

Gov. appoints Chowan residents to boards

SUBMITTED REPORTS

Governor Roy Cooper appointed several Chowan County residents to state boards and commissions.

Jeff Smith, former commissioner, was appointed to the reconstituted Rural Infrastructure Authority.

He will serve as a representative of a tier 1 or 2 county. Smith is the past chair of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners.

Travis Gilliard was appointed to the College of the Albemarle Board of Trustees as a member-at-large. Gilliard is a registered pharmacist with 36

years of experience in the field of pharmacy. He has practiced pharmacy in retail, at hospitals, and educationally. He has worked as a pharmacist at Martin General Hospital in Williamston since 1997.

Samuel Bobbitt Dixon was appointed to the North Carolina Historical Commission as a professional historian. He is the owner and manager of Dixon & Thompson Law, PLLC. Dixon serves on the board of trustees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the board of directors of the NC Museum of History Foundation and on the North Carolinian Society.

PRISON

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expected from any member worth their salt, and I will be ready to answer them."

Previous reports noted that inadequate staffing and major security flaws contributed to the deaths of Sgt. Meggan Callahan at a Bertie Correctional Institution in April 2017 and four prison workers who were fatally wounded during escape attempt by inmates armed with scissors and hammers in October 2017 at Pasquotank Correctional Institution.

"As we voted on this bill on July 1, I cannot say that I felt a sense of satisfaction or vindication, rather my relief in that we had taken the first serious step in

what is going to be a long series of steps," Steinburg said. "In addition, the names Megan Callahan, Justin Smith, Veronica Darden, Wendy Shannon and Geoffrey Howe were very much on my mind while the Senate voted on this bill."

There are 55 state prisons that house more than 36,500 inmates. The state prison system has a budget of approximately \$1.2 billion and more than 17,000 employees. More than 70 percent of the state's Department of Public Safety's budget is spent on the prison system — an arrangement that prompted lawmakers to consider whether the prison system should become a separate department within the state government.

The bill directs the

Program Evaluation Division (PED) to study alternative management structures for the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. The Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice is currently one division under the purview of the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Under the bill, PED will look at a number of different management structure options including creating two separate agencies that would still be under DPS or splitting it into two new principal state departments.

Steinburg said there are two things about this bill that need to be understood.

"First, that separating out the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Correction

from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) is a primary step," he said. "Second, it acknowledges the importance of accurately handling the process of separating out these departments as an essential step to ensuring prison safety."

The bill requires PED to submit its findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee and to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety no later than May 1, 2020.

"As I have stated publicly, many times, there is no silver bullet for fixing these issues nor can they be solved through one bill alone, it is a process," Steinburg said.

Steinburg said he is

most pleased about how the bill addresses what management structures might work best within the prison system.

"The best parts about this bill is that they are looking at alternative management structures and in a manner to determine which of those structures would work best," he said. "Further, section three sets a clear deadline for the PED to report back by, so that a prolonged period of time does not occur. The purpose of this deadline is to produce a bill which will provide clearly specified parameters that will be ready for presentation by the short session."

When Steinburg coined the term "secret society" to describe the prison system's leadership style, the phrase rocked the state.

* Monday — 9 a.m., Total Body, Essences or Yoga; 5:30 p.m., pilates.

* Tuesday — 9 a.m., step interval; 5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness & Tone 5:30.

* Wednesday — 9 a.m., Chيلاتes; 5:30 p.m., Oilates.

* Thursday — 9 a.m., your choice class; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Fitness & Tone.

* Friday — 9 a.m., yoga.

* Line Dance Class — Join us from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays and Fridays

* Fun swim — Every Wednesday, participants will leave the Center at 11:15 a.m. for a swim at the YMCA swimming from noon to 1 p.m., return by 2 p.m. Cost is \$6 and deadline is two days before.

* Walking Club — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday at the D.F. Walker gym.

SENIOR NEWS

The Chowan County Senior Center will have a special lunch with entertainment at noon on July 12 to celebrate returning to the renovated senior center.

Come join the celebration. Cost is \$1 and the deadline was July 3.

Special activities

* Ann McNellis Elmore, from the NC Department of the Secretary of State, will present the program "Protect Your Health, Money and Charitable Gifts in a Scary World" at noon Monday, July 15. This presentation will last an hour and lunch will be served. The cost is \$1 and the deadline was July 3.

