

## EMERGENCY

Continued from A1

Matthews received the Chowan Edenton Optimist Club Service to Youth Award. Since 1980, the organization has recognized a law enforcement officer who has made outstanding contributions to activities that exemplify the club's motto "A friend of youth."

In his presentation of the award, Optimist Club member Kirk DeVine noted how as the school resource officer at Chowan Middle School, Matthews saw a need for more immediate medical care for the children that she interacts with on a daily basis. So she received training as a paramedic.

She was also one of the officers who helps with the sheriff's Kids and Cops program.

After hearing she'd received the award, Matthews learned that her parents came to town to see her receive the honor. A teary-eyed Matthews thanked the audience and her parents during her acceptance speech.

"First and foremost, I do want to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, because if it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be here today to talk to you," she said. "Thank you to my family for putting up with a lot from me over the years. Who would have ever thought that I would be in law enforcement and now I'm chasing around kids that I used to be like. I am extremely honored and humbled to stand before you tonight. And I thank you all for thinking of me. This is just amazing. And I really appreciate appreciate my Sheriff's Office family. I love you all and I appreciate my rescue squad family. I love you. All everybody in here has impacted my life here in the last 11 years and I can't tell you enough how much I appreciate you."

Mallory Sawyer, along with other teens who participate in the Chowan County sheriff's Kids and Cops program presented the 4-H Top Cop award, which was given to Joseph Saez.

Sawyer recognized Sgt. Saez, with the Chowan County Sheriff's Office, for his work with the Kids and Cops summer camp. He was an active participant in the group's many events, including the Kids vs. Cops basketball game.

Saez also received the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award, which was presented by Sgt. William Laton, with the NC Wildlife Resource Commission.

During his announcement, Laton noted how Saez has attended many training courses, including deputy field training and leadership courses. He was promoted to sergeant in June 2017 and serves as a shift supervisor.

Saez' family traveled down to Edenton to see him receive his award.

"First I got to say thank you to my sheriff for giving me an opportunity to be here to get a job to do what I feel like I was born to do," he said.

Saez noted that at the last banquet, his date was his grandfather.

"Last year, I was here and my date last year was my grandfather. He passed away this year and I can just imagine how proud he is of me right now," he said. "It's an amazing thing to be a part of this community. So thank you all very much for everything you've done for me."

The Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad Unit 3 Rocky Hock was recognized as the Emergency Medical Technician of the Year.

Chowan County EMS director Colin Ryan noted that the unit, manned by volunteers, has been crucial part of providing nighttime coverage for the Rocky Hock community and northern Chowan



NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD  
NC Supreme Court Associate Judge Paul Newby speaks Thursday at the banquet.

County since 1971.

"At this time, Rocky Hock Unit 3 is no longer transporting patients to the hospital," Ryan said. "The squad has experienced just like others across our great nation a decline in volunteers. ... I have no doubt that the volunteer rescue squad in Rocky Hock will continue to play a very significant role in our EMS system."

Thomas Allen Hughes received the Fireman of the Year award from Edenton Fire Chief Billy Bass.

Hughes has been a member of the department since 1982 and has attended many training hours. He is also a member of the Chowan County Baptist Men's group that goes out to help neighbors in need, more recently those living in Ocracoke affected by Hurricane Dorian.

"I would like to personally thank each person here and one could not be with us," Hughes said. "It is so awesome being in such a tight-knit community, where everybody knows everybody, and everybody is willing to take care of one another. So I just want to say thank you to each and everyone of you for your sacrifice."

Hughes also thanked the families who sacrifice a lot but don't put on the uniform. "You seem to make it all work and just want to say thank you so much."

Judge Paul Newby, senior associate judge of the North Carolina Supreme Court, served as the guest speaker.

Like staff writer Miles Layton, Newby was raised in Jamestown, NC, and graduated from Ragsdale High School.

Newby noted that the banquet was a wonderful statement of appreciation for the county's first responders.

His speech centered around how American citizens have certain freedoms provided by the constitution and Declaration of Independence.

However, it is the first responders who keep citizens safe so they can enjoy those freedoms.

Why do people take on this role?

"Now, I think it's probably the same reason that I have chosen a role of public service, and it has to do with these fundamental principles that I'm talking about," Newby said. "You see, right here in Edenton, the women in this town made a statement when they told the British government and King George, 'Our rights don't come from you. We're not drinking your old tea. We've had we've had enough of your overbearing laws and you're trying to tell us what our rights are. We don't think you can do that. We stayed our rights have a higher source.'"

"Several years later, Thomas Jefferson would capture it. He says it like this. He says, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident that all of us are created equal' and in the Bill of Rights 'endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Government is instituted among people to protect these fundamental rights and freedoms.'"

Newby noted that American citizens have God-given fundamental rights, but "without the men and women in uniform, those rights means nothing."

# TO ADDRESS:

*Should the Mayor of Edenton be employed as the economic developer for Bertie County?*

# YES

According to the North Carolina School of Government at UNC there is: no conflict. So... why shouldn't Edenton elect a mayor who is an economic developer?



# STEVE BIGGS

Candidate for Mayor of Edenton brings experience, leadership, integrity and respect for ALL the citizens of Edenton and Chowan County.

Paid for by committee to elect Steve Biggs Mayor

## Taylor THEATER

208 S. Broad St. Edenton  
Taylortheater.com • (252) 368-1595

Now Showing

JUDY

(Biography/Drama Rated PG-13)

Zombieland

(10/31 final show)

(Rated R)

Starting Friday Nov. 1st

Maleficent Mistress of Evil

(Rated PG)

7pm shows EVERY NIGHT

Matinees Friday-Sunday

We can't wait to watch with you!

## Caregivers Day Out

COME FOR A DIP & GET THE SCOOP: Ice Cream Social



Saturday, November 2 • 3-5PM  
Edenton Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
200 S. Granville St. • 482-3217

SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE

Artwork, woodcrafts, gift baskets, candles, local pottery & more!

**STOP BANKRUPTCY**  
STRESSED OUT AND LOSING SLEEP OVER YOUR DEBTS? CALL ME TODAY FOR A FREE CONSULTATION ABOUT BANKRUPTCY

CALL ALLEN C. BROWN, PA • 252-481-1906

*Laydon's Supermarket*  
Belvidere, N.C.

- Old-Time Butcher Shop
- Monthly Meat Plans
- Country Gift Baskets

1478 Belvidere Rd., Belvidere • 252-297-2875