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CHOWAN HERALD

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Wednesday, March 6, 2019

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Aces fall to
 Pride in third
 round — 1B

2019 Medical
 Directory
 inside today's
 edition

UMC delegates discuss LGBTQIA issues

Visit Edenton to discuss
 General Conference

BY MILES LAYTON
 Staff Writer

EDENTON — United Methodists voted to continue to ban same-sex marriage and the ordination of gay clergy. Last week, delegates to the denomination's special session of the General Conference voted to adopt what is known as the Traditional Plan, which upholds the

language of the Book of Discipline, banning same-sex marriages and the ordination of openly gay clergy. The church defines marriage as between one woman and one man. The vote was 449 to 374. At Edenton United Methodist Church, more than 200 people from across northeastern North Carolina gathered Sunday to learn more about what happened at the global United Methodist Church that met in St. Louis, Missouri. The Traditional Plan

keeps the current language around sexuality by increasing accountability and enforcing penalties for violations of the denomination's policy book, The Book of Discipline, related to marriage and ordination of LGBTQIA persons. LGBTQIA stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, and asexual or allied. As amended, the Traditional Plan affirms the church's current bans on ordaining LGBTQIA clergy and officiating at or host-

ing same-sex marriage. It also boosts penalties and accountability for transgressions of those bans. The United Methodist Church has not banned LGBTQIA people. The Book of Discipline reads, "The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments,

upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection." Much like the U.S. Supreme Court, any piece of legislation that the Judicial Council declares unconstitutional will not be included in The Book of Discipline. The Judicial Council will meet April 23-24. The legislation is not the official church law until Jan. 1, 2020, for churches in the

United States. The legislation takes effect in churches outside the U.S. after the 2020 General Conference. Bishops will hold meetings with clergy and laity in their annual conferences on how details will be handled in each area. A disaffiliation plan, sometimes called the "gracious exit," also was passed and is subject to review by the Judicial Council. This provides guidelines for congregations who wish to

See UMC, 3A

Lent & Spring Revival

By Jonathan Tobias

Today, you might see a friend or a neighbor walking around with an odd smudge on their forehead. If you look closely, the smudge is drawn in the shape of a Cross. And then it will occur to you that today is Ash Wednesday.



TOBIAS

The person bearing that sign of an ashen Cross had gone to church earlier. There, they had probably listened to a reading of Psalm 51. At the end of the service, they went forward, and the priest or minister marked their forehead with ash. Traditionally, the ashes were produced by burning some palms from last year's Palm Sunday. In the old days, the priest used to say "Memento, homo, quia pulvis es, et in pulverem reverteris" (that is, "Remember, man, that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return"). Nowadays, "Repent, and believe the Gospel" is more likely, or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall

See LENT, 2A

INSIDE

See page 3B for upcoming church listings.



NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Top: A group wearing robes from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry wait for the trivia questions during an event at the Harry Potter Extravaganza! at Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library. Left: A volunteer shows off an augmented reality program that allows library patrons to learn about the solar system Saturday during the Harry Potter Extravaganza! at the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library.

Wizarding World comes to library

Extravaganza celebrates Harry Potter book series

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
 Editor

Wizards and muggles (non-magic folks) of all ages came to the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library on Saturday for the Harry Potter Extravaganza. The event kicked off Friday, as the Taylor Theater had two free showings of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," a movie based on the first book of the beloved-children's series written by J.K. Rowling.

The first book was released in 1997, with a series of film adaptations premiering in 2001.

According to Librarian Jennifer Finlay, over 350 people came through the library's door — decorated like platform 9 3/4 at London's King's Cross train station — Saturday. The platform is used by wizard to get to the Hogwarts Express, which takes students to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

"I can not say thank you enough to all of our volunteers who took on their magical roles with relish,"

See LIBRARY, 9A

3 arrested in Bertie

Two Edenton men face multiple charges

BY THADD WHITE
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR — Officers with the Bertie County Sheriff's Office reacted quickly to shots being fired into a home on Morning Road on Feb. 27 and it led to three arrests.



EVANS



LITTLEJOHN



ARMSTEAD

Bertie County Sheriff John Holley said 911 Dispatch received a call shortly after noon last Wednesday reporting individuals

See BERTIE, 2A

Spring forward

From Staff Reports

Daylight saving time will begin at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 10. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead.

Edenton Fire Chief Billy Bass reminds residents that this is a good time to replace your smoke detector if it is older than 10 years old, or to replace the battery in your current smoke detector.

"Smoke detectors are an early detection for smoke and can save your life in the event of a fire," Bass said.

If you need help in replacing your old smoke detector, changing the battery, or if you don't have a working smoke detector in your home, Bass urges people to contact the Edenton Fire Department at 252-482-3115.

Vidant CEO: Compromise with Folwell possible

Waldrum speaks to Edenton, Chowan officials

INSIDE

Community reacts to Waldrum's speech — 7A

BY MILES LAYTON
 Staff Writer

The head of Greenville-based Vidant Health told state and local officials meeting here last week that he agrees some compromise is possible in Vidant and other hospitals' ongoing fight with the state treasurer over reforming the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees. Vidant Health CEO Michael Waldrum suggested the possibility of compro-

mise with state Treasurer Dale Folwell the same week state lawmakers introduced legislation designed to delay Folwell's efforts to reform the plan that covers most health insurance costs for teachers and state employees. Under Folwell's reform plan, the state would reduce reimbursement rates to health care providers by 14

See VIDANT, 7A



MILES LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

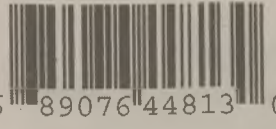
A large crowd attended a forum Thursday in Edenton held to discuss proposed changes to the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees. Attending were (front row, l-r) Jay Briley, president of Vidant Community Hospitals; state Rep. Ed Goodwin, R-Chowan; and state Sen. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan.



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Breakfast for the Blind **SATURDAY, MARCH 16** **\$7.00** EAT IN OR TAKE-OUT
 6:30 - 10:30AM
 TICKETS FROM ANY EDENTON LIONS CLUB MEMBER OR CALL 482-7906 FOR MORE INFORMATION.