

COMMUNITY

Tempus Fugit: A look at time

By Jonathan Tobias

On many grandfather clocks, the words "tempus fugit" are printed on the clock face. That is Latin for "Time Flies."

When I was much younger, I fought this notion with the stridency of the happy invulnerability that seems to be the property of childhood. "Now as I was young and easy under the apple boughs," the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas wrote in his poem Fern Hill, "About the lilting house and happy as



TOBIAS

I thought that nothing was slower than Time itself, My own grandfather's mantle clock with its Westminster chimes seemed to have the power of slowing down the arrival of the future to the pace of grass growing.

the grass was green — Time let me hail and climb golden

Back in those "green and care-free" days,

That was then. Nowadays, "tempus" is only "fugit." My, how it flies. This must be the reason why it will take me until April to write 2019 instead of 2018.

I've tried to fend off time. Despite what was written last week, I've upped my health and exercise resolutions, and have succeeded somewhat for the first few days. But it seems clear, despite my best intentions, that time only comes and goes and never stays. Dylan Thomas' conclusion in Fern Hill is getting more under-

standable: "Time held me green and dying Though I sang in my chains like the sea."

Just a few days ago, the edgy humorist David Sedaris penned similar reflections in his column "Father Time," from the New Yorker (Jan. 7, 2019). The nattily-dressed North Carolina native (though not always possessed of the best of taste) wrote with his usual sardonic wit, and a comedy that barely draped a deep melancholy that is the shared burden of not a few

fellow comedians.

The essay described his elderly father's physical decline. Things recently came to a head when, while trying to move things around on his own (contrary to his family's best advice), the grandfather clock had fallen upon him. Miraculously, the 95-year-old man escaped with only a cut on his ear.

The comedian's father had named his tall and solid clock "Father Time." And it literally knocked him over.

Mr. Sedaris couldn't help but meditate on the heavy

poetry of the event, and he started to think of his own troubled relationship with time. He drew this conclusion: "I can't predict what's waiting for us, lurking on the other side of our late middle age, but I know it can't be good."

Now that seems dreary. And, I think, unnecessarily so.

Stories like this have grown common in a time when old age seems to have fallen in value, like the stock

See TOBIAS, 6A

Chowan Round-up

Horton, Steinburg & New Bern

By Miles Layton

A round-up of all things Chohan County...

First up, I think **Pastor James Horton** may have eaten his last sub sandwich from Westover when I saw him in line the other day.

Formerly senior pastor at Rocky Hock Baptist Church, Horton now leads the Pine Ridge Baptist Church near Zebulon. It's been many years since I toured Zebulon, but I vaguely remember the church — a good sized congregation. And if it's still there, San Jose Mexican restaurant serves the good stuff if you're into that kind of food like I am. Anyway, good luck Pastor Horton.

The **mayor's race** is going to be interesting this year. As everyone knows, longtime mayor Roland Vaughan is not running for another term.

Councilman Jimmy Stallings threw his hat in the ring last week. Based on all the folks who were there when Stallings made it official, he's got a lot of support and has been busy getting his ducks in a row.

Another name, who is a familiar face on council, has been floated too. I'll let that person make their own announcement.

Vaughan does an admirable job as mayor and presiding over the meetings. Don't believe me? Read the comings and goings about that city council to the north of us who got all bent out of shape over a statue offered to the city by the Russian government.

I've covered a lot of meetings in my time as a reporter and editor. Edenton's meetings are by far my favorite because they aren't partisan, stuff gets accomplished and they don't talk for hours at time with folks bloviating about the price of tea in China.

NC Senator Bob Steinburg and wife Marie celebrated their 47th wedding

See ROUND-UP, 6A



The cast of Hee Haw smiles during a skit in the 2018 show. This year's show will have three showings Jan. 25-26.

PHOTOS COURTESY KIM ULLOM

Hee Haw coming to Rocky Hock

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff Writer

Hee Haw is returning to Chohan County.

Take a moment to smile when thinking about some of the characters from the show who may be appearing Jan. 25-26 at the Rocky Hock Community Center.

"Hee Haw" was a classic TV show because for an hour each week where you could laugh, pat your foot, sing along and forget your troubles. That's what we are striving for this year at our show too," said Steve Evans, a longtime key organizer of this popular show and others.

Cast and crew are doing three shows again this year, on Friday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m., and two shows Saturday, Jan. 26, at 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Auditorium can only seat 200 for each show, so, don't wait to get your tickets. Tickets are on sale for \$10 and are available at Byrum Hardware in Edenton and by calling 333-8567 or 221-4875. Show is being held at the Rocky Hock Community auditorium, 126 Evans Bass Road.

