



Celebrate the Class of 2019

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Edenton town council OKs water rate hike

Increase to help pay off treatment plant upgrades

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff writer

When a famous adventuring steer named Finn visited Edenton recently, he should have stuck around a bit longer to attend Monday's special

meeting of Town Council so as to learn more about a water rate increase, the pending sale of the Conger Building, the adoption of the annual budget and much more.

Of course space is tight within today's Chowan Herald, so the print version of the story has no room to chew the cud. Thus

readers are advised to visit the newspaper's Facebook page, which will direct them to the web link needed to find the full story online at the Daily Advance.

First up, council approved a \$1.35 water rate increase that will take effect in the near future. The rate hike is the first of what

will be two rate increases — \$1.35 and later, \$1.40 — that will total \$2.75 within the next year or so. In 2020, council is poised to approve the \$1.40 rate increase. The total rate increase is needed to pay back \$2.64 million in bonds to renovate and upgrade the town's Beaver Hill and Freemason water

treatment plants. Council was split 3-2 as to whether to approve splitting up the total rate increase or approving an all-at-once rate increase next year after the renovations are completed and bond payments commence. Councilors Craig Miller, Jimmy Stallings and Roscoe Poole voted for the

rate increase while Elton Bond and Steve Biggs opposed the measure. Sam Dixon did not attend. Miller advocated for "softening" the rate increase by spreading it out. Mayor Roland Vaughan preferred to have the total rate increase approved

See COUNCIL, A2

Bovine inspiration visits kids' art class

Fundraiser with Finn helps Kids First Inc.

BY MILES LAYTON AND ANNA GOODWIN MCCARTHY
Adams Publishing Group

Going to moo right to it. There was a cow on the courthouse green Saturday morning. Yep!

And not just any cow, it was Finn, who is known for his adventures far and wide on social media. Finn came to town so budding artists with Fearless Kids Art could paint the bovine's portrait, all for a good cause. Proceeds from this event are going to Kids First Inc. of Elizabeth City, a nonprofit that helps children of abuse.

While morning views of Edenton Bay and certainly the courthouse green are always inspiring, there is something about having a friendly cow walking about, even in the studio, that moooves the soul to create a work of art, maybe makes you want to be a kid again.

"The excitement never left their faces," said Tracy Whichard, owner of Fearless Kids Art. "They were able to pet Finn, feed and paint a beautiful portrait.



PHOTOS COURTESY KATHY MYERS FRANCIS

No need to adjust the bifocals when reading this story. That's not a giant dachshund with horns — no — that's Finn, a social media bovine sensation. Finn came to town so budding artists with Fearless Kids Art could paint the cow's portrait, all for a good cause. Proceeds from this event are going to Kids First Inc. of Elizabeth City, a nonprofit that helps children of abuse.

He's beautiful and such a sweet cow! There were 12 kids who painted and lots of visitors stopped by. Amanda Smith (Finn's owner) and I are friends. We came up with the idea together."

Much like social media favorite Crusoe the Celebrity Dachshund, trust us when we say Finn gets a lot of ink and attention from his many minions of followers, so instead let's focus our story on Whichard, who gets her artistic inspiration from

the children. "They inspire with their creativity and how eager they are to start creating," she said.

Whichard said it is important for kids to be creative. "In this world today with all the electronics we have and that they play, for kids to be creative is more important than ever," she said.

Whichard helps budding young artists learn not only how to work in different



Four-year-old Brinkley Evans poses with Finn.

See ART, A2

Two men charged in murder

Police: Cruze Riddick shot, killed last week

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff writer

Two men are being held without bond on first-degree murder charges following the shooting death

last week of an Edenton man.

Deeandre Keith-hale Copeland Jr., 20, of Edenton, and Jaheim Tykelly Speaks, 17, of Bertie County, were arrested Thursday, June 20, and

charged in the shooting death of Cruze A. Riddick, Edenton police said.

They were scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday morning in Chowan County District Court as presided over by District Court Judge Eula Reid.

According to police, officers were notified of an incident in the 1000 block of Badham Road Wednesday about 10:22 p.m. Wednesday, June 19. When they arrived, they found Riddick, 32, of Edenton, critically injured from a gunshot. Riddick was transported to Vidant Chowan Hospital in Edenton, where he died from his injuries, police said.

After their arrests, Copeland and Speaks were charged with first-degree

See MURDER, A2

Summer program feeds Chowan's youths

Benefit set for June 30 at Edenton Baptist Church

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
Editor

The Edenton Chowan Food Pantry isn't usually open at night. On June 19, the nonprofit's lights were on and the doors open as its Children's Summer Nutrition Program kicked off. The program, currently in its third year, was created to help ease family's

CONCERT

Edenton Chowan Food Pantry is sponsoring a free concert from 4-6 p.m. Saturday, June 30, at the Edenton Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, corner of Queen and Granville streets. Donations will be accepted for the Children's Summer Nutrition Program.

budgets during the summer.

See YOUTHS, A5



NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD
Volunteers from Edenton United Methodist Church including John A. Holmes High School Principal Stephen Wood (center) and Edenton Town Councilor Jimmy Stallings (second from right) pack food for the Children's Summer Nutrition Program. Edenton Chowan Food Pantry Warehouse manager Karen Harrington (right) watches.

Ceremony will honor town's Joseph Hewes

Tea Party NSDAR hosts 20th annual event

BY SANDRA LANCASTER SPERRY
For Chowan Herald

The 20th annual July 4th Ceremony, sponsored by the Edenton

Tea Party Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) will be held at 10 a.m. July 4, at the Joseph Hewes Monument on the Historic 1767

See NSDAR, A3

40 years of July 4th celebrations

Optimist Club puts together annual event

By NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
Editor

For 40 years, the Chowan Edenton Optimist Club has made sure Chowan County celebrates Fourth of July in style.

This year, the nonprofit is again seeking help as it celebrates Independence

Day with fireworks and Optimist youth activities. The activities begin at 4 p.m. and will be held at Edenton's Colonial Park. The fireworks will start after dusk.

Train rides will be available from 5-7:30 p.m.

In case of inclement weather, fireworks will be July 5.

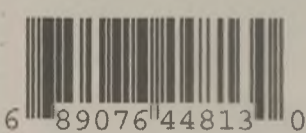
DJ Cowboy, Adam

See JULY 4TH, A3



CHOWAN-EDENTON OPTIMIST CLUB

Chowan-Edenton Optimist Club has provided Fourth of July fireworks for 40 years.



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Chowan Edenton Optimist Club hosts its annual Paddle, Pedal and Plod — B1

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Louis H. White Jr.

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Chowan Edenton Optimist Club
40th ANNUAL Fabulous 4th of July

COME TO EDENTON'S WATERFRONT EAT DINNER AND ENJOY NORTH CAROLINA'S LARGEST "Over the Water Fireworks Show"

Entertainment by **DJ COWBOY** (Adam Evans) of Edenton
EVENTS START AT 4:00 P.M.

LOTS OF FOOD, FUN, CRAFTS, RAFFLES AND GAMES FOR CHILDREN!!!

Please Support Our Fabulous 4th of July
WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL HELP!
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
CHOWAN EDENTON OPTIMIST CLUB
108 Meadow Lark Dr., Edenton NC 27932
IRS Tax Exempt ID # available upon request