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Wednesday, September 20, 2017

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Council extends deadline to attract Brew Pub

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

After two years of trying to close the deal on the purchase of the former Northeast Commission building on the downtown waterfront, the town still doesn't have a firm commitment from a prospective buyer on the table.

At the Sept. 12 town council meeting, some council members expressed frustration with the continued series of delays that have kept a deal from closing. But the majority voted in favor of

a proposal by Councilman Sambo Dixon that would give Raleigh businessman John Glover an additional 30 days to make a decision. Councilman Elton Bond voted against the plan.

Bond said the residents in his ward want to know why the sale is taking so long to move forward.

"I'm getting hammered," he said. "And I can't answer their questions."

Bond said it is hard for him to understand why the council was being asked to extend the Sept. 11 dead-

line it had previously given Raleigh businessman John Glover to decide whether he wanted to purchase the property.

"Why are we extending it?" an obviously exasperated Bond asked. "How much time are we going to give this?"

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said the latest delay centers on concerns that Glover has about one of 18 proposed covenants connected to the sale. That particular one centers on a requirement that would affect

Glover's ability to change the use for the building from a microbrewery and pub at some point in the future.

She said there was one bit of good news for the developer. Knighton said that an exemption from stringent, state-mandated flood proofing of the building could be possible due to its status as an historic building. If successful, that effort would involve seeking a variance from the local Board of Adjustments, she said. Town officials are currently working to make sure the build-

ing is "absolutely eligible," Knighton said.

Councilman Steve Biggs, who has repeatedly objected to selling the property for commercial use due to its proximity to a public park, has opposed the sale as have Bond and Councilwoman Norma Simpson who have also cited the location as one where children play therefore making it an inappropriate place for the business to operate.

And Biggs pointed out that Glover has yet to personally provide answers to

a series of questions posed by Councilman Bob Quinn.

Knighton pointed out that town staff had reviewed and answered the questions submitted last May.

Bond questioned why the same amount of time and effort wasn't being put into a continued search to bring a second grocery store to the community.

Councilman Jimmy Stallings said that work continues to be done to bring in another store but efforts

See COUNCIL, 4A

Witnesses share details of crash

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 For the Chowan Herald

A helicopter that crashed in a field in Perquimans County this month had recently undergone inspections, but witnesses reported seeing smoke trailing behind it before it crashed.

The National Transportation Safety Board released the preliminary findings Tuesday morning. The full investigation could take a year to 18 months.

The six-year-old Eurocopter was equipped with an on-board audio and video recording system but the unit was damaged by heat. However, the memory device remained intact, according to the report. The unit was sent to the NTSB

See CRASH, 4A

Festival poised to shell out memories

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

The Edenton Peanut Festival may be nearing its 50th birthday — it marks its 42nd this year on Saturday, Oct. 7 — but organizers always strive for ways to keep the event interesting. This year will be no exception.

Marching Aces Band Director Lynn Dale said that this time around he and other band supporters plan to reach out to former members of the band that has its roots in the 1930s.

"On Friday night, the night before the Peanut Festival, we plan to host tailgating in

See FESTIVAL, 4A



PHOTOS BY JOHN COLLINS
 An Honor Guard from the Coast Guard of Elizabeth City posts the colors during Sunday afternoon's dedication ceremony for the Dr. Hugh Williamson monument installed in the Elizabeth Vann Moore Park (previously Queen Anne Park) on the Edenton waterfront.

A man of all seasons

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

On Sunday afternoon under stormy skies local residents gathered at the Elizabeth Vann Moore Park on the waterfront to celebrate the dedication of a long-awaited monument honoring Dr. Hugh Williamson of Edenton, a signer of the U.S. Constitution.

Mayor Roland Vaughan offered those attending a warm welcome and noted that the project — shepherded from the start by Edenton Tea Party Chapter NSDAR members Virginia Wood and Beth Taylor — marked the successful conclusion of a decades-long effort.

Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, offered a timeline detailing the progress of the project that had its start in a conversation between Wood and Taylor, who had just been elected regent of the local DAR chapter, in May of 2000.

Wood proposed two visions to Taylor — first that the DAR host a July 4 ceremony where the Declaration of Independence could be read



A large crowd attended Sunday's ceremony for a monument dedicated to Hugh Williamson.

each year on Independence Day on the Courthouse Green adjacent to a monument honoring Joseph Hewes of Edenton, who was a signer of the document.

"This vision has been happening each July 4 for 18 years," Steinburg said.

The second vision would take a bit longer to achieve, he noted.

"That was to have a monument erected in homage to Hugh Williamson, a signer of the U.S. Constitution," Steinburg said. "A monu-

See WILLIAMSON, 5A



PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY NICHOLLS/CHOWAN TDA

The beauty of historic sites such as the Penelope Barker House is one of the reasons so many people from across the country visit Edenton each year.

Tourism dollars add up

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

Attracting visitors to our community equals a substantial contribution to local revenue.

Figures recently released by Visit North Carolina show that spending by visitors to Chowan County totaled 21.27 million dollars in 2016, an increase of 6.2 percent over the previous year.

Chowan County Tourism Development Authority Chairman Don Faircloth said the increase clearly demonstrates the significance of having visitors hear about and visit the county.

"The increase in visitor spending shows the importance of the hospitality industry in Chowan County," he said. "The value of cooperation and collaboration within our county to help grow this industry continues to be significant. As we move forward, we look to inviting more visitors to experience and share our rich

See TOURISM, 2A



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Chowan County Regional Fair opens Sept. 26

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Come one, come all to the 71st annual Chowan County Regional Fair.

The annual fair runs between Sept. 26 and Sept. 30 at the American Legion Fairgrounds.

"There will be plenty do with acts that cover all ages," said Becky Wilder, vice president of the Chowan County Regional Fair

Board of Directors. "There is something for every age. This is our 71st year, so we hope everyone will come out and enjoy what we have to offer. It's a tradition for many families."

The giant train display is coming back with a new location for an even bigger display. It is called the LED Railroad Circus ran by Eddie and Lisette Diehl. The Kid Popular Marionettes are coming back after a three

absence with a whole new act. Macnally's Pig Racing is also returning for a second year along with a new Bike Stunt show by CW Trials. And there will be much, much more fun for fairgoers.

Gate admission tickets are \$8 for 36" and taller at the gate. Advance tickets sales end Saturday (Sept. 23) with prices at \$6 per ticket and they can be found at local Duck-thru food stores

and at the Fair office.

Parents, look at that pricing:

■ Tuesday Special — Elementary & Middle School students admitted FREE with paying adult.

■ Wednesday Special — K-12 students admitted for HALF PRICE.

■ Thursday Special — 60 and over admitted FREE, K-12 admitted for HALF PRICE.

■ Friday — No dis-

counts

■ Saturday Special — (active) Military Discount — half price gate admission for all family members 36" and taller.

Enter and win! There's over \$40,000 cash available in prize money for your handiwork. You may enter your exhibit from 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday and/or Sunday between 1 p.m. and

See FAIR, 6A

COUNTRY NIGHTS AND FAIR LIGHTS
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