

PHOTO COURTESY SUSAN BROTHERS  
Susan Brothers (left) visits with Virgie Lee Elliott, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday.



# Virgie Lee Elliott celebrates birthday

From Submitted Reports

Virgie Lee Elliott celebrated her 90th birthday on April 1. Elliott is the youngest of 22 children and she is the only survivor. She has truly been blessed. Elliott lives in the small rural of Tyner on Cannon's Ferry Road. Her seven children, 21 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren all loves her dearly. Elliott loves to read her Bible every morning and every night.

On Sunday morning, you can see her being escorted in church by her family. She loves praise God! Talking about singing, she can carry a tune of those good old gospel hymns; especially after Communion wearing her pretty hats.

Elliott favorite hobby of her younger years was "dressing" chitterlings by cleaning them up, putting them in salt, washing them again and then "let the good times roll," she said. She has always loved to cook, and

she specializes in sweet potato pudding, collard greens and dumplings. Her past time activities are watching the soap operas and working in her puzzle books during the time her caretaker Michelle is with her.

For many years Elliott have traveled with her family for out of town family reunions that she loves dearly. She has traveled to Washington, D.C., Charlotte and Raleigh, Waterbury, Connecticut, New Jersey, and especially in Newport News,

Virginia, where she was the winner of a \$400 cash prize.

Elliott is 90 years old, and still carries a sweet and loving spirit. She is celebrating her life with joy, peace and happiness with family and friends.

"I want to wish Mother Virgie many more years of life," said her dear friend, Susan Brothers.

Spending time with her on actual birthday was awesome and well deserved because she is a pillar of the Tyner community.

## HERTFORD

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Belvidere.

And if you're not into alcoholic beverages — the place sells bottled Shirley Temples, as well as other non-alcoholic drinks. For trivia buffs, a Shirley Temple is traditionally made with ginger ale and a splash of grenadine to give it that pink appeal. For super trivia buffs, the drink is named after child star Shirley Temple.

"This is another interesting drink for people to try," Smith said.

Wine prices range from about \$6 a bottle to \$18 and change — an affordable purchase particularly for those parents who just bought a ton of groceries

and need a glass of wine after a long day at work while listening to their children with eye-rolling wonder as they regale tales of middle school madness, garter snakes, spitballs on the bus and drama queens. Beer is affordable too — normal priced bottles that don't require a second mortgage to purchase.

Maybe Edenton is where the cool kids hang out, but Hertford has its own special allure.

"Hertford has always been so charming!" Sharon Smith said. "Over the years, businesses have come and gone, I think folks are looking for unique experiences right now. We all know that you can purchase anything you want online these days, even wine and craft beer.

People just want to be able to walk around downtown and enjoy the simple charm that Hertford has to offer."

Saturday afternoon, Devin Gregory, of Perquimans County, was curious about the new store that opened on Valentine's Day, so she popped in for a quick chat and to pick up a bottle of wine.

"Welcome to town," Gregory said with her customary Southern charm to James Smith. "I've been meaning to come in because I've heard some delightful things about you guys opening. It is such a breath of fresh air to have a place like this. There's many new venues in town where you can come, maybe get a craft beer, great wine and things like that you're not going to find in



MILES LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

James Smith, who co-owns Barley & Vine with his wife Sharon, talks to Devin Gregory about the picking the best wine for a sunny Saturday in Perquimans County.

your grocery stores. There's a lot of boutique wines that

are pretty cool from up and coming vineyards that are

really making themselves known that I really like. There's friendly faces and cool lift gifts. I hope more vendors take a note from what they are doing here and really try to do more of this, because Hertford is such a hidden gem."

Hailing originally from Hampton Roads, Virginia, James Smith is a computer analyst for Xerox and his wife Sharon is the county's tourism development director. Like many folks who hail from other places, they love the area.

"We love it in Perquimans County," James Smith said.

Sharon Smith added, "And I love living in Perquimans County because it is simple. Everyone just takes care of their business and lives their own life."

## MCDONALD'S

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years for Mike Grimm, who owns a McDonald's in southwest Virginia, near Roanoke. During the past 20 years, Taylor served as store's director of operations.

"I started as a dishwasher, later flipping hamburgers and worked my way up through the ranks," he said. "I've worked for McDonald's all these years. It's all I've ever done."

As to achieving the American dream, Taylor said, "You can do it. I did it and I'm going to do it. My whole goal is to be a vital member of the community."

Last week, Chowan Middle School teachers touched base at McDonald's where for three hours, 25 percent

of the sales was given back to the Bulldogs — a total of \$600. Similar events are scheduled for other area schools.

"I'm trying to do as much as I can to give back to the community that's given me so much," Taylor said.

Friday's ribbon-cutting underscored how much Chowan County supports the double arches.

"George and wife Erica have to come to Edenton, and you can see what they've done to this McDonald's, so we want to express our gratitude for your investment in this community and the changes that's been made to this store. It's absolutely beautiful inside and out," said Win Dale, Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce executive director.

Chamber President Ra-

chel Johnson added, "I know I speak for myself in that when we knew you'd be doing construction, the town had a heart attack thinking that you would close while the work was taking place, but driving by here every morning, taking my kid to school and seeing the cars out to the road from the drive-thru was amazing how you guys left the restaurant open. The town can not eat without you. We're glad that you are new and improved and we can't wait to come in and spend money in your establishment. If there is anything we can do for you, just let us know."

