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Wednesday, April 11, 2018

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# Edenton hires King as new police chief

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

A 17-year veteran of the Rocky Mount Police Department is the new police chief in Edenton.

Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton announced Friday that Henry King Jr. has been hired to succeed former chief Jay Fortenbery who recently retired.

Captain King currently serves as the commander

of Rocky Mount Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division, where he manages major crimes, property crimes and family services. He previously served as a lieutenant in the Professional Standards Division. There were 18 applicants for the job, according to Town Hall.

"I believe Henry will be a terrific fit for the Edenton Police Department," Knighton said. "His enthusiasm and dedication to helping

people is one of the attributes that impressed me during our meetings."

King's first day on the job will be May 7.

"I absolutely look forward to working in Edenton," King said. "I look forward to meeting everyone, working with everyone to make Edenton a safe place to live and work."

King takes over from Daroyll Brown, who has been serving as interim police chief since Janu-

ary upon the retirement of Police Chief Fortenbery in December. Fortenbery is working as an assistant professor at Elizabeth City State University where he teaches criminal justice. Fortenbery was a detective and a sergeant with 20 years of service with the RMPD before took the job as police chief in Edenton in 2009.

"I found out about the chief position for the Town of Edenton when it was

posted on the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police website," King said. "I also knew that Chief Jay Fortenbery was retiring and was watching out for the position to be posted."

King, 43, graduated from N.C. Central University with a degree in criminal justice. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps upon graduation, served for four years and was honorably discharged



See KING, 2A

KING

## Pioneer educator dies

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
 Staff Writer

One of the area's best known educators has died. Mary Forehand Partin, of Edenton, was the first Dean of the College of the Albemarle in Chowan County. She was 87.

Parker Chesson, former president of the college, said that Partin played an integral role in expanding educational opportunities here. In "College of the Albemarle Chronicles of Achievement," a book authored by Bill Sterritt that focused on female leaders associated with COA who helped develop the college over the years, Chesson recalled how the Edenton-Chowan campus was established.

"I felt that Mary Partin was just the person to lead this new initiative," he said. "She had worked for the college for a number of years, was a native of Chowan County, knew the local leaders, and had excellent organizational skills. She was respected in her community, made good decisions, and was a hard worker."

Chesson went on to say that the passing of

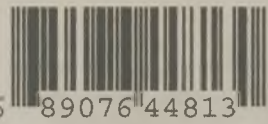


PARTIN

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# Gardens Tour offers fantastic flora

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
 AND CLARA MINCEY  
 For the Chowan Herald

Among all the gardens that will be featured on this spring's Easels in the Gardens Tour the one with the most unusual name is, hands down, Bob Quinn's Surprise Garden.

The former Edenton town councilman likes to joke that his garden, which will be new to the tour this year, got its name because, "It is always a surprise to me to see what appears in the spring. If anyone asks me about a plant I have to say, 'I'm not sure, it is a surprise to me!'"

Irises and poppies abound in it along with other plantings and shrubs. The Garden House on the property at 200 West Church Street is also a delightful surprise with its artifacts and relics.

Quinn says with a twinkle in his eye that he has had many conversations with his plants during the bitterly cold winter that recently ended, offering them words of encouragement to bloom and make him proud as spring approaches.

Among the homes returning on the tour this time around will be the garden of Susan Nolton, one of three Cupola House Weeders to occupy the residence at 208 East King Street. The other two were Suellen Bloom and Ann Bruce.

Nolton said that those who are part of the volunteer Weeders group that maintains the garden at the historic site sometimes bring plants home with them and that some from the Cupola House garden —



PHOTOS BY KIP SHAW

Lovely pink azaleas are among the flowers visitors to the community will get to enjoy during the Easels in the Garden tour.

now known as the Frances Drane Inglis Garden — can be found in her yard. The design of the garden at her home is also a familiar one.

"The layout is reminiscent of the way the Cupola House garden is laid out," Nolton said.

The Easels in the Gardens Tour will take place Friday and Saturday, April 20-21 from 1-5 p.m. both days. The historic Cupola House in downtown Edenton will serve as tour headquarters. On Saturday evening from 5-7 p.m. there will be gardening workshops and a garden party for ticketholders in the Cupola House gar-



A large staghorn fern adorns a brick wall in the gardens at the home of Keith and Nancy Sorensen.

Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$35 if purchased days of the tour. Co-chaired by Clara Stage and Anne Ellis, the event will offer tourgoers the chance to visit some of the community's most beautiful gardens and to watch while some of the area's most gifted artists paint there.

After enjoying the Cupola House gardens, ticketholders will continue on to other locales on the tour that besides that of Nolton and Quinn will include various venues for fantastic flora.

To reserve yours, contact the Penelope Barker Welcome Center, 505 South Broad Street, Edenton, by phone at (252) 482-7800 or online at www.ehcnc.org.

See GARDENS, 3A

# Taylor Theatre poised to start the movies

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Taylor Theatre is closing in on its opening act.

"When we're done, it'll be solid for another 100 years, maybe longer," said Paul Waff, owner of Waff Contracting, which is handing the reconstruction of the theater.

A storm damaged the iconic downtown theater in June, but Chowan County rallied to provide funds to purchase and restore the property on South Broad Street.

"The roof leaks are fixed," said Charlie Creighton, one of the leaders of the group of investors who purchased theater. "The inside has been cleaned up, the bathrooms have been remodeled and enlarged. Tile for the bathrooms is here and being replaced.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Back in the day, marquis movie signs lit up the skyline as magic came to life on the silver screen. Taylor Theatre's flashing sign doesn't need Harry Potter's wand to light up Broad Street. Imagine what memories are going to be created when the theater opens late April or early May to kick-off summer blockbuster season.

The old carpet has been removed while new carpet has been ordered and will soon be in place. I think we're in good shape because a lot of progress has been made."

Optimism abounds for the

theater's new owners, Belinda and Ryan Respass.

"We're certainly ready to open up and we're waiting for everything to fall into place," Belinda Respass said. "This is a dream come true for us.

We've been working for the theater for 20 years because it was a passion. Now it has come full circle from me working there as a teenager to saying that I am a business owner on Broad Street."

Waff said if everything goes as planned, the theater will be open in late April to early May. He explained that the building on South Broad Street has endured water leaks for years, so workers have been drying out the theater with a dehumidifier system to get the moisture under control. Gordon Sheet Metal & Roofing has placed a rubber membrane to protect the roof and there have been extensive modifications and repairs made to preserve and restore the theater to its former glory, Waff said.

Though current projects

underway are intended to be completed so as the theater can open soon, the work behind the scenes on main stage will be ongoing.

"Our goal is to get the theater up and running and then we will work behind the screen where the original stage area is located," Waff said. "We have more area to work on back there, but we can do that later so that the theater can open soon."

In recent weeks, the front "Taylor" sign has undergone repairs and so that it has flashing lights capacity. Note that the sign will be flashing starting today (Wednesday) and through the next few days as a symbol and reminder of what is to come.

"The sign has gotten a

See TAYLOR, 5A

ROCKY HOCK Opry FRIDAY, APRIL 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM  
 Tickets \$10.00 SATURDAY, APRIL 28<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm & 7:00PM  
 JOHN A HOLMES HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM EDENTON, NC  
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