

## EVANS

Continued from A1

Year in 1994.

"Mrs. Evans is an outstanding principal who has earned admiration throughout the school system and community. She is a passionate advocate for our youngest learners, leading our efforts to expand the Pre-K program," Jackson said. "Based on the results from the North Carolina Teacher Working Conditions survey, teachers love serving with Mrs. Evans and it shows, as every teacher in the school has met or exceeded state growth expectations each of the last two years. I greatly respect Mrs. Evans and know that she is the ideal representative for principals across our school district and region."

During her career, Evans has served as a middle school teacher, middle school assistant principal, director of curriculum and instruction, elementary school principal, and high school principal before serving as White Oak Elementary Principal. She is proud to say that her entire career has been dedicated to the children of Chowan County.



NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Family of Sheila Evans poses for a photograph after the White Oak principal was named regional principal of the year on Wednesday, Dec. 18.

Evans is quick to recognize that these awards are truly school awards. "It takes every faculty member to ensure the success of each student on campus," she said.

Evans acknowledged the sacrifices made by her husband, Steve, and their two sons over the years.

"When you're a mom, you want to be with your family. Those three have sacri-

ficed a lot over the years," she said. "We put these two boys through school and they've always hung in with me."

Evans noted that she had 490 reasons to come to work every day — the students of White Oak.

Evans becomes the third Regional Principal of the Year currently serving in the Edenton-Chowan Schools district. D.F. Walker Elemen-

tary Principal Michelle White was selected as the Northeast Regional Principal of the Year in 2018. Superintendent Jackson was selected as the 2011 Southwestern Regional Principal of the Year prior to being selected as the 2011 North Carolina State Principal of the Year.

Evans will represent the northeast region in the upcoming State Principal of the Year competition.

## DANCING

Continued from A1

the case of a recent class, Christmas tunes.

For about 13 years, Judi Muir had driven from Pea Ridge in Washington County to the senior center on East Church Street in Edenton every Monday and Friday morning to teach the 10:15 a.m. beginners class, and the 10:45 a.m. advance class. The first three Wednesdays of every month, she and the group travel to a different nursing home in Chowan County, where they perform for the crowd and even get the residents to participate.

"Some of the residents like to dance with us," said participant Marianne Miller. "It's great to see a smile on their face."

The class is currently taking a break during the holidays, but will start back up on Jan. 3.

A line dance is a choreographed dance with a repeated sequence of steps in which a group of people dance in one or more lines or rows, all facing either each other or in the same direction, and executing the steps at the same time. You may have seen the line dancers perform it at the Chowan County Regional Fair or the senior games.

The dance can be fairly simple — step, step, turn step — or complex with a



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Participants in the Chowan Senior Center line-dancing class include (L-r) kneeling, Ginette Mitchener and Rita Waters; second row, Betty Winslow, Jackson Henderson, instructor Judi Muir, Margaret Lassiter; third row, Vivian Haskell, Lucille Pescevitich, Marilyn Frazier, Marianne Miller, Jacki Arrowwood, Sherry Roebuck, Linda Rascoe, Joe Anna Lawrence; and back row, Judy Lawrence, Nancy Evans, April Valentine, Patricia White, Eugene Rascoe and Gloria Ashley. Not pictured are Emma Bonner and Gerald Hall.

few "boxes" and points of the toes thrown in.

While there is a lot of dancing going on, there is also sound of laughter.

And cheering. You see, line dancing is something anyone who moves can do.

"It's a good group. Sometimes, we get a little rowdy," she said with a laugh. Muir passes between classes to show a group photo taken at her home at their last social.

"We're all friends here."

One of the newest members of the class is Gerald

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Hall. The Edenton native played for the East Carolina University football team from 1976-1978. Even now, the mention of N.C. State draws a light-hearted sneer. "That's the enemy," he says and then laughs.

Muir said Hall started coming to class about three months ago, after suffering from a stroke.

Sometimes Hall sits and watches, with a clipboard of paper to write things down so he can express himself. With a little help from Muir and his classmates, Hall can show off some pretty slick dance moves.

Muir said that line dancing is a great activity for people of any age and skill level.

"It's good for your brain in that you have to learn the moves and keep time. It's good for your heart and a good way to interact with people," she said. "No one is angry with each other."

## SANTA

Continued from A1

ents.

"When some families sign up, they have multiple kids, some older than our age group. We covered older kids too, so no child would be left out," she said.