Many mornings, Mayor Pro Tem Steve Biggs is a familiar face at McDonald's.

Biggs recalled how more than 30 years ago, as a member of Edenton Fire Depart-

ment, he came out with an old tanker to help pump the water needed to mix cement to build the restaurant.

"So yes, McDonald's has been a staple for me for a long time," he said. "All of the guys meet in here in the morning, some have come and gone unfortunately, but it's been 33-plus years that we've been meeting here for coffee."

The audience gathered for the ribbon-cutting laughed when Biggs said, "There's a lot of politics that goes on here, and there's a lot of major business decisions too."

He continued, "We are just so proud that you and Erica are calling Edenton home. Not only have you invested here, but you've invested in buying a home here, so we know that you are going to be a great corporate citizen

for us, number one, and number two, you'll just be a good neighbor. The town welcomes you and appreciates everything you've done to the building. And by God, if there is anything we can do to help you, we want to do that. Thank you for being here."

County Commissioner Bob Kirby offered a few remarks.

"On behalf of the Chowan County and the county Board of Commissioners, I want to say welcome. Thank you so much for your investment in the community and very much so for the jobs you have brought and will continue to bring. Earlier in the week, the big sign out in

front said 'now hiring.' I'm so happy that you all are hiring and bringing jobs to the citizens of the community. Anything we as a county can do to support you and what you're trying to do here, do not ever hesitate to call on us."

Taylor was quick to praise the restaurant's staff as well as offer kind words about how he and his wife feel welcome in Chowan County.

"This feels like home. This is a great community to live in, work in, play in, to grow my family here. We're glad to be here. This is home. We truly fell in love with all of the history and surroundings we have."

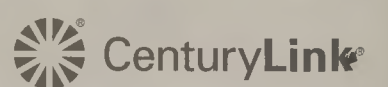
## Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The North Carolina Utilities Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rate for residential voice lines is \$25.50 per month and business services are \$34.00-\$43.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, and can be on either wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 18 Mbps download and 2 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-888-833-9522 or visit [centurylink.com/lifeline](http://centurylink.com/lifeline) with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



## BROADBAND

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is sponsoring Senate Bill 310. It allows rural electric cooperatives to get into the broadband business using their existing infrastructure.

Brown agrees his bill should not be an ideological issue.

"I can't imagine anybody not supporting this because it's so vital to some of these areas," Brown told CJ. "These communities are starving for broadband just to be able to compete. We've got students out there that have homework assignments where they have to go on the Internet and they don't have any access."

It certainly doesn't hurt that the federal government, under the leadership of the Trump administration, has provided incentives for states to allow electric co-ops to get into the broadband business.

In December U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced the Department of Agriculture would offer up to \$600 million in loans and grants to help build broadband infrastructure in rural areas of the country.

In the press release announcing the program, Perdue described the USDA's ReConnect Program as an initiative as "answering the Administration's call to action for rural prosperity."

With all this federal money available, states are rushing to get in line. Now North Carolina wants in on the action. Still, there will be no mad rush, Brown says.

"Co-ops are good at what they do, but it's not the business they're in now," he told CJ. "They will take a slow approach to this and make sure it works."

Still, critics say they don't have to look far to see the adverse effects of government's involvement in broadband: Salisbury has lost about \$3 million a year

on it Fibrant Network; and Mooresville has annual deficits of \$6 million on its MI-Connection network.

In fact, last May Salisbury voters approved a resolution to lease the Fibrant Network to a private company.

It's worth a reminder that the dynamic has changed in the General Assembly in the past few years. Democrats

made gains in the 2018 midterms, and Gov. Roy Cooper specifically mentioned expanding broadband to rural areas in this year's State of the State Address.

With this in mind, Brown thinks his bill can become a reality.

"I think there's a good chance we can move this forward," he said.

# NOTICE

## MEETING OF THE CHOWAN COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION & REVIEW

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 105-322, the Chowan County Board of Equalization and Review will meet as required by law.

PURPOSE OF MEETINGS: To hear, upon request, appeals from taxpayers who own or control taxable property assessed for taxation in Chowan County regarding the valuation of such property or the property of others, and to fulfill other duties and responsibilities by law.

TIME OF MEETINGS: The Board will convene its first meeting on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. The Board will meet again on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. with plans to adjourn for the purpose of hearing new appeals for the 2019 tax year. The meetings will be held in the Public Safety Center, 305 W. Freemason St., Edenton, NC 27932.

In the event of earlier or later adjournment, notice to that effect will be published in this newspaper.

Notice is specifically given that all appeals or requests for hearing must be received no later than Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 6:00 P.M.

Notice is further given that dates for the hearing of appeals timely filed will be available through the office of the Tax Administrator, serving as the Clerk to the Board of Equalization and Review, and will also be provided to individuals and organizations that have requested notice pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.12.

All requests for hearing should be made to:

### Chowan County Board of Equalization and Review

C/o Chowan County Tax Department

P.O. Box 1030, Edenton, NC 27932

(252) 482-8487