

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Mark your calendar for Chamber banquet

Tickets still available
BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Make plans to attend the upcoming Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce banquet.

The banquet takes place Thursday Feb. 1st at the American Legion Building on West Queen Street. Catering comes from a familiar place to many — Kelly's Outer Banks Restaurant and Tavern.

Highlights of the evening include how Destination

Downtown Edenton will recognize their "Main Street Champion" and when the Chowan Tourism Development Authority will recognize their "Snooky Bond Excellence in Tourism" winner.

The Chamber will recognize the William P. "Spec" Jones Volunteer of the Year; the Marvin S. Barham Humanitarian of the Year; the Chowan Edenton Optimist Organiza-

tion of the Year; the John A. Mitchener, Jr. Business Person of the Year

"The highlight of the evening is of course all the awards," said Win Dale, Chamber director.

The Chamber Award winners are kept top secret and are never announced or publicized until the presentation. Seeing a person react to winning an award when not expecting it has always been one of

the most special moments of this event over the years.

American Legion got the honors this year for banquet's location, perhaps as a homage to the past when the annual banquet was held the Legion hall.

"We decided to utilize the American Legion this year for a number of reasons," Dale said. "The American Legion has been a longtime supporter of the Chamber and asked us to consider holding the Banquet there this year. The first banquet was actually held at the

American Legion and for many years thereafter. I'm not sure when the Banquet was moved or why, but we do know that the Banquet has been held in the National Guard Armory, the former Dram Tree Inn (former Polka Dot Palm Building), the former Creekside Restaurant and of course the Links at Mulberry Hill."

Space is another reason the venue shifted.

"We've also been selling

See CHAMBER, 3A



Gladiators conquer title

Half-Nelson, single-leg takedown and an ankle pick — those are all wicked cool wrestling moves that the Aces may have used to capture the Albemarle Athletic Conference championship this season. — 6B



Pets of the Week

Check out some of the pets the Tri-County Animal Shelter offers that would love to start the new year in a home of their very own. — 3B

Lawmakers talk class law

Some area legislators are hoping to move forward legislation they say will provide relief to local school districts whose officials are worried about meeting mandated class-size limits this fall. — 6A



Exhibits on display

Forty-two pieces of art and photography were entered in the annual Members Exhibit that is the featured show at the Chowan Arts Council Gallery in downtown Edenton during the month of January. — 1B



Habitat helps family

Some people, when they aren't chosen for something they desperately want, are prone to abandoning the effort. But not Sharon Fleming, who has been chosen, with her two children, to be Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity's 2018 Partner Family. — 4B



PHOTO BY KIM ULLOM

Winter weather has taken a toll on instruction time since school started in early January. So far, students have missed six days and had four early dismissal days. After missing no hours prior to Christmas, students missed 45.5 hours of instruction this month.

Snow days plow into exam prep

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Snow days means time away from school that was intended for examination preparations for students.

Most years, students are sent home for the holiday break for approximately 10 - 14 days (depending on the year) before having to come back for a week of review followed by another week of testing in mid to late January.

Because of Winter Storm Grayson and last week's snowfall, it is almost easier to tabulate the time students have been in school since Jan. 3 than to add up the number of days — 6 days — they have missed plus the four early dismissal days. That figure does not include the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. After missing no hours prior to Christmas, students missed 45.5 hours of instruction during the month of January.

Superintendent Rob Jackson said elementary and



PHOTO BY BETH WILSON

Will Wilson, 3, of Edenton may not be old enough to attend school, but his smile says all you need to know about snow days — a feeling shared by children across Chowan County.

middle schools students will be taking Benchmark assessments this week. These assessments measure a student's progress so far this

See SNOW, 4A

School board talks plans for Aces' spaces

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education listened Tuesday to an architectural consultant discuss the options available for improving or replacing John A. Holmes High School.

Though the Board made no specific plans as which direction it will pursue, Don Hughes, a consultant with Facilitative Designs, offered possible paths to upgrade or replace the decades-old school that was built in the 1950s. He spoke of the pros and cons of replacing the school or renovating the existing campus.

Hughes said a new school would be more affordable and take less

time to build. A new school would cost \$36.4 million and take around two years to build. In contrast, costs for renovating and additions would range between \$38 million and \$57 million depending on the scale of the job. The project would take three years, maybe longer, to complete, he said.

Funding for any project would come from various sources including \$13 million from a state school bond referendum, \$15 million from Tier 1 fund and perhaps a local bond referendum. While Hughes didn't dismiss receiving funding from state bond referendum, he wasn't optimistic that the school sys-

See BOARD, 2A

Politicians differ over nominee

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Democrats are taking aim at a conservative judicial nominee who is another step closer to being appointed to the federal bench.

Republicans are firing back that Democrats are more interested in "political posturing" than approving a well-qualified Raleigh lawyer.



FARR

Last week, Senate Judiciary Committee approved the nomination of Thomas Farr for the Eastern District that covers 44 counties from Raleigh to the coast. Farr's nomination passed out of committee on a party-line vote of 11 to 10 and his nomination will be sent to the full Senate. The Eastern District has offices in Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Greenville, Raleigh and Wilmington. President Donald Trump nominated Farr to the post that has not been filled since 2005.

Farr has tried cases in federal and state courts in North Carolina and has handled appeals at all levels of the North Carolina appellate courts, the Fourth and Sixth Circuit Courts of Appeal, and the Supreme Court. He is currently a shareholder in the Raleigh office of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. where his practice focuses on employment matters and constitutional law. Farr graduated from Emory University and holds an LL.M. in Labor Law from Georgetown University.

Farr has drawn fire from Democrats and the Black Congressional Caucus. See the Black Caucus'

See NOMINEE, 3A

Sen. Erica Smith talks to County Commission

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

State Senator Erica Smith, D-Northampton, spoke Monday evening to the Chowan County Commission about a host of topics including the Equal Rights Amendment and school class sizes.

Smith gave a presentation about why the Commission should consider approving a resolution endorsing the ERA in hopes that one day, perhaps, the rest of the Tarheel state will follow suit. She

discussed pay inequities between men and women. More on that will appear in the next edition.

Smith also discussed the challenges arising from legislation aimed at changing class sizes.

For more about her position on that, see the School page on A6. For video of Smith talking about this issue, see the Chowan Herald's Facebook page.

Though the Commission



SMITH

took no action regarding the ERA, supporters of the measure moved the ball forward.

"We first presented the ERA back in November (to the Commission)," Savannah Sievers said.

"After hearing your thoughts, we deliberated and decided on a plan that would heed your recommendations. We bring a legislator, a male voice and we garnered over 250 signatures from com-

munity members to show support for your passing the ERA. We amended the resolution and spoke with several of you personally."

Sievers went onto give a brief history of the ERA and explained how it would make a difference if North Carolina ratified the Constitutional amendment.

"We are asking you to approve the resolution to show support for the ratification of the ERA by the North Carolina General Assembly," she said. "Support of the resolu-

tion is a must at the county levels to make the NC ratification a reality."

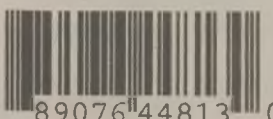
Roger Coleman of Edenton spoke on behalf of the resolution.

"Violence is a form of sex discrimination," he said. "The Equal Rights Amendment would provide a constitutional foundation to end this discrimination — discrimination which deprives women of their most fundamental right to life."

See SMITH, 2A



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