Money raised from these ticket sales goes to help keep the Rocky Hock Ruritan Club Building in shape, pay yearly insurance, and support other community



Band members play during the 2018 "Hee Haw" performances.

service projects.

"Our Rocky Hock Opry Band is the backbone of the music, but we have several other members of our community that are big contributors and characters in this show," Evans said. "We also have a few 'out of towners' that are great friends and musicians and are always willing to help. Once again, everyone donates their time and talents to make this a success."

Hee Haw means good times for everyone — "no gloom, despair or agony on me..." Yeah, you remember that skit.

"Our shows are always family friendly, and the blueprint is straight from the original 'Hee Haw' show from the 70's," Evans said.

What's going to be different about this year's show? EVERYTHING, Evans said.

"Since I wrote to script I can honestly say that all the jokes and comedy scripts are fresh, never used in any of our shows before," he said. "And man, is that difficult! It is hard to keep new material all the time, but that is something that we constantly strive for. We love keeping the classic country music going too, just like they did on the original show."

Some old favorites and new surprises are in order. "We always like to have some surprise guests, and this year is no different," Evans said.

Everyone has a favorite character or personality

from the show, but most folks overall liked how the cast made the show funny week after week.

"I grew up watching 'Hee Haw' every week, so it is really difficult for me to saw who my favorite character was," Evans said.

However, it's hard to forget Roy Clark.

"We just lost a tremendous musician and 'Hee Haw' star in Roy Clark," Evans said. "He could play any instrument and sing and was quite a funny guy too. He had so much fun doing what he did, so, if I had to narrow it down, I guess you could say it was him. But I loved every single one of them, I watched the show so much, they all felt like family!"

Check It Out!

Library ramps up programs

By Jennifer Finlay

Happy New Year! First off, I cannot thank the Chohan Herald for the lovely article in the last edition. The Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library is the best library in the state because of the



FINLAY

people who work here. Joyce, Markita, Claudia, Leslie, Vickie, Miss Julia, Miss Lee, Brandy and Trevis make my job easy by their professionalism and wonderful camaraderie. Naomi trained me before she retired. Josh took many of my technology ideas and made them real. And Kecia grew and grew until she outgrew us (plus we got an awful lot of overdue books back).

There are lots of plans in the works for the coming year. I really enjoy researching and writing little snippets of Chohan County history — if readers want to keep reading — I'll keep writing. We have a Harry Potter Day scheduled for Saturday, March 2. This will be an amazing event that we are in the midst of planning. Shall we call it Potter Con? The Friends are also working on putting together a Life & Health program to touch upon a number of subjects. I know that I will be working on a program for this event about Online Health because has Facebook become your best frenemy? More details to come as we pull it all together.

Readers

- Ranger Rick: I Wish I Was a Polar Bear
- Picture Books
- What Is Given from the Heart — Patricia McKissack & April Harrison
- What Pet Should I

See LIBRARY, 5A

Rev. William Davis to speak at annual MLK Celebration

Event to be held Jan. 21 at Holmes auditorium
From Submitted Reports

The annual Chohan County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration will be held at noon Jan. 21 at the John A. Holmes High School auditorium.

The Rev. William T. Davis, attorney-at-law, will be this year's keynote speaker.



DAVIS

of Edenton. Pastor Davis attended the public schools in Edenton and graduated from D.F. Walker High

School. Following graduation, he enrolled at North Carolina Central University in Durham, where he earned the Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in political science and a minor in music.

Subsequent to earning the bachelor's degree, Davis went on to attend North Carolina Central University School of Law and, after three years of study, was

awarded the Doctor of Law Degree. After graduating from law school, Davis accepted a position at Elizabeth City State University where he served as Legal Assistant to the Chancellor, University Counsel, and a member of the teaching faculty. After two and one-half years in this position, he opened his own office for the private practice of law and has been actively

engaged in private practice ever since.

In May of 1993, Pastor Davis graduated magna cum laude from the School of Theology of Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia, earning the Master of Divinity Degree. He is the Pastor of New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church located in Camden County, North Carolina and has served that congrega-

tion faithfully for the past 36 years. Pastor Davis has served in the Christian and larger communities in the following capacities:

- * Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Roanoke Baptist Association
- * Chairman of the Ordination Council of the Roanoke Baptist Association
- * Member of the Execu-

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