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Wednesday, February 21, 2018

75¢

New appraisal does not deter Brew pub

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

During their Feb. 13 monthly meeting members of the Edenton Town Council agreed to schedule a public hearing on Tuesday, March 13 at 6 p.m. in the au-

ditorium at John A. Holmes High School to receive citizens' comments concerning the proposed sale of the former Northeast Commission building to Raleigh businessman John Glover who has announced plans to establish a brewery and

pub at the site located on the downtown waterfront. Councilman Elton Bond, who is recovering from surgery, was absent.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said that a sign-up sheet would be available for those who wished to

comment during the public hearing. In keeping with the council's policy, comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker, she said.

Knighton said she had been in contact with Glover concerning a new appraisal of the property in question

which established an increased value of about 10 percent for the property or a sale price of \$309,000. An appraisal performed several years earlier had established the value at \$282,000

See PUB, 8A



Wrestlers compete

A dynamic duo of John A. Holmes' wrestlers competed recently at the North Carolina A Individual Wrestling Championship. — 1B

Audit reveals health

Edenton Town Hall recently released an external audit detailing the town's financial health. — 3A



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. — 6B

Confronting eternity

Paul Young, best-selling author of *The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity*, will be the featured speaker in the sanctuary at Edenton Baptist Church, on Monday evening, March 5, at 7 p.m. — 5B



Jackson pranked

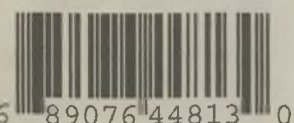
It's never a good thing to prank your boss, but what if the prank is for a good cause like the Special Olympics? Chowan Middle School Principal John Lassiter and John A. Holmes High School Principal Steve Wood decided to find out. — 6A

Speller recognized

On Friday, Ben Speller of Edenton was among a select group of North Carolinians recognized for their work in preserving African American heritage and culture in the state. — 3B



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Safety top concern for area schools

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

A mass shooting at a Florida high school hits close to home as school officials consider safety and programs aimed at producing good behavior.

Seventeen people were killed and 15 more were taken to hospitals after a mass shooting on Feb. 14 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

The suspect, Nikolas Jacob Cruz, activated a fire alarm while he was armed with an assault rifle and multiple magazines, and began shooting indiscriminately at students and teachers.

Cruz was arrested shortly afterward and confessed to the crimes, according to the Broward County Sheriff's Office. He was charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder.

Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Rob Jackson said there are safety protocols in place intended to counter any violent situation that may arise. So as not to jeopardize the school safety, Jackson declined to elaborate as to the specifics of plans in place intended to neutralize an armed suspect.

However, Jackson said school staff have worked with the Chowan County Sheriff's Office to be trained as to how to handle potentially dangerous situations involving active shooters. There is an armed sheriff's deputy on duty at each school.

Jackson said because of state law prohibits firearms on campus, teachers and staff are not armed.

Though schools don't have metal detectors at major entryways, Jackson said, this is something that the administration is considering making a priority when presenting the annual budget to the Chowan County Commission.

Jackson said call boxes with video capability by the main entryways is something school officials have discussed in the past and present. Such devices would allow staff to better identify visitors among others seeking entry into a school.

Jackson said while the call boxes would be welcome, each schools' architectural planning, when built decades ago, reduces the effectiveness of call boxes because the main entryways open into common spaces rather than smaller enclosures intended to restrict immediate access into the schools.

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

One of the most familiar sights in Edenton is the trolley that offers rides and tours of the community to visitors and locals alike. So in January when the state revealed plans to eliminate funding for an interpreter who rode the trolley and talked with riders about the town's history, local leaders began meeting and looking for a way to keep the service going.

Once the town agreed to continue to fund the cost of maintenance and upkeep for the trolley, and to

continue paying the trolley driver, officials who head the Edenton Historical Commission, whose offices are located at the Penelope Barker House on the downtown waterfront — realized that the eyes of interested parties were turning toward them for a solution regarding keeping an interpreter in place.