* The center will host a shopping trip to the Triangle Town Center on July 19. Participants will leave the center at 8 a.m., go to Tri-

angle Town Center for shopping and lunch on your own and return by 5 p.m. The cost is \$10 and the deadline to pay was July 5.

* Sign up for Medicaid at the Center on July 17.

* Grocery Shopping Assistance — at 11:30 a.m. July 18.

* Monthly Medical Notes — 11:30 a.m. July 16.

* Crossword Puzzle — at 11:30 a.m. July 25.

* Birthday Quiz — at 11:30 a.m. July 11.

* Trivia Plus — at 11:30 a.m. July 30.

* Word Search — at 11:30 a.m. July 23.

* Bingo — will be played from 1-2 p.m. every Tuesday at the center. This is free.

* Senior Bowling — Participants will leave the center at 12:15 p.m. Mondays,

go to Albemarle Lanes, and return by 3:30 p.m. Transportation is \$2.

* Computer use — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Classes

* Crochet — Join the group from 9 a.m. to noon July 17 and July 31.

* Woodcarving — On all Fridays, the group will meet from 9 a.m. to noon, at the center.

* Arthritis exercise — 10:15-11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

* Paint — Katrina will teach this class from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. July 17. All materials are supplied and the cost is \$12. The deadline to pay was July 3.

Fitness

The fitness room is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Classes are \$4 per class or \$30 per month.

TAYLOR

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were few and far between, so I've real satisfied with business."

Folks don't need to fire up the Wayback Machine to remember the theater was closed for about a year after a storm damaged its building in June 2017. For a while, it looked like the theater might never reopen. But movie-goers and downtown boosters in Edenton decided they weren't going to let that happen. They banded together to save the theater, buying the building from the former owners and undertaking a major renovation of the theater.

The renovation, which

started in late 2017, was completed just in time for the start of the summer blockbuster season in July 2018. Each side/theater seats 120 people.

"I've gotten lots of good feedback (over the year)," Respass said.

A year later and there's multiple food offerings including Dippin' Dots, White Castle burgers and fries, as well as beer and wine for the thirsty theatergoer who may need a drink after a sad scene like that from "Avengers: End Game." Don't worry, we won't spoil it here.

Toys and posters are given out. Popcorn smells great. And augmented surround sound has been added to one theater. The renovation, which

Assembly budget allocates \$66,000 for renovations of the theater's historic marquee.

And check out the commercial during the opening credits about shopping local — Christian Bookstore co-owner Heather Newingham and her daughter are featured — excellent commercial about how our dollars move from here to there.

No one can deny that there is a real community feel to Taylor Theater these days. When Blake Byrum, of Sears Home-town Store, delivered a package to a movie patron who was watching Spider-Man, Respass held onto it so the customer wouldn't have to worry about it until the movie ended. Some times when a family of five

is split in two because of scheduling, Respass will hold the family's tickets until dad and kid 3 arrive to meet the others.

"There's lot of familiar faces and families that come in on a regular basis," she said. "Then there's people I don't know who come in from places like Ahoskie, Williamston and even further than that."

A point echoed by local businessman Charlie Creighton, who was among those who led the effort to save the theater.

"My wife Susan and I went two weeks ago, enjoyed a first-run movie, comfortable seats, good slider and popcorn but most of all, a beautiful, bright clean, majestic theater," he said. "We also saw

people from Ahoskie and Williamston at the theater."

Sambo Dixon, a local attorney and another architect of the theater's second act, offered praise to the community who stepped up to preserve the silver screen for future generations.

"The Taylor Theater has now returned as one of the major anchors and attractions on Edenton's Broad Street," he said. "I think that one year out the theater has exceeded my expectations and brings life and vitality to our town. Today our children can once again watch first-run movies. I am proud of everyone involved in saving the theater. We are lucky to live in a place where the community sees a need

He said the bill's intent is to spur accountability and transparency.

"With respect to the 'alleged' secret society, the last two sections of the bill are intended to result in greater accountability by virtue of the fact that the Governor would appoint the presumed cabinet level secretary, but the Senate would have to confirm said nominee," he said. "By separating out the departments and having the theoretical Secretaries of Juvenile Justice and Corrections concentrate on area of responsibility, this will reduce problems by increasing accountability through greater transparency across the entire system."

