

Marching Aces win People's Choice Award

Panther Band Classic held recently in Elizabeth City

STAFF REPORT

ELIZABETH CITY — John A. Holmes' Marching Aces was among a record 14 bands that competed in the Panther Band Classic on Oct. 19 in Elizabeth City.

The high school bands were from across northeastern North Carolina, Washington, Louisiana and southeastern Virginia.

West Craven High School won the Milton H. Sawyer Jr. Award, which is also the Band of the Day award that goes to the band achieving the highest score.

But a number of high schools in the region also performed well.

John A. Holmes won the People's Choice Award, which is given in



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The John A. Holmes Marching Aces celebrate after competing in the Panther Classic in Elizabeth City.

memory of Brian Hobbs. Holmes also won the Best Pit Crew Award and finished first in percussion, general effect, and overall band for 2A bands.

Camden High School's Marching Bruins also performed well, finishing first in percussion and visual performance for 4A bands and second for overall

band in the 2A division. Currituck High School's Marching Knights finished first for drum major and third place for overall band in the 4A division.

Northeastern High School's Marching Eagles finished second for overall band in the 3A division.

The Marching Aces,

which competed in the 2A division, won top prizes in Percussion, Visual Performance, General Effect, and placed first in their division for Overall Band.

Upcoming activities for the Marching Aces include the Homecoming Parade and football game on Nov. 1 and the Crystal City Classic on Nov. 2.

COA Foundation gets \$4K for scholarship

Funds will establish agribusiness scholarship

SUBMITTED REPORT

CURRITUCK — College of The Albemarle (COA) Foundation recently received \$4,000 from the Albemarle Soil & Water Conservation District for the Agribusiness Technology program. The funds will establish an annual scholarship for students enrolled in the program.

Students enrolled full-time in COA's Agribusiness Technology program, in pursuit of an Associate in Applied Science degree, are encouraged to apply. Students applying must also be a resident of Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Pasquotank or Perquimans Counties and demonstrate a financial need.

The presentation of the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

(Front row, l-r): Ben Stikeleather, Currituck County Manager; Amy Alcocer, Executive Director, COA Foundation; Dr. Felix Buabeng, Instructor/Program Coordinator, Agribusiness Technology, COA; Dylan Woodley, COA Agribusiness student; Carissa Bobko, COA Agribusiness student; Steve Harris, Chair, Albemarle Soil & Water Conservation District; State Sen. Bob Steinburg; and (back row, l-r): Robin Zinsmeister, Dean, Workforce Development, Public Services and Career Readiness, COA; Harvey Roberts, Secretary/Treasurer, Albemarle Soil & Water Conservation District; Don Lee Keaton, Vice Chair, Albemarle Soil & Water Conservation District; at the presentation for the scholarship funds.

newly formed scholarship was held at the Albemarle Soil & Water Conservation District's meeting on Thursday, October 10. "We

are appreciative of this scholarship and the opportunity it will provide for our students," said Robin Zinsmeister, Dean of

Workforce Development and Career Readiness programs. "Our goal in this

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Book reminds editor of longtime reporter

It's been a little over a year since **Rebecca Bunch** left our office for the last time. I was working the night shift as I was a copy editor for the Daily Advance at the time. During the day, I did her work to help Miles for what we all thought was a temporary thing.

As we later learn, that wasn't going to be the case.

About a week after Becky left, Miles decided to head to New Bern. Luckily for me, his stint there was more temporary part of the arrangement.

I mention this because I just finished reading an advance copy of **Diane Chamberlain's** book, "Big Lies in a Small Town." I'll write a review about it a little bit closer to when she is expected to visit Edenton.

For now, I will say that the fictitious Chowan Herald editor mentioned in the book, Billy Calhoun, reminds me a bit of Becky. She was always soft-spoken. When she wrote, her words were powerful and displayed a depth of knowledge — not just book wisdom but Chowan County wisdom — that can never be replaced. Sometimes, we talk in our office how we could have used Becky's help when dealing with certain situations that have come up since she left.

In the book's acknowledgements and author's notes, Chamberlain mentions Becky and one of her favorite places, Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library. The library has a beautiful yellow rose bush planted in Becky's honor in its courtyard.

"The Shepard Pruden Memorial Library is near the lovely waterfront in

COLUMNIST



NICOLE BOWMAN-

Edenton. Librarian Jennifer Finlay answered my questions, and Joyce White helped me use the

microfilm machine to read the 1940 Chowan Herald, as Morgan does in Big Lies," Chamberlain writes.

"Speaking of the Chowan Herald, I'm grateful to the late reporter Rebecca Bunch for accurately and generously covering my visits to Edenton. Rebecca was clearly devoted to the town. I quickly learned that I could trust her reporting, and I'm very saddened by her death."

We miss her, too.

The Morgan mentioned in the notes is **Morgan Christopher**, a character from "Big Lies" who lives in the present time. The book switches between her story and that of Anna Dale, someone who comes to Edenton in 1940. What happens is a surprise I'll save for a later column, but I must say, I liked the book.

"Big Lies in a Small Town" is scheduled to come out Jan. 14, 2020.

It is interesting how these fictional characters come to Edenton. Neither set foot in this side of North Carolina, but when they got here, they, like so many others, fall in love with the town.

It's like the group of

See LAYTON, B6

NEWS BRIEFS

SUBMITTED REPORTS

Life Line Screenings to be offered Nov. 2

Northern Chowan Community Center will host a Life Line Screening preventive health event on Saturday, Nov. 2.

The costs vary according to what kind of health assessments the participant wants to receive. To schedule an appointment, call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle.

Ice cream social aids Caregivers Day Out

An ice cream social fundraiser will be held from 3-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, at the fellowship hall of Edenton Baptist Church. The event will feature a silent auction and raffle what includes art work, wood crafts, gift baskets, candles, local pottery and more. Proceeds benefit Caregivers Day Out.

White Oak invites veterans to program

White Oak School will perform its Veterans Day program at 10:15 a.m. and 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8 in the school's gym. The school invites veterans to be at one or both of the performances, so the school can honor them for all they have done. The school is at 111 Sandy Ridge Road, off NC 32.

Get ticket for Garden Club fundraiser

The Garden of Eden Garden Club will host its annual fundraiser on Nov. 5.

Randy Ouzts, a florist and floral designer in Gastonia and Blowing Rock, will present holiday designs for the

theme, Home for the Holidays.

The program will include lunch and a pop-up floral shop at St. Paul's Parish Hall. Tickets costs \$30 a piece and are available at the Penelope Barker House Welcome Center.

Albemarle Chorale announces concerts

The Albemarle Chorale will present its first Christmas concert, "A Glorious Christmas," at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1, at the Edenton United Methodist Church, 225 Virginia Road, Edenton. The concert will feature sacred music for the Christmas season including Respighi's "Laud to the Nativity" and new renditions of familiar carols. Directed by Lynwood Winslow and accompanied by Michael Morgan, the concert is free, and donations are appreciated.

The Chorale will also perform this concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at the First United Methodist Church, 201 S. Road St., Elizabeth City.

Historic group seeks donations, volunteers

Edenton Historical Commission is in the midst of its annual fundraising campaign. The group's mission is the preservation of historical properties and providing a wonderful experience to all who visit Edenton.

The commission has yearly expenses in the excess of \$200,000. Although its board members are selected by the governor, it doesn't receive any funding from the state of North Carolina.

To support the Edenton Historical Commission, stop by the Barker House, 505 S. Broad St., Edenton, or call 252-482-7800.

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