"Everyone was looking to the Historical Commission to do that," said EHC president Chris Bean, "even though it had not been our responsibility in the past."

So the commission reached out to Sharon Keeter, a 30-year employee



MIKE STOCKER/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL

Students hold their hands in the air as they are evacuated by police from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., after a shooter opened fire on the campus, Feb. 14.



MILES LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Edenton-Chowan principals insist that school safety is a priority for students, teachers and staff. Chowan Middle School Principal John Lassiter said, "The values we teach our students make our schools more safe."

Jackson spoke in general terms about alarm codes that would be broadcast to alert staff of danger and to enact countermeasures to keep students safe.

Future planning at John A. Holmes High School may involve reducing the long accessible routes "shortcuts" through the courtyard among other means of reducing trespassing, Jackson said.

Principals said the schools are safe for students, teachers and staff.

"I would want my two daughters to go to any school in this school system," said Steve Wood, JAHHS principal. "Safety is a top concern for our students throughout the school system."

White Oak Elementary Principal Sheila Evans has worked many years as an educator and administrator within the Edenton-Chowan School system.

"White Oak School is a safe place to learn and work," she said. "If we see something that needs attention, we say something and then we act upon that situation. That could be a spill on the floor or a child teasing another child or a parent upset with a teacher. We handle each situation in a professional manner. But, again, I'm confident that schools who have experienced violence are doing the same things. All of us must be vigilant to protect our children."

SEE INSIDE

Safety always foremost concern — 5A

Evans said the school system's policies and procedures are in place to ensure a safe learning environment.

"While I do not know what other states do to ensure safety in their schools, I can't help but think that all educators are doing every thing in their power to create and maintain safe learning environments," she said. "Over the years, I know that we, in Chowan County, have continued to refine our policies and procedures to ensure our schools are safe."

Chowan Middle School Principal John Lassiter spends many hours in Bulldogs' country. Lassiter spends many hours not only at school but at ball games, school dances and band concerts. He's never been worried about school safety.

"I have worked as a teacher at John A. Holmes and as principal at Chowan Middle," he said. "Never once have I been concerned for my safety. Knowing that safety is not a concern, I often bring my wife and small children to school events like concerts and ath-

See SAFETY, 4A

Town bands together, saves trolley service

BY REBECCA BUNCH
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PHOTO BY KIP SHAW

More than 11,000 people rode the trolley last year to see Edenton's rich historical history.

of the Historic Edenton State Historic Site, who had served as the trolley interpreter for a large part of

that time. Keeter, who had planned to retire, enthusiastically

See TROLLEY, 7A

Beloved educator leaves legacy

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

A longtime educator and administrator has matriculated into God's classroom.

For more than 30 years, Brenda Kaye Bunch Winborne was a teacher and principal with the Edenton-Chowan County School system before she retired. As an administrator, Winborne was the recipient of the Regional Principal of the Year Award. Surrounded by family, Winborne, 70, died Feb. 15 at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville.

Colleagues remembered the good times spent with Winborne. "I had the joy and pleasure of working with Brenda Winborne at the old White Oak School," said Linda Bunch, a retired teacher. "She taught second grade and I was a third grade teacher. We were asked by our principal to lead a school-wide sing-a-long once a month. Brenda and I would come up with the songs together. She would play the piano while I led the children. It was a fun and enjoyable time for the entire

See EDUCATOR, 6A

Board approves contract policy

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

TYNER — Teacher contracts were the first thing on the agenda for the Board of Education when it met recently in Bulldogs' country at Chowan Middle School.

The Board approved the first of two readings for plans during its Feb. 13 regarding how the school system will hire new teachers or renew contracts with educators.

According to the proposed policy, a new or renewed contract will be for a term of one school year for teachers who have been employed by the Board as a teacher for less than three years. After a teacher has completed

See CONTRACT, 8A