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Wednesday, October 17, 2018

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Stanley, Aces too much for Panthers — 1B

Keel known for generosity, turning around Jimbo's Jumbos

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
 For the Chowan Herald

James Tilmon Keel Jr., who turned Jimbo's Jumbos into a leading processor of peanuts, died Saturday, Oct. 13. He was 80.

Keel knew his peanuts, among other agricultural staples of eastern North Carolina. As the son of the late James Tilmon Keel and Myrtle Holliday Keel, he worked in the family business that included farming, tobacco and peanuts. He was vice president of

Keel Peanut Company in Greenville and later moved to Edenton to lead Jimbo's Jumbos. He turned the struggling peanut business into a leading processor of in-shell peanuts and peanut ingredients. Hampton Farms acquired Jimbo's Jumbos in 2003.

Roland Vaughan, mayor of Edenton, said Tilmon had a sixth sense about peanuts and people.

"Working in the peanut industry for over 30 years, I developed a strong business and personal relationship with Tilmon," Vaughan said.

"Tilmon possessed a sixth sense on when to buy and sell peanuts, and coupled with knowing how to hire people to meet specific needs of the company, his team propelled Jimbo's to the top of the peanut industry. He was uniquely suited to run that business and will be missed by many."

Charlie Creighton, CEO of Colony Tire, echoed Vaughan's statement — Keel knew his industry and the people of Edenton.

"Tilmon was a giant and a genius in the peanut industry. He knew when to buy

and when not to buy. His wisdom saved Jimbo's Jumbos and turned it into an industry leader," Creighton said. "However, his greatest talent was his compassion and love for those around him, including me."

For his work, Business Week magazine named Keel as one of the most successful businessmen in North Carolina. In 1989, First Wachovia magazine highlighted his accomplishments.

"Tilmon had an amazing realistic business sense,"



JAMES TILMON KEEL JR.

See KEEL, 4A



Company sets up shop

Ross Naddei, founder and CEO of MegaPulse Australia, joined representatives of Edenton and Chowan County, the NC East Alliance and Sound Bank to announce his decision to locate the company's North American operations in a business incubator on the 2nd floor of the bank in downtown Edenton. — 7B



Pantry honors volunteers

At their Oct. 8 annual Volunteer of the Year luncheon, Edenton-Chowan Food Pantry officials announced that in their eyes, everyone is an outstanding volunteer. — 11A



Ghost Walk offers thrills

The annual Historic Edenton Ghost Walk will be held Friday and Saturday, Oct. 19-20. The theme will be "350 Years of Haunts," in keeping with this year's celebration of Chowan County's 350th anniversary. — 6A

Phase 1 close to done

The first part of a three phase plan to make the Tri-County Animal Shelter a safer, more functional facility is near completion. Funding for the project is being provided by the three counties served by the shelter as well as donations to the shelter and AWARE. — 6B



Jones thanks Edenton

Check out the Aces' Homecoming King and Queen and their court. — 4B



PHOTOS BY KIP SHAW
 A golf cart of participants rides along the waterfront.

Walk for Hunger a huge success

BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

For some, it was a time to spend with family and friends — and maybe even the family dog — supporting a good cause. For others, Sunday afternoon's Walk for Hunger was a way to give back to the community and offer a hand up — not a handout — to those who might be going hungry without the Pantry's existence.

By the end of the afternoon in excess of \$5,000 had been raised, according to Pantry Director Roger Coleman. He said there were 275 participants, including dogs.

Two youth groups from local churches won both the awards presented once the Walk was over. Winner of the "Most Spirited" Team Award was the youth group from the Edenton United Methodist Church. Receiving the "Most Funds Raised" Team Award was the youth



Some participants dressed up in costumes.

group from St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Coleman said that even those participants who did not win an award went away from the fundraiser with something special.

"Everyone was a winner," said Coleman. "The whole town turned out, especially our younger families, to make this a day that will benefit children throughout our community. We are grateful for each and

every participant."

Prior to the start of the Walk, Gary Stanley, youth minister at St. Paul's, said he had brought 20 young people to participate. They ranged in age from three to 12 years old. He said their decision to form a team to take part in the fundraiser had been made about 10 days ago and was a way to help encourage them to reach out a helping hand to others.

"It's a way for the kids

to give back to the community," he said.

Also walking was Jane Parr, music teacher at White Oak Elementary School. She was accompanied by her cinnamon-colored poodle, Pippa. Parr said she was there to show her support for the Pantry's Book Bag Buddies program, which provides nutritious foods for students in need who attend her school and D.F. Walker Elementary.

"White Oak raised \$250 which is the amount it takes to sponsor one student for the entire year," she said. "This is our way of saying 'thank you' to the Pantry for what they do."

White Oak has 72 students that benefit from the program as do 56 students from Walker, according to Coleman.

Erica Ford, who was at the Walk with her husband

See WALK, 10A

Several residents participate in the Walk for Hunger.



Four seek election to Chowan County Commission

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Four candidates seek two seats on the Chowan County Commission.

Republican Bob Kirby is running against Commissioner President Jeff Smith, a Democrat, for District 1, Seat 2.

Larry McLaughlin, an unaffiliated candidate, is running against Commissioner John Mitchener, a Democrat, for District 2, Seat 2.

The District 2 will be hosting a forum for candidates seeking a seat on the county commission.

Though the November



KIRBY

SMITH

MCLAUGHLIN

MITCHENER

general election is just a few weeks away, make time to attend the forum that starts at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18 at the 1767 Courthouse. Topics for the forum include wind energy, particularly as it relates to the proposed Timbermill project, and whether the county should invest in a new high school.

Mike Ervin, executive director of the Edenton Historical Commission, will serve as the moderator. The event will be broadcast live at the Chowan Herald's Facebook site.

McLaughlin, 66, has been active in many civic activities ranging from his portrayal as James Iredell

EARLY VOTING BEGINS WEDNESDAY

Early voting starts today (Wednesday) for the Nov. 6 election that will determine a slew of state and local government races as well as the fate of six proposed amendments to the North Carolina Constitution.

Chowan County's Board of Election office will offer early voting through Nov. 3. The hours for voting at the election office is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, with weekend voting only offered on one Saturday: Nov. 3.

Voting hours on Saturday, Nov. 3, will be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. State law made it optional for counties to extend Saturday's voting beyond 1 p.m.

to organizing folks to pick up trash along Chowan County's many byways and highways. Other folks may

know McLaughlin for his formidable skills as a car-

See FORUM, 12A



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