



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Local notables attended a ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration on Friday for the Venue on Water Street – a place that offers great setting for classroom settings, wedding events, anniversaries, reunions, wine tastings and much more.

Ribbon-cutting held for Venue

Facility offers space to host conferences, events
STAFF REPORT

Congratulations to Denise Barnes, owner of The Venue on Water Street! “The Venue on Water Street is excited to open and be a part of the Edenton community,” Barnes said after Friday’s ribbon cutting that was attended by local leaders and Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce. “Our main purpose is to provide a lovely place to host special events such as parties,

business meetings, receptions, family reunions and social gatherings. We hope to inspire economic development and innovation while partnering with existing and future businesses. What a beautiful day for an opening! We were delighted with the crowd and the conversation.” With water views of Edenton Bay and the Albemarle Sound, Venue On Water Street, located at 113 West Water St., has much to offer for a variety of indoor and outdoor special events and gatherings.

Corporate meetings, classroom settings, wedding events, anniversaries, reunions, wine tastings, and a night of dancing are just a sample of possibilities. Venue On Water Street is handicap accessible, smoke free, and eco-friendly, with a unique open hall allowing for multiple choices in layouts for events. A large screen TV in the main hall accommodates computer-controlled powerpoint presentations and videos. For more information, see venueonwaterstreet.com or call 484-8414.

Center’s display honors Constitution

BY SANDRA LANCASTER SPERRY
For Chowan Herald

This year marks the 64th anniversary of Constitution Week. National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Past President General Gertrude S. Carraway, from North Carolina, was responsible for the annual designation of Sept. 17-23 as Constitution Week. The NSDAR made its own resolution for Constitution Week, which was adopted April 21, 1955.

United States Congress received the NSDAR resolution and on June 7, 1955, the resolution was discussed in the Senate. The first resolution to observe Constitution Week was made June 14, 1955, by Senator William F. Knowland of California. Following the passage of the resolution by both Houses of Congress, President Eisenhower issued his proclamation on Aug. 19, 1955.

The first observance of Constitution Week was so successful that on Jan. 5, 1956, Sen. Knowland introduced a Senate Joint Resolution to have the President designate Sept. 17-23 annually as Constitution Week. The reso-



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A display containing information about the U.S. Constitution sits on display at the Historic Edenton State Historic Site Visitor’s Center.

lution was adopted on July 23, 1956, and signed into Public Law #915 on Aug. 2, 1956.

In recognition of Constitution Week this year, on Sept. 16 Beth Taylor, first vice regent of the Edenton Tea Party Chapter, NSDAR; Charles Boyette, interpreter at the Historic Edenton State Historic Site; and Keith Furlough, retired from the Historic Edenton State Historic Site; set up a display at the Visitor’s Center. The display will remain in place until Sept. 25.

The poster depicts various historical documents, the US Flag Code, a picture of the signing of the

Constitution and patriotic posters and figures. Also displayed is a picture of Edenton resident Hugh Williamson, a signer of the Constitution and the official DAR Insignia.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is one of the most inclusive genealogical societies in the country.

The nonprofit, nonpolitical volunteer women’s service organization is dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America’s future through better education for children.

D.F. Walker’s Watch D.O.G.S. program kicks off

BY NICOLE BYRD-PHELPS
For Chowan Herald

D.F. Walker Elementary School held its annual Watch D.O.G.S. Kickoff Thursday night, Sept. 19, in the school cafeteria.

Gloria Ray, who organized and spoke to the crowd of about 75 men and their student family members/friends, mentioned the football theme for the night and asked, “Are you ready for some Watch D.O.G.S.?” The crowd was treated to pizza, snacks, and drinks for supper and a trivia contest, games, door prizes, and a football

flicking contest for fun and entertainment. At the end of the night, three students received trophies for their first, second, and third-place “football flicks.” These students were Deaulman Drew, Nicole Bautista-Tiznado and A’kyah Turner.

The Watch D.O.G.S. organization was started in 1998 at Gene George Elementary School in Springdale, Arkansas. Men of the community came together in response to school shootings, wanting to do something to curb the violence.

Today, over 6,450

schools across the country have Watch D.O.G.S. programs, daily using fathers and father figures to serve as extra eyes and ears on their campuses.

Gloria Ray told the crowd how important it is for children to have positive, male role models. She mentioned that studies have shown that children with positive, male role models are more likely to participate in healthy activities; they have better physical well-being, perceptual ability, and competency in relating to others; and, they demonstrate greater ability to take initiative and ex-



PHOTO COURTESY NICOLE BYRD-PHELPS

Dads and students trying to master the Rubik’s Cube during the Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) kickoff last Thursday night at D.F. Walker Elementary.

ercise self-control.

One 2002 study showed that 56 percent of children identifying with role models they knew personally, showed higher levels of self-esteem and stronger

academics.

So, when can the dogs come out to D.F. Walker? Any school day. Men of the community, if you are interested in becoming a Watch D.O.G., please call

D.F. Walker School and talk with Gloria Ray, our Watch D.O.G.S. coordinator. We would love to have you on our campus.

Nicole Byrd-Phelps is a talented music teacher, piano player and composer who works at D.F. Walker Elementary.

SCHOOL

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Patti Kersey said other public forums will be held to address other issues regarding the proposed construction/renovation of a high school in the future.

If a new high school is built out in the county, one concern is having the current high school building vacant like the old D.F. Walker High School, which sits empty on North Oakum Street between John A. Holmes and the College of the Albemarle’s Edenton campus.

