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Wednesday, April 17, 2019

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County inks lease with new Steamers owner

Edenton-Chowan Foundation to pay for use of Hicks Field

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff Writer

Chowan County Commission approved a lease with the new owners of the Edenton Steamers during

Monday's meeting. In March, Steamers announced that the franchise was to be sold. The team is expected to compete in the Coastal Plain League in 2019, but not in 2020.

The Edenton-Chowan Foundation, a nonprofit, will manage the Steamers in 2019 and take outright ownership

of the team in 2020. At the meeting, the county terminated its lease agreement with Edenton Baseball LLC and approved a new lease with the Edenton-Chowan Foundation to use Hicks Field. Compensation will be provided in annual expenditures and improvements for the use of the

park. The details of the lease were not discussed during open session. After the meeting, Commissioner Bob Kirby said the lease had been approved with a few minor legal tweaks to be made.

In other news, commissioners approved sending a list of proposed amendments

to the solar ordinance to the county's Planning Board for review. Planning Board will make its determination in May for the commission's consideration in June.

Commissioners expressed concerns about 1,500-foot setbacks, choosing the type of foliage needed to hide these solar facilities from

view, adding more stringent procedures up front regarding the costs of any future decommissioning and determining whether these places should be required to monitor the presence of hazardous materials.

Due to space and time

See OWNER, 3A

REMEMBERING AND MAKING HISTORY

Pilgrimage offers a 'little bit of heaven'

Virginia Wood's Greenfield among 17 homes on tour

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff Writer

About two years ago after Pilgrimage, Virginia Wood visited the offices of the Chowan Herald to welcome a new editor and perhaps drop off some cookies.

Wood noted that her home, Greenfield, was on the tour and invited me anytime to visit. Who can deny this lady, an exemplar of Southern charm and hospitality.

This year's Pilgrimage offered an opportunity to see her stately manor home nestled deep within the woods of Chowan County, between the Yeopim River and Albemarle Sound. Thousands of folks came to Chowan County on Friday and Saturday to explore similar homes that are steeped in history. During the last Pilgrimage, in 2017, my daughter Samantha and I explored Sambo and Gray Dixon's home Beverly Hall — there's old bank vault inside and a peacock or two



Virginia and Benbury Jr. welcomed guests into their home, Greenfield, during Pilgrimage this past weekend.

MILES LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

INSIDE

See more photos from Pilgrimage, Boogie on Broad and Blessing of the Fleet on page 7A.

on the grounds.

Saturday, my wife Nicole and I fulfilled a promise

made to Wood to visit, so we joined about 200 visitors who explored the historic mansion that has been in her family for 10 generations.

"I think that people who come here are seeing a little bit of heaven. I really do believe that," Wood said.

Though I've seen pictures of Greenfield, a plantation house built in 1752, nothing

quite compares to the experience of exploring the home in person. A vast expanse of land around the place offers a sense not only of privacy, but it beckons back to a time when land had more value than it does today because people were closer to the earth.

See PILGRIMAGE, 2A

Residents remember iconic Notre Dame

Cathedral is popular tourist spot in 'City of Lights'

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff Writer

Chowan County mourns with others around the world as historic Notre Dame lay in ruins in Paris.

Though the Gothic cathedral took 200 years to build, it was in ruins Monday within about nine hours — the time it took firefighters to extinguish the blaze.

The fire's cause has not been determined, but officials suggested it is related to ongoing renovation efforts at the church that was completed in 1260. In recent days, a dozen Catholic churches have been vandalized across France.

The spires inspired lit-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flames and smoke rise as the spire on Notre Dame cathedral collapses in Paris, Monday.

erature from Vigo Hugo to Marcel Proust and famous artwork graced the walls are but memories. Though the cathedral is a charred

See NOTRE, 3A

Agencies honor public safety dispatchers

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
Editor

Chowan County's emergency management agencies are celebrating dispatchers during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

The dispatchers work as part of the Chowan County Sheriff's Office, in a room at the county Public Safety Building. Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin said a total of nine dispatchers work 12-hour shifts year-round

to ensure that the 15,000 people living in Chowan County receive prompt response from law enforcement and EMTs. Currently, eight people are on the staff and Goodwin is in the process of hiring for the empty position.

"They are a great group of folks. They are very knowledgeable and skilled at their jobs," he said.

There are times when the office may not have a call for hours, Goodwin

See SAFETY, 3A

Community benefits from weekend events

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
Editor

This past weekend's flurry of activities kept residents and local government agencies busy.

While Pilgrimage and Boogie on Broad kicked off Friday, planning for the events started much earlier, with meetings, phone calls and volunteer sign-ups.

Destination Downtown Edenton has hosted Boogie on Broad for 13 years. Director Jennifer Harriss said

that 40 volunteers are needed throughout the event to keep things running. The sign-ups went out about a month ago, but details constantly evolved right up to the event.

While she didn't have an exact number of the amount of people attending the event, she said The Tams estimated that 2,000 people attended.

"It was a great show and the event went well," she said. "The Tams really loved

See EVENTS, 3A



Gay McClelland Chatham (center) welcomes folks to the Presidential Ball.

MILES LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Monroe visits modern Edenton

Friends of Historic Sites hosts Presidential Ball

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff Writer

The Presidential Ball was a smashing success worthy of a Founding Father.

Held at the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse

green, the event celebrated the 200th anniversary of President James Monroe's visit to Edenton. Folks who attended the ball were dressed to the nines in either Colonial period clothes or attire fit for a black tie affair.

The gala event featured a speech from Monroe that

See MONROE, 2A

SWEEP CHOWAN

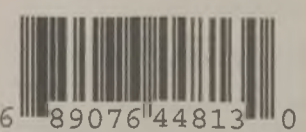


SUBMITTED PHOTO

(L-r) Edenton Lions Craig Miller, John Mitchener and Jim Hodges worked around US 17, Exit 230, recently as part of the Sweep Chowan initiative. Not pictured are Jay Swicegood and Roger Coleman. According to Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Win Dale, businesses, organizations or individuals participated on 15 projects. So far, a total of 83 individuals have worked 169 hours and collected 156 bags of trash. To join the Sweep Chowan effort, call Dale at 252-482-3400.

NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/
CHOWAN HERALD

A child energetically dances during Boogie on Broad Friday in downtown Edenton.



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