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Aces season comes to an end — B1



Teachers win grants

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation Bright Ideas grants totaling \$12,897.44 were recently awarded to 17 area educators. The grants fund classroom projects that, otherwise, would lack funding. Six educators in Chowan County benefited from the grants. — A8



Art reflects nature

From his waterfront studio in Edenton, Frank Miglorie has a firsthand view of the beauty of nature — and that view is reflected in the pieces he creates at Sound Shore Pottery. — B4



Volunteer honored

Pansy Elliott, a volunteer of over 50 years, was honored by the Edenton Historical Commission on Nov. 28 as its Volunteer of the Year. The recognition came during the EHC's annual Christmas Party held at the Penelope Barker House. — B5



Opry achieves goal

The Rocky Hock Opry Christmas Shows presented Friday and Saturday night, Dec. 1-2, at the Perquimans County High School in Hertford drew large crowds both evenings, according to Steve Evans, who acts as emcee and performs in the shows. — B6

...paves way for Taylor Theatre's second act

BY MILES LAYTON AND REBECCA BUNCH
 Cooke Communications

Good news abounds this week in Chowan County because the Taylor Theatre gets a second act and the Chowan County Commission approved employee holiday bonuses.

Charlie Creighton reported late Tuesday that the ink is dry on the deal to purchase the theater building from the Montanaro Family NC Properties. Before this edition heads to the press moments from now, here is

"long-story short" version of how the theater came to be under local ownership.

Creighton along with Samuel Dixon and Larry Sellers spearheaded recent efforts to save the theater. Creighton said purchase contracts were signed late last week and approved Tuesday. The investment group had to raise more than \$450,000 to purchase the theater building and make repairs.

More on this breaking news in the next edition of the Chowan Herald. In related news, Town

Council voiced support during its Nov. 27 work session for leasing the digital projection equipment in its care to Ryan and Belinda Respass, who will be operating the town's movie theater once it reopens.

The proposal is now being sent to the full council for additional discussion and a vote that could come as soon as its Tuesday (Dec. 12) monthly meeting.

In a Nov. 22 memo to council members, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton recommended that they approve the proposed lease

agreement.

"It appears the purchase of the Taylor Theater building is imminent," she said. "We have met with the proposed operators, Ryan and Belinda Respass. They are an impressive young couple who worked for the past three operators. They know the movie business and have been trained by Cardinal, the company we (the Town, with the community's money) purchased the equipment from. We recommend you approve the equipment lease to Ryan and Belinda." The plan was introduced

at the council meeting by Councilman Steve Biggs, who heads the administrative committee. He recommended that it be forwarded to the full council for its consideration.

In response to a question from Biggs, Councilman Sambo Dixon confirmed that the group of investors purchasing the movie theater now had the necessary funds for the deal to be finalized.

"It's in the bank," Dixon said. "The community saw

See TAYLOR, 3A

ALL THE WHOS IN WHOVILLE PROBABLY WISHED THEY LIVED IN EDENTON



PHOTO BY KIP SHAW

Students from D.F. Walker and White Oak elementary schools performed Christmas classics during Friday's tree lighting ceremony to open the holiday season

Boys and Girls Club seeks donations

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

Those heading a capital campaign to raise \$1.5 million on behalf of the local Boys and Girls Club are currently accepting donations to help the club renovate space at the old D.F. Walker School in Edenton. Barring unforeseen circumstances they hope to occupy the space in 2018.

"We have raised about \$975,000 toward our goal," said Elizabeth Mitchell, who serves as executive director of Boys and Girls Clubs of the Albemarle with locations in Edenton and Elizabeth City.

At present they are working to secure funds for a matching grant for \$100,000 in funds contributed by Dr. John Phillips, a native of Edenton and a childhood friend of Mayor Roland Vaughan, who serves as chairman of the club's board of directors. The grant is administered by Phillips' daughter, Jill Swisher of Raleigh. The club has until March to raise the matching funds.

See DONATIONS, 3A

Tree lighting ceremony draws big crowd

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

Anyone who attended Friday night's annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony in downtown Edenton couldn't help but leave with some Christmas spirit.

The sounds of holiday music filled the air courtesy of students from White Oak and D.F. Walker elementary schools who performed a variety of favorites including "Jingle Bell Rocky," "The Holly and the Ivy, and others. They performed to

See CEREMONY, 5A



PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Santa is the man on-the-go this holiday season. Hundreds of kids took time to ask him on Friday for toys ranging from a Red Ryder BB Gun — you'll shoot your eye out — to more modern things like an Xbox 1.

Holiday planning schedule

From staff reports

Come join in the fun as the Christmas season is ushered in with floats, boats, horses and holiday cheer at this Saturday morning's annual Edenton-Chowan Christmas Parade at 10 a.m. This year's theme will be "Christmas By the Sound."

The parade will line up beginning at 9 a.m. in the Edenton Village Shopping Center (where CVS is located) on North Broad Street and travel down Broad Street to end at Water Street.

Join Santa following the parade at the

See SCHEDULE, 3A

Christmas trees inspire holiday spirit

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

Vonna O'Neill, who creates the eye-catching displays in the glass case at the entry to the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library, credits a bit of divine inspiration with her latest creation — 12 beautifully Christmas trees in Colonial Park on the downtown Edenton waterfront just waiting for pass-



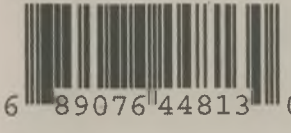
Vonna O'Neill is the mastermind behind the decorated Christmas trees in Colonial Park.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

See TREES, 4A



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 6 PM - 8 PM
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