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CHOWAN HERALD

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Bulldogs celebrate golden anniversary - 4B

Town Council wants to attract new grocery store

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Town Council received a briefing concerning efforts being made to attract a second grocery store to the community during their Monday night monthly work session.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said that this week she and County Manager Kevin Howard would join Jennings Gray, an economic developer with Elec-

triCities, and new Edenton-Chowan Partnership Executive Director Mallory Denham in talks with the owners of the Edenton Village Shopping Center where the empty Food Lion store is located. She said that Food Lion is currently in the second year of a five-year lease at the site and has three more options to renew their lease in five-year increments at that site.

"We want to really press them to do something," she

said. "We have work to do." "I know it's frustrating," she told council members. I know you are getting asked about this all the time. Edenton is not a one grocery store town."

Gray talked about the pluses and minuses the town has when it comes to convincing another grocery store to locate here.

On the plus side, Gray said that while Edenton's population made it difficult to interest larger grocery

"Edenton is not a one grocery store town."

Anne-Marie Knighton
Town manager

operations that find urban areas more appealing, the income of its residents is higher than that found in many communities of a similar size.

Retailers look carefully at risk, he said, and the fact is

that the town has previously supported more than one grocery store.

"It's a proven market, that's our message," he said.

Gray said that among the grocery chains that have been approached to consider opening a store in Edenton are Piggly Wiggly, Save-A-Lot, IGA and Wal-Mart. A major sticking point, he said, has been the lack of an existing, empty grocery store where with minor renovations a space

could be occupied relatively quickly.

"If we had that kind of second generation store space currently, I feel certain we would have a second grocery store already," he said.

So, Gray said, the challenge becomes, how do you fix the problem? One way would be to attract local investors who would help provide a building where a

See GROCERY, 5A

Come one, come all to the fair

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

The smell of fried food wafted through the air Tuesday morning at the Chowan County Regional Fair.

A stuffed giant Smokey the Bear greets everyone attending the 71st annual fair that started Tuesday and ends Saturday at the American Legion Fairgrounds. There were all sorts of spinning rides that defy gravity, arts and crafts and all of the essentials that make this fair popular.

"We have about 1,800 exhibits," said Brenda (Perry) Toppin, secretary of the Chowan County Regional Fair Board of Directors. "Our exhibitors have come from 12 surrounding counties, Virginia and everywhere. There is something for everyone and as always, it is a family affair."

As to family affair, Toppin knows what she is talking about because her family has been part of the fair tradition for decades. For starters, Toppin's father was W.A. Perry — that's his name on the fair's main building. Fair manager — that's her husband, E.C. Toppin. This kind woman who knows everybody and everything about the fair has been attending the annual event since she was in diapers.

"The day our fair opened, I was about a year old in 1947," Toppin said. "I've been going to the fair for 70 years — never missed one."

Gate admission tickets are \$8 for 36" and taller at the gate.

As an expert, Toppin

See FAIR, 6A



PHOTOS BY KIP SHAW

State Representative Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, speaks from the heart about the importance of honoring the American flag and U.S. Constitution.

Constitution Day program honors America

■ Steinburg talks about kneeling during National Anthem

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Edenton Tea Party NS-DAR's Constitution Day program was standing room only Saturday morning at the historic 1767 Chowan County Courthouse. Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, the keynote speaker, offered remarks about why it is wrong to kneel during the National Anthem.

"We have some who think it is cool or in vogue to not stand when saluting our flag and not sing the National Anthem — to turn their backs on it," he said. "That is sad for many reasons, but the most important reason is, if we do not honor the flag which represents everything this nation stands for and the Constitution, then we are not even honoring and protecting their right to



Albemarle Sounds and the Chowan Middle School choir perform "God Bless" during the Edenton Tea Party's Constitution program on Saturday at the historic 1767 Chowan County Courthouse.

do what they have chosen to do. That's what that document is."

During many sporting events across the nation this past weekend, more than a

few athletes knelt during the "Star Spangled Banner." President Donald Trump expressed his view condemning those who bent their knees in protest while praising

those who support the American flag as patriots.

"If a player wants the privilege of making mil-

See PROGRAM, 4A

College approves new leader

From staff reports

AHOSKIE — The Roanoke-Chowan Community College Board of Trustees has appointed Dr. Stanley J. Elliott as the 9th President of the College. The State Board of Community Colleges approved Dr. Elliott's position at their meeting held on Sept. 15.



ELLIOTT

He will assume the role as president of R-CCC on Oct. 2.

Dr. Elliott graduated from John A. Holmes High School in 1988 and then earned a B.S. in Political Science from Elizabeth City State University, a Master's Degree in Public Administration from North Carolina Central University, and a Ph.D. in Educational Research and Policy Analysis from North Carolina State University. In 2010, he completed the year-long Leadership North Carolina Program.

Elliott's parents are James and Glorious, a member of the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education.

"We are proud of our son and his accomplishments," she said. "He has always been a well-rounded individual and loves people, especially children. Back in high school, we could tell that the our boy would go places. Praise God for this blessing."

See LEADER, 5A

RAISING MONEY

Edenton-Chowan Food Pantry



Ceremony pays tribute to first piece of public art

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Town officials joined the leadership of the Chowan Arts Council and Destination Downtown Edenton on Sunday in dedicating the community's first piece of public art, a cypress tree created by North Carolina sculptor Jonathan Bowling of Greenville.

Mayor Roland Vaughan spoke about the spirit of collaboration that infuses so many endeavors in our com-

munity including this public arts initiative. Vaughan said that the sculpture selected to be the town's first public arts piece was already drawing attention and comments from the public as they noticed it while walking by the Chowan Arts Council. The piece was installed last Tuesday afternoon.

"People are stopping by this spot already," Vaughan said as he addressed the crowd attending the dedi-

See ART, 6A

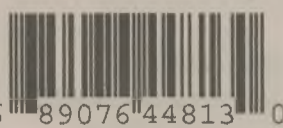


STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Mayor Roland Vaughan welcomes those attending the dedication on Sunday afternoon of the first piece of work commissioned through the Public Art Initiative outside the Chowan Arts Council.



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