Patricia White, a 1983 graduate of Holmes, said that when D.F. Walker was moved into the county, people came in and

promised to use and preserve the old building. It still sits vacant, although there are plans to renovate the first floor so the Boys and Girls Club of the Albemarle’s Edenton Unit can move in fall 2020.

“We don’t want to see John A. Holmes become like D.F. Walker. It was disrespectful to D.F. Walker graduates,” the Edenton native said. “We’re tired of people coming into town and telling us that they know what’s best and leave, not knowing what it will look like in the end.”

Leaving Holmes empty and unused would be disrespectful to Holmes’ alumni, White added.

Hoyle Kip Vinson, president of the Holmes band parents group, drives his son

home back and forth from Hobbsville to school. He said that the high school should stay in Edenton, but a new facility should be built.

“I am concerned by how much the school has been allowed to deteriorate since we moved here,” he said, noting one stretch of time in which the auditorium was closed and several classrooms had broken windows.

“There is still asbestos in the band room,” he said.

The kids need to have a 21st century education in a 21st century building, not a 20th century one, Vinson said.

Several who work or have worked in the education field noted that the school facility doesn’t matter, it’s the learning going on

inside the classroom that matters.

Grace Bean, a retired teacher, worked in the Edenton-Chowan School system for 26 years. When she taught at the old D.F. Walker, she occasionally took her students to Holmes’ front lawn to watch the band practice and do educational activities.

“Older buildings work well. The school district should be channeling its resources into classrooms,” she said.

It doesn’t matter what the outside of the building looks like, because it is inside the building — in the classrooms and hallways — where learning takes place.

Besides the cost of constructing a building, some speakers asked the joint

board to consider the hidden costs.

Darryl Adachi, who supports the school staying in Edenton, asked the board members to consider logistical costs such as transporting high school students to a new location out in the county.

Several coaches, including Rachel Johnson, voiced their support of keeping the school in its current location.

Johnson, a business owner who also works with the boys’ soccer, swimming and boys’ tennis teams as a coach, supports keeping the school in Edenton. It’s about a mile from the soccer complex, and some students still are late to practice saying that they got lost.

“During the swim teams’

seasons, I drive 80 miles a day to Elizabeth City’s YMCA for practice. Every year, I have to raise \$2,700 for gas money because the school system can’t afford to pay it,” she said, adding that she also has to find creative ways to transport the boys’ tennis team due to costs.

Adding more costs by moving the school could be detrimental to sports teams and other after-school programs.

Business owners noted how the school and activities held there after hours support the local economy. Jim Blount, owner of Blount’s Pharmacy, said that he and other downtown businesses hire high school students, some of whom walk from school to work.

FAIR

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barn, while Open Door will host a worship service at 7 p.m. on the Main Stage.

Thursday seniors 60 and older will be admitted free. Students in elementary, middle and high school will be half price. A Southern Gospel program, featuring Sue Tripp, Servant’s Song, Beauty 4 Ashes and Steadfast, will be from 6-9 p.m. on the main stage.

The day will also feature NORTHEAST 360, remote control races, from 4-9 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Junior Fair Board.

There will be no ticket discounts Friday. Besides a show from 7-10 p.m. at the Show Barn, Scrapbook will perform starting at 6:30 p.m. on the Main Stage.

Military Appreciation Day is Saturday. In an effort to recognize and honor the

active military personnel that protect our country, Chowan County Regional Fair and Dreamland Amusements will offer gate admission for half price or \$4 for people 36 inches or taller for people 36 inches or taller to ride the Dreamland amusements, wristbands for unlimited rides will also be discounted from \$20 to \$10, good for all rides. The American Legion Auxiliary will give a free drink with a food order. ID will need to be shown to ticket seller at time of purchase. Tickets must be purchased at the gate.

Also on Saturday, the fair pageant will start at 6 p.m. in the show barn. Ellie Proctor will perform on the Main Stage starting at 6:30 p.m.

This year’s programs include a magic show, a look at Australia and a firefighter’s show.

Aussie Kingdom au-

diences are introduced to the wonders of “Down Under” as they interact with several different species or pouched animals such as kangaroos, wallabies and walleroos. Also offered are other native Australian wildlife such as lizards and birds — the kookaburra, a rainbow lorikeet and bearded and frill dragons. As you wonder throughout the educational and interactive areas, you will learn about native Australian art, musical instruments and other animals found only in Australia. Aussie Kingdom offers an ongoing display of the animals throughout the day. The shows will be held at 6 and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday; and 6, 7:30 and 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

Old McNally’s Pig Racing offers racing pigs such as Pot Belly Pigs, Pot Belly Pig Guinea Hog Crosses, Fainting Goats, and Magpie Ducks. Everyone will

be on their feet to see Spatariat go head to hock against Swine-O-War, Ham Biscuit, and Seattle Stew. From the moment they leave the starting gate until they head back up the ramp you will be entertained. The shows will be at 5, 6:30 and 8 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1, 3, 5 and 7 p.m. Saturday.

The Firefighter Show will offer an entertaining and fun today may save a life in the future. Throughout the show the audience is encouraged to cheer on our new trainees, as the shows activities become a friendly competition between our volunteer firefighters. The winner or team that wins our competition is our 1st place team and as a reward they get to climb tower one and aim its water cannon at which ever part of the audience they feel wasn’t cheering them on during the earlier events. The show ends

with a fire tower water cannon shot. Shows will be held from 5:30 and 7 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 5:30, 7 and 8:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday

and 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, and 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

A magic show will be performed at 9 p.m. Friday and 2, 4, 6 and 8 p.m. Saturday.

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Telephone: (252) 482-4418 Fax: (252) 482-4410
nlayton@ncweeklies.com