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# CHOWAN HERALD

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482-4418

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

75¢

## Cheers! Council gives thumbs up to Brew pub

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

More than a year of debate and discussion came down to one thing on the evening of March 13—a public hearing before Mayor Roland Vaughan and members of the Edenton Town Council who would vote that night on whether or not to authorize the town to sell the former Northeast Commission building (also known as the former Conger building) to Raleigh businessman John Conger Glover who has agreed to pay an adjusted appraisal cost of \$309,000 for the property.

When the dust settled a resolution to clear the way

for the proposed sale had passed by a split 4-1 vote by council members. Councilman Elton Bond cast the lone 'no' vote. Councilman Steve Biggs, who has steadfastly opposed the sale of the building for commercial use, was sick with the flu and unable to attend the meeting, according to Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton.

"The resolution to sell the building has passed," Mayor Roland Vaughan announced after the vote.

Along the way to making its decision council heard from a number of local residents who spoke for and against the proposed sale.

First to offer an opinion



REBECCA BUNCH/CHOWAN HERALD

Tom Abbott speaks during a public hearing held last week to allow the town council to hear from citizens interested in commenting about the proposed sale of the former Northeast Commission building.

was Dr. Chris Ford, a local veterinarian, who has operated a practice here since 2000. He called the pro-

posed sale "a win-win" for the community and urged council members to carefully consider their votes that night.

"You have an important choice to make," Ford told the council. "When you consider what is best for Edenton, the choice is clear. Sell the Conger building!"

But another speaker, Joanie Evans, expressed the sentiment of others in the community when she reminded the council that for many years the waterfront park and surrounding area have been "all about family. This is a family place."

Others, like retired fire-

See PUB, 3A



### Public pays tribute

On Sunday afternoon, Dr. John Phillips and his family were the guests of honor at a celebratory reception to honor their generous donation held at St. Paul's, the Episcopal church where the Edenton-Chowan Food Pantry has its early roots. — 1B



### Athletes take plunge

This past weekend, the Special Olympics Chowan County held its 5K race and polar plunge in downtown Edenton. — 3B



### Being role models

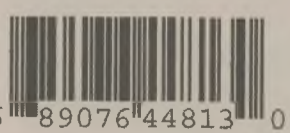
More than 200 men conquered with caring and kindness at White Oak Elementary's Boys to Men Breakfast. There were dads, grandfathers, cousins, community members, high school students, and Edenton-Chowan School employees present for the March 6 experience where men read books or shared their time with the boys. — 2B

### Comments sought

The North Carolina Historical Commission Confederate Monuments Study Committee will hold a public meeting from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 21, to accept public comment on a petition to relocate three Confederate monuments from the State Capitol grounds in Raleigh to the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site in Four Oaks. — 4A



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## Group celebrates anniversary

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Last Thursday evening was a time of celebration for members of the local Racial Reconciliation Group who gathered in the fellowship hall at Edenton United Methodist Church to exchange memories and recall good times as they observed the fourth anniversary of their founding.

The evening also served as something of a dual celebration as the group also marked the birthday of longtime member Frances Inglis who turned 89 on St. Patrick's Day. A small group of talented singers from the organization gathered to perform a rendition of Happy Birthday directed to the entire group. They then offered up a special version of the song directed especially to Inglis who broke into a huge smile and began hugging those around her as they extended heartfelt birthday wishes.

"This has been a wonderful highlight in all of it (evening)," Inglis said. "I love everybody here. It's been wonderful getting to know everybody."

Jo Baker, who serves as the group's facilitator, recalled many memories of good times spent together with members of the group enjoying a variety of trips, visits to churches and quality time getting to know each other better.

Another member of the group, Jessie Rivers, said be-

See GROUP, 3A



REBECCA BUNCH/CHOWAN HERALD

Frances Inglis accepts Happy Birthday wishes from fellow members of the local Racial Reconciliation Group during a dinner celebrating the fourth anniversary of their formation. Inglis turned 89 on St. Patrick's Day.

## Aces link arms in tribute to shooting victims

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

Students at high schools across the region participated in planned "walkouts" that were held in conjunction with a nationwide student demonstration against gun violence in the wake of last month's deadly school shooting in Florida.

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

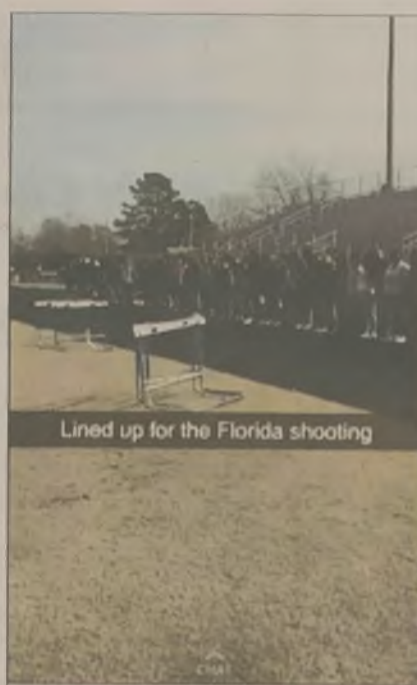


CARRERA FUSTON

students and teachers.

At John A. Holmes High School in Edenton, about 250 students left class (March 14) and walked to the school track for a silent memorial to the students and staff killed in Parkland. At Chowan Middle School, approximately 200 students left class for 17 minutes before returning to class.

See TRIBUTE, XA



Lined up for the Florida shooting

SUBMITTED PHOTO

John A. Holmes students lined up and linked arms during a walkout held recently to remember the victims killed in a school shooting that took place on Feb. 14 in Florida.

## Zoning changes approved

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

Chowan County Commission discussed a laundry list of items Monday ranging from capital projects to changes to the zoning code.

Permitting welding "shops" within agricultural zones was approved by a 6-1 margin. Commissioner Patti Kersey was the lone vote in opposition.

Prior to the vote, Angela Toppin of Rocky Hock Road addressed the issue in a public hearing on the matter. Familiar with the "annoying" noise associated with welding, Toppin advised that the commission to reconsider its position before making a final decision. Welding drew comments from commissioners during the March 5 meeting. Though the change to the zoning code was approved by a majority 5-1 vote, the commission had to revisit this

See ZONING, 3A

## Audit leads to changes

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton provided a management report to Town Council of steps being taken to implement the recommendations made by a recent audit and to answer questions about accounts receivables.

Donna Winborne, a Certified Public Accountant of Edenton, conducted the independent audit.

"Steps will definitely strengthen internal controls which is always a concern in small organizations," Knighton said.

The audit released earlier from fiscal year 2015/16 to 2016/17 showed a restatement of reduced

See AUDIT, 6A

**FRIDAY, MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>**  
**RELAY FOR LIFE Benefit Lunch & Dinner** 11AM to 2PM & 4PM to 7PM  
**BBQ & FRIED CHICKEN** AUCTION - 7 PM Until 9PM til 7PM Dinner Music by "Big Daddy "Sam Morris" and Darryl Stallings  
**LEON NIXON'S CATERING** SPONSORED BY ROCKY HOCK RURITAN RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM  
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