

Washington County Hospital reopens

STAFF REPORTS

PLYMOUTH – Washington County Hospital reopened its doors today after being closed since February when bankruptcy proceeding were initiated.

“The staff of WCH are excited to embark on this once in a lifetime chance of reopening,” said Melanie Perry, the hospital’s chief executive officer. “There are so many rural hospitals nationwide that have closed, but do not have the opportunity to even entertain the thought of reopening, so we are blessed beyond measure. As we move forward, we look at the future of our facility with vigor and will continue to work hard for the members of our community.”

In January, the hospital stopped accepting ambulance-transport patients

and on Feb. 14 suspended all clinical services because of ongoing financial trouble. Washington County Commissioners voted to file suit to force the hospital’s parent company to file bankruptcy and to activate a contract clause that would revert the facility back to the county’s ownership.

When the hospital ceased operations, Plymouth Primary Care Rural Health Clinic remained open for prescription renewals and has resumed certain operations under the direction of Dr. Robert Venable.

The Plymouth facility serves a large rural area in Washington, Tyrrell and Hyde counties. Residents have had access to critical care through Vidant and non-Vidant hospitals and medical practices in and around Washington County.

OBITUARIES

Virginia King Chappell

BELVIDERE – Virginia Mae King Chappell, 88, of 1141 County Line Road, passed away Wednesday, April 24, 2019, in Sentara Leigh Hospital, Norfolk, VA.

Mrs. Chappell was born in Norfolk on January 2, 1931, and was the daughter of the late Douglas McIlwaine “Buck”, Sr. and Ida Mae Mizzell King. A homemaker, she was a member of St. Anne Catholic Church in Edenton. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Harvey Rountree Chappell; a sister, Ruth Ann Curling; and by two brothers, infant “Teeny Bud” and Douglas M. “Yebo” King, II.

Surviving are her three daughters, Jennifer Leigh Lamm of Belvidere, Donna Nell Davis and husband, Charles, of Tyner, and Nancy Harvina Maitland and husband, Terry; a son, Alan Harvey Chappell and wife, Angela, all of Belvidere; 11 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

A funeral mass was held Monday at 11:00 a.m. in St. Anne Catholic Church. A private entombment was in the Chappell Family Cemetery near the home. Friends joined the family in the Parish Hall of the church immediately following the service on Monday, and all other times at the residence.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to any chapter of the American Cancer Society.

Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, 735 Virginia Road, Edenton, is handling arrangements, and online condolences may be made by visiting www.millerfhc.com.

Martha Ann Shuford

ALBEMARLE – Martha Ann Shuford, 84, of Albemarle, passed away Tuesday April 23, 2019 in Trinity Place. Her funeral service was held at 2 pm on Sunday April 28, 2019 in the Stanly Funeral and Cremation Care Chapel of Albemarle with Rev. Danny Laws and Rev. Tab Whitley officiating. Burial followed in Fairview Memorial Park. The family received friends from 12 until 1:30 pm prior to the service and at other times the family was at her home.



Martha was born January 18, 1935 in Stanly County, NC and was the daughter of the late Odom Lee Pennington and Mellie Katherine Gudger Pennington. Mrs. Shuford was the former owner of the Colonial Restaurant in Edenton, NC and was a member of South Albemarle Baptist Church. Martha, throughout her life, she always appreciated a good sermon and on any day of the week. She attended any service she could with her husband Bob to thank God for his many blessings.

Mrs. Shuford is survived by her husband Bob Shuford. She is also survived by two sons Gary Fincher (Kathy Smith) of Ansonville, NC and Frank Baker, III of Cameron, NC; daughter Beverly Baker of Merry Hill, NC; sister Betty Mason of Albemarle, NC; six grandchildren Jeff Smith of Wilmington, NC, Greg Fincher (Rachel) of Clanton, Alabama, BJ Potts (Yvette) of Edenton, NC, Tiffany Potts of Edenton, NC, Clarissa Tracy (Paul) of Wilmington, NC and nine great-grandchildren Jonah, Brooklyn, Jonathan, Brandon, Paulie, Scarlett, Trey, Johnna and Kendall. Martha was also preceded in death by a brother Dwayne Pennington.

A special thank you to all the care givers at Trinity Place, whom she loved with all of her heart.

Memorials may be given to Trinity Place Resident Care Fund, 24724 US Highway 52 S., Albemarle, NC 28001.

Stanly Funeral and Cremation Care of Albemarle is serving the Shuford Family.