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COUNCIL

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term after 24 years of service.

"For the past 24 years I have given my best effort to the citizens of Edenton who have honored me with the privilege of being their mayor," he said. "As a surviving cancer patient who will be 76 next month, I want to spend what time I have left enjoying travel with my wife and more time with my family."

Vaughan said he will "miss my job" as well as the "many people who

work tirelessly to make Edenton such a wonderful community."

"I will look back on my career of public service with much happiness and no regrets. It's been a great journey," he said.

Stallings family joined him as he filed for mayor on Friday at the county's Board of Elections.

Stallings represents the town's 1st Ward, which includes most of the neighborhoods from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue down to Edenton Bay and some of the downtown area, west of South Broad Street. He has served 19

years as a town councilman.

Stallings retired as agency manager of Chowan County's Farm Bureau Insurance Office after 43 years. He is a Food Pantry volunteer and serves on a number of boards such as the Edenton-Chowan Partnership and Edenton Housing Authority.

Active in civic affairs, Coleman recently retired as Edenton-Chowan Food Pantry director. During Coleman's tenure with the Food Pantry, he led an effort to raise more than \$100,000 to secure a

matching \$100,000 grant from Dr. John Phillips in 2018.

Following Bethany College in West Virginia, Coleman attended the divinity school at Texas Christian University and was ordained in 1968. He also holds graduate degrees in education and in theology.

Other people who have announced an interest in running for office include businesswoman Jacqueline Hardy-Lassiter for mayor, attorney William Hackney High Jr. for the 1st Ward Council.

Worth noting, recently

the Chowan Herald posted on its Facebook page an article about Stallings filing for mayor and Coleman filing for town council (at-large). One reader commented: "Who cares?"

Here was Coleman's reply:

"I do. I care about this town, its residents and its future. And when you care about something, whether person or place, you find a way to express it. I see that, in most of your Facebook pictures, you are holding someone you care about. I care about this town. I hold it dear. I'm sure Jimmy Stallings does

also.

"Holding public office may not bring much respect, certainly not the kind received from directing the food pantry or by serving as an active minister for many years. In politics there are too many promises and not enough action. The powerless too often get forgotten. I understand this. Still, the opportunity to give back to this town something of what I've received is motivation enough to try and do better. Thanks for giving me the chance to respond to your question. It's a valid one."

DIXON

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houses built by the Hannibal Badham family."

A local lawyer, Dixon was born in Edenton, attended school in Edenton and graduated from Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg, Virginia. He received a bachelor's of arts degree in political science from UNC Chapel Hill and a law degree from Wake Forest School of Law.

Dixon is a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Edenton, where he was formerly on the vestry. He was president of the First Judicial District Bar in 2001; he is a member of the Edenton Historical

Commission, and was reappointed last week to the North Carolina Historical Commission.

Dixon was Edenton's Town Attorney from 1993 to 1997. Since 1997, he has been a member of Edenton's Town Council. Dixon serves on numerous local, state and national boards including Main Street America — a group that visited Edenton earlier this year.

Dixon is an active member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He is among a group local notables who are spearheading the effort to restore Kadash AME Zion Church.

And give Dixon credit too for being among those

who stepped up to the plate to restore Taylor Theater.

"I will always advocate for projects like the Edenton Farmer's Market, the restoration of the Edenton Cotton Mill and Village and the Taylor Theater," he said. "I believe that organizations, like Destination Downtown Edenton, the Cupola House Association and the Edenton Historical Commission, have been instrumental in strengthening our community through preservation-based tourism and heritage economic development."

During Dixon's tenure on town council, he has supported a vast array of infrastructure projects ranging from the new police station to the water

treatment plant that is set to go online later this year.

"As a member of the Town Council, I have consistently voted for new infrastructure projects like the Police Station on Oakum Street, the repaving of our streets and the updating of our water treatment plant. I believe it is the duty of the town of Edenton to keep our community safe and to provide our residents with quality services," he said.

Last note — if you're looking for something to read, Dixon wrote "Stayin' Put: Short Stories From Edenton" — an informative and very entertaining compendium of the town. Check out the chapters about turtles and snakes.

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