike Evans), Opie (Grant Nixon), Otis (Pastor Tyler Cone), Gomer (Chris Turner); Aunt Bea (Donna Peele); Thelma Lou (Marcia Evans); Helen (Meredith Wood); Floyd (Sammy Morris) and Ernest T. Bass (Allen Nixon).

"I think the lessons that are portrayed in the play are very relevant for the world today," Cone said. "We as humans sometimes find ourselves in backsliding situations and don't know where to turn. The first place that we should turn is to the gospel of Jesus Christ and that can come from



Alright Otis. Get in the jail cell. Sleep it off. Maybe if you're lucky, you won't wake up next to a goat who ate a bunch of dynamite. Kablooy!

focusing back on Him and asking for forgiveness for the things that have caused us to backslide."

Noted photographer and Chowan High School alumnus Kim Ullom said she enjoyed the show.

"The members of our church never cease to amaze me," she said. "This

type of ministry is something that unites not only our little community but those all around us. Our church has always been known for our music and sharing the gospel through our creative ministries. But now I think

See MAYBERRY, 2A

I-87 project gains speed

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

The state Department of Transportation displayed maps from a preliminary feasibility study Thursday to local government officials about a possible I-87 highway.

Once completed, I-87 is planned to start in Raleigh, continue northeast through Rocky Mount, Williamston, Elizabeth City, ending in Norfolk, Va. The meeting's purpose was to provide information on the study and to gather any additional comments that local government officials may have. A draft of the project should be released this winter.

"This plan will bring your speed limit up to 70 mph, make it safe and you'll get more traffic and that should boost your economy as well," said Shane York, DOT feasibility Studies Engineer. "GPS devices will send more traffic through this corridor instead of rerouting through I-95 which means more economic development."

The US-17/64 Highway Association is considered the leading advocacy organization for most all eastern North Carolina roads.

"I think this a really important step toward getting a fully controlled access," said Marc Finlayson, a New Bern-based consultant who serves as Executive Director of the US-17/64 Highway Association Project. "I-87 is

See PROJECT, 3A

Commission meets new director, passes brunch bill

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

A new executive director of the Edenton-Chowan Partnership was introduced recently to the Chowan County Commission.

Thomas Mallory Denham of Maysville Kentucky said he looks forward to living and working in Chowan County. Denham was

"My desire to remain involved in economic develop-

ment activities was complicated by the fact I also wanted to continue to live in a rural community," he said. "Happily, Edenton and Chowan County are about the same size as Maysville and Mason County and Edenton has the added benefit of being a historic and beautiful town on the Chowan River and Albemarle Sound. Because this area is highly depended on agriculture, it is very easy to find myself feeling right at

home and I'm quickly learning about the amazing number of folks from Edenton who had a hand in creating our great country."

Jeff Smith, chairman of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, praised Denham's wide ranging experience.

"It is great that Mallory has owned a farm and industrial supply firm and understands what our kind of economy is all about," he said. "He's com-

fortable in the middle of a soybean field or on the floor of a modern factory."

The executive director's post has been vacant since Larry Lombardi took a job in April as Currituck County's economic development director. Denham will be earning \$52,000 annually.

In other business, County Manager Kevin Howard was appointed as county planner until a new can be hired. Former County Planner

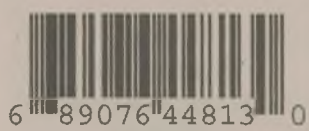
Elizabeth Bryant's resigned in August. The county's loss is Town of Edenton's gain as Bryant recently started her new job as the town's new director of planning and community development.

Also, the commission appointed Don Hoggard as the county's maintenance director. Hoggard has many years of experience from his work in Hertford and East Caroli-

See COMMISSION, 2A



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 9:00am 5K Run/Walk

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