Tracy Hocutt Spruill

PLYMOUTH – Tracy Ann Hocutt Spruill, 49, of Plymouth, NC, passed away Monday, April 22, 2019, in her home.

Born in Pasquotank County on February 16, 1970, she was the daughter of Jeffery Ferrel Spruill of Creswell and Sandra Russell Spruill of Plymouth. Employed with Regulator Marine for many years, she attended Faith Pentecostal Holiness Church. She was preceded in death by her father, Larry Preston Hocutt.

Surviving are her two daughters, Kendra Spruill of Greenville, and Shanna Armstead; a son, R.J. Armstead; a brother, Larry Hocutt, all of Plymouth; a granddaughter, Jorunee Vanterpool; a special niece, Ariyona Armstead; and her god-son, Emmanuel Williams.

Funeral services were held Thursday, April 25th, at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel of Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, 735 Virginia Road, Edenton, and were conducted by Pastor Danny Gurganus. Friends joined the family for a time of visitation in the funeral home the hour prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, PO Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38148-0142.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.millerfhc.com.

Deborah K. Palmer

HOBBSVILLE – Deborah Kay Wypasek Palmer, 61, of 110 Gliden Road, passed away on Friday, April 26, 2019 in Autumn Care of Chesapeake, VA.

Mrs. Palmer was born in Richmond, Virginia on February 25, 1958, and was the daughter of the late Andrew V. and Victoria Kowalski Wypasek. She was homemaker and a seamstress.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Jeffery Randall Palmer.

Surviving are her husband, R. Randall Palmer; her daughter, Kelly Becker of Acworth, GA; her sister, Barbara Vellenga of Mount Carmel, TN; her brother, Raymond Wypasek of Union, KY; and two grandchildren, Elisabeth Anna Kay Palmer and Jeffery Joseph Palmer.

A gathering for family and friends will be held Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m. in Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, 735 Virginia Road, Edenton.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.millerfhc.com.

DEATHS

EDENTON — Shirley Ann Smith Marshall, 72, died on Thursday, April 25, 2019. Funeral was held Tuesday at 11 a.m., at Immanuel Baptist Church. Visitation was held 7-8 p.m. Monday in Miller Funeral Home & Crematory.

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CYCLE NC

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Mount Vernon, Ohio.

Edenton has its charms be it the grand houses, the shops on Broad Street, the friendly people and their pride in preserving history.

“Edenton is beautiful – a little historic town,” said Kahlr, a retired school teacher. “A lot of us really love history.”

Barbara Parrott added, “We loved the trolley tour. We loved the historic, beautiful mansions. It’s just how well everything has been preserved. It’s amazing how you have some of these homes built in the 1800s. And we learned that the Barker House was moved – chimneys and everything.”

The group from central Ohio enjoyed the pancakes, eggs and that giant sausage before their ride to places near and far.

“The breakfast was lovely,” Parrott said.

Kahlr added, “This is the biggest piece of sausage that we’ve ever been offered.”

Earlier in the week, the group biked from Edenton to Hertford and now was planning a multi-mile trek across the Albemarle Sound to Columbia. Jeff Hunter said the breakfast was good as he explained why he traveled from Columbus, Ohio, to Chowan County.

“I figured this would be a good ride early in the season to help get in shape,” he said. “And it looked like it was going to be pretty in Edenton, and from what I’ve seen, it is. I like the water and all the old homes, along with the quaint storefronts.”

Kahlr’s stepson, Michael, said described the trip as delightful, particularly as he is familiar with the area from his tour of duty

serving in the Navy during his time in Norfolk, Va.

“It’s nice to come back to see the Sound and the water,” he said.

As to the ride, he said, “Compared to Ohio, the roads are much smoother. We got caught in a rain, but we were able to stop in an engine repair shop until the storm blew over. An old man opened up his barn for us. Overall, a good trip. We’ve been to Hertford and back – Rocky Hock too.”

For this group of Buckeye cyclists, this was their first trip to Edenton and eastern North Carolina.

Asked if he would return, Kahlr said, “Yes, I think we’d all come back. We don’t have too many bike tours where we live this early in the year. The people here have been very friendly.”

Parrott added, “Have the people been friendly? Oh my, yes. And we love the

shops. Susan and I went shopping Friday at the consignment store. If I lived here, that would be the only place I would go. There were so many lovely things – good deals too. And I got a two-dip ice cream cone at Blount’s Mutual Drug for \$2.67 – that’s unheard of where we’re from.”

