

COMMUNITY

Bethlehem sounds with Albemarle Chorale

BY MIMI REIHELD
For the Chowan Herald

It's the destination of the season: Join Music Director Lynwood Winslow and Accompanist Michael Morgan, for a musical journey with the Albemarle Chorale, to a small Middle-Eastern town long ago and far away. Just for an hour

or two, follow that star in the east, look on with wonder, rejoice and sing!

The first Albemarle Chorale Christmas Concert will begin at 4 p.m. On Sunday, Dec. 3, at the Edenton United Methodist Church, 225 Virginia Road, Eden-



WINSLOW

ton, and the second will be the following week, at 4 p.m. on Dec. 10, at the First United Methodist Church, 201 South Road Street, in Elizabeth City.

There's no charge for the newly-independent Albemarle Chorale's concerts, but despite

every member's fee paid at the start of each semester, the cost of new sheet music, and honoraria for soloists and staff, makes audience contributions especially needed and appreciated.

Preparing for the holiday trip took Winslow all summer. He sifted through centuries of Christmas mu-

sic, as he thought about the best way to showcase the musical talent of his 53 member Albemarle Chorale. The resulting program combines old favorites from the Chorale's music library, spectacular classics, beloved traditional carols, and new selections sure to delight the audience. The musical texts range

from contemplative early church music to jubilant modern compositions, all recalling that first Christmas miracle.

"I tried to have a little something for everybody. They're accessible, not extremely long, with the sec-

See CHORALE, 5B



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Rocky Hock Opry cast will perform its annual Christmas show on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1-2 at the Perquimans County High School Auditorium starting at 7 p.m. both nights.

Rocky Hock Opry poised to perform

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The Rocky Hock Opry cast will perform its annual Christmas show on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1-2 at the Perquimans County High School Auditorium starting at 7 p.m. both nights.

But this won't be just another pair of shows. By the time they are over, emcee Steve Evans says, the cast and crew expect to have reached an important milestone — they will hit the half-million dollar mark in

fundraising that Steve's dad, Jack Evans, set about 15 years ago when he and some musician friends started the Opry shows as a way to raise money for cancer research after family members' lives were impacted by the deadly disease.

"We're right there," Steve Evans said of reaching that goal after so many years of doing shows to get there. "These shows will put us over the top if folks just buy some tickets."

Like many of the others attached to the show, Steve

Evans is a veteran cast member. He said that he could recall missing performing only once, when his son was among a group of local students competing in an out-of-state Odyssey of the Mind competition. That time, he said, he had to call on his brother to stand in for his familiar comedic character, Flatbilly Bob.

Evans said cast has an exciting show planned both nights that will include both country songs and Christmas

music. "We're going to do the

first half with country songs and then we'll come back in the second half with pretty much all Christmas songs," he said. "We've got some special things planned for these shows that we think the audiences will really like including some new music we've never done before."

The musical numbers will be complemented by the comic antics of Evans as Flatbilly Bob and Cindy Lewis as Minnie Pearl.

Evans said that there is a

See OPRY, 6B

Who is NAMI?

Dear NAMI,

I have been looking for an organization to become involved with in the community and am interested in NAMI. Can you tell me more about NAMI and how I might participate?

Curious About NAMI

Dear Curious,

Thank you for your interest in helping with NAMI Albemarle! Let me tell you a little about who we are, what we do, and how you can help.

Dear Nami

WHO ARE WE? NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. What started as a small group of families gathered around a kitchen table in 1979 has blossomed into the nation's leading voice on mental health. Today, we are an association of hundreds of local affiliates, state organizations and volunteers who work in your community to raise awareness and provide support and education that was not previously available to those in need.



Betsy Johnstone

WHAT DOES NAMI ALBEMARLE DO here in Chowan County? Since our formation in January of 2015, we have held Family Support Groups, given numerous educational talks to local organizations, and initiated collaborative meetings to bring together local agencies to reduce the number of involuntary

See NAMI, 6B

CALENDARS

THURSDAY, NOV. 30

■ Chorale at Coffee House

A small ensemble of singers from the Albemarle Chorale will be performing selections of Christmas music from their upcoming December concert, "In Bethlehem," at the downtown Edenton Coffee from 5:30-6 p.m. under the direction of Lyn Winslow. Everyone is invited to attend this free performance. Among the selections scheduled to be performed are "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "See Amid the Winter's Snow," and "Joy to the World."

FRI. AND SAT., DEC. 1-2

■ Rocky Hock Opry

The Rocky Hock Opry will present shows both nights starting at 7 p.m. at the Perquimans County High School Auditorium, 505 South Edenton Road, in Hertford. Proceeds will benefit Chowan-Perquimans Relay for Life. Tickets are \$10 each and are available in Chowan County at the following locations: Byrum Hardware; Jus Teezin; Edenton Coffee House; W.E. Nixon Hardware; Leon Nixon Catering. Mail orders, call 221-4875 or (252) 333-8567.

FRIDAY, DEC. 1

■ Tree Lighting and Flotilla

Kick off the joyous holiday season with a wonderful annual event in historic downtown Edenton that includes a Town Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the foot of Broad Street at 5:30 p.m. and a wonderful Flotilla of boats along Edenton Harbor at 6 p.m.

See CALENDAR, 4B

'If you're going to San Francisco'

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
For the Chowan Herald

SAN FRANCISCO — I was holding on for dear life as our driver swerved in and out of California traffic.

I'm gonna die, I thought as we came within a finger length of hitting yet another car as our driver made his way from the airport to Fisherman's Wharf. Then I looked up and realized again that I wasn't on the East Coast anymore.

The mountains were brown with little bit of green. These weren't the

mountains of Appalachia.

I earned the trip through a smartphone app Charity Miles, in which users raise money for charities of their choice. Johnson & Johnson sponsored a contest through the app, encouraging users to log miles to help raise funds for the USO. I joined the contest and eventually, along with nine other people, won a trip to the West Coast.

As someone who had never visited the other side of the Continental U.S., it was quite an experience. It was interesting to see how much the West Coast put

an effort into historic preservation and having lots of free activities for people to do. Sure there was plenty of tourist traps, but there were also a lot of other ways to enjoy the sites without breaking your budget.

My first impressions, besides the lack of trees on the mountains and the speedy driving, included the fact that San Francisco is hilly. Unlike Edenton and the Outer Banks, the coast rolls down into the Pacific Ocean. San Francisco is surrounded by water. On one side is the Pacific Ocean. San Francisco Bay is on

the other side and includes nearby cities of Oakland and San Jose. In the bay, the water was calm. Many large sail boats shared the water with international shipping boats.

My husband and I stayed at the Argonaut Hotel, on Hyde Street. We were directly across the street from Fisherman's Wharf and near the center of everything. The hotel itself was once a Del Monte canning facility, and is part of what is known as The Cannery. The building's rich heritage was displayed in a small exhibit near the lobby and throughout the



PHOTO BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON

San Francisco skyline

hotel's exposed wooden beams and bricks.

The tourists tend to flock to Fisherman's Wharf and

China Town. While I didn't go to China Town itself,

See CALIFORNIA, 6B