The group had their tents set up by Elizabeth Van Moore Park by Queen Anne’s Creek – the perfect spot for launching a kayak.

“We’re going to go out with some kayaks later – can’t wait,” Parrott said.

When all was said and done after the bicycles, kayaks and tent villages were cleared from various waterfront venues, Hoffer offered this observation.

“I think they enjoyed the hospitality of the local town folks, but also the waterfront camping and beautiful scenery that Edenton offers,” he said.

She also talked about as a young girl riding her bicycle to Hertford to have an orange-aid at Woodard’s Pharmacy. About watching fireworks at Missing Mill Park. About raising a son in the Perquimans system and watching him mature and go on to college.

Mostly in her brief remarks she talked about her vision for the children of Perquimans today.

“No one ever rises to low expectations,” Turner said. “I am passionate about shooting for the moon. Every child, every day.”

Her first day on the job is today, May 1.

TURNER

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forth.

Monday night at Perquimans Central, Jackson said one of those attending apologized for “stealing” Turner from the Chowan school system. Jackson said that wasn’t a problem.

“We thank you for loaning Tanya Turner to us for the last 17 years,” Jackson told the crowd.

School board Chair Annie White said it must be rare to have a former student return to the school system where they were raised and become



PETER WILLIAMS/PERQUIMANS WEEKLY
Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Rob Jackson speaks Monday at the swearing in ceremony of Tanya Turner as the new Perquimans County Schools superintendent.

superintendent. She also pointed out that a former student of Turner’s, John

Lassiter, is now principal at Hertford Grammar School.

Superior Court Judge J.C. Cole did the honors of swearing Turner in.

For her part, Turner talked of “home.”

“I believe there is a lot of truth in the phrase, ‘home is where your heart is,’” Turner said.

She talked about a grandmother who was one of the first teachers at what is now Perquimans Central and how Turner herself got her start there. She talked about her father who served eight years on the Perquimans County Board of Education.

HOURS

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Edenton State Historic Site, Edenton Historical Commission, Cupola House Association, Masonic Lodge, Chowan Arts Council and Destination Downtown all pitching in,” she wrote in an email.

Throughout the event, town and county agencies worked to ensure Cycle NC’s success.

“Edenton and Chowan County Departments from Emergency Management, Edenton Police Department, Chowan County Sheriff’s Office, Edenton Chowan Public Schools, Edenton Chowan Parks and Recreation, Edenton Chowan Chamber to Public

Works were not only on call throughout the four days but worked long, very long hours keeping everyone safe and the Town looking beautiful with an abundance of trash pick-up, bathrooms cleaned and well-stocked to installing all that was needed for shower trucks, parking and traffic control,” Nichols said.

Chowan County businesses, as well as others along the routes, all worked overtime, she noted. Exact figures of the economic impact of Cycle NC was unavailable at press time.

Among those businesses staying open beyond their normal hours were Sugar Bears Candy and Gifts.

Owners Jeanne and Michael Wilson put out extra outdoor seating and

stayed open longer during the weekend.

“He was here making ice cream until 9 p.m. yesterday,” Jeanne Wilson said of her husband Michael Wilson during an interview Saturday.

Jeanne Wilson noted that in terms of sales, business was off the charts.

“People really appreciated that we stayed open late,” she said. “We had extra seating for people to sit down and they really appreciated having a spot to sit outside.”

Malcolm King, owner of Edenton Bay Trading Company, also noted that business was going very well. He noted that the Cycle NC crowd is always fun. “It’s great to see Cycle NC here. We always have a really nice group of people.”

During Cycle NC, the Edenton Coffee House opened its door at 5:30 a.m. Owner GiGi Charlebois noted the staff rolled in around 2:30 a.m. to prep for the day ahead.

Business remained steady during the weekend with Edenton Coffee House serving between 300 and 500 people a day, Charlebois estimated.

“We’ve had really good people come in here,” she said. “They’re respectful and nice, the sweetest group of people.”

Charlebois noted that all-in-all, events like Cycle NC are good for Chowan County’s businesses.

“A lot of people who have come in remember us from last time, and are repeat customers,” she said.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. filed a general rate application with the North Carolina Utilities Commission on April 1, 2019 requesting an increase in additional annual revenues of approximately \$83,000,000. The Utilities Commission will set a public hearing on the rate application within six months from the date of filing and will require detailed Notice to the Public regarding the proposed rates in advance of the Hearing.

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