Members of Sisters of Strength, a group founded in 2015, could be seen throughout the event, hosting games and helping hand out food and gifts. The group helps the community — the elderly, sick and kids — and provides scholarships. Its members could be seen throughout "A Day with Santa" wearing fuzzy, pink Santa hats.

Pink served as the theme color of the event, as a Christmas tree decorated in pink and white sheltered unwrapped toys given to children who visited the event, but who were not signed for the program. In front of the

## MORE PHOTOS

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tree were tables under an arch of pink balloon, donated by Nikki Ward.

While parents gathered the gifts or talked with the groups participating in the event — Vidant Chowan Hospital Cancer Center, Triple P Positive Parenting Program and Chowan/Perquimans Smart Start Partnership — children could get their faces painted by a member of the John A. Holmes Small Gestures Club or play bingo or do a candy walk to win prizes.

Brian Chappell, recreation operations director of the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department, said he appreciated the work of Brown and all those who helped organize the event. He also thanked the com-

munity and businesses that contributed to the program.

"They've been working hard for a long time to make this possible," he said. "This has been 25 years of giving back to the community. Without her (Brown) and the donations from the community and businesses, we couldn't do it."

"Chowan County is a very giving community," he said, while Brown nodded in agreement.

Edenton Town Councilor Craig Miller was among those who helped during the event. He said he enjoys seeing the children get into the holiday spirit.

"It's special. When I see the kids with big smiles on their faces, having a happy time, it makes me so glad," he said. "I really appreciate that the rec department does this for the kids. I'd like to thank Gwen Brown for all the hard work she puts into this."

Edenton-Chowan

Schools Superintendent Rob Jackson also stopped the event and visited with the children. He said "A Day with Santa" is one of the highlights of his holiday season every year.

"To get to see the excitement of the kids and their smiles, that's something very special," he said. "I love seeing the joy in the children's eyes when they walk out with gifts given by the community."

In 1995, "A Day with Santa" started on a small scale thanks to caregivers in the Hertford Road community. In 1997, Robbie Laughton welcomed this program into the Recreation Department, where it has been ever since.

The department and other governmental agencies started gathering applications for "A Day with Santa" near the end of October. While over 300 children were helped this year, over 400 kids were served in 2018.

## ELECTION

Continued from A1

The top three vote-getters will gain seats in the March election.

Chowan County saw only one new filer on Friday. Tra- vian Taylor filed to run for

the District 3 seat now held by fellow Democrat Greg Bonner, who did not seek re-election.

Also not seeking re-election in Chowan is Democrat Don Faircloth, who holds the at-large seat. Two Republicans had already filed for the seat: Chris Evans

and Michael Dean.

Incumbent Commissioner Ron Cummings, a Republican, is running unopposed for his District 1 seat. Alex Kehayes, a former GOP commissioner, is also running unopposed for the District 2 seat now held by Patti

Kersey, who did not seek re-election. Lynn Gilliard, the county's Democratic register of deeds, is also running unopposed for re-election.

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## WALGREENS

Continued from A1

finances until they come into compliance."

The department conducts periodic, unannounced inspections of price-scanner systems in businesses to check for accuracy between the prices advertised and the prices that ring up at the register. If a store has more than a 2-percent error rate on overcharges, inspectors discuss the findings with the store manager and conduct a more intensive follow-up inspection at a later date. Undercharges are also reported, but do not count against a store.

Penalties are assessed if a store fails a follow-up inspection. In

addition to the penalties paid, the store will be subject to re-inspection every 60 days from the last inspection until it meets the 2-percent-or-less error rate.

Additional penalties may be assessed if a store fails a re-inspection.

A September inspection at Walgreens found a 12 percent error rate based on six overcharges in a 50-item lot. A second inspection in October found a 5 percent error rate based on 15 overcharges in a 300-item lot. The store passed inspection in December.

Consumers who would like to file a complaint about scanner errors they encounter, can call the Standards Division at 919-707-3225.



NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

(L-r) Harris Vaughan, Mayor Jimmy Stalling and Roland Vaughan watch as Liza Vaughan-Williams talks about the "Boodie fund," established for the Boys & Girls Club of the Albemarle in Roland Vaughan's honor. The announcement of the fund was made Dec. 10 during a reception at the Chowan Arts Council.

## FUND

Continued from A1

his last meeting as Edenton's mayor.

"Harris Vaughan and Liza Williams, Roland's children started this fund to honor their dad's service to our community and to the Boys & Girls Club," Mitchell said. "Roland joined our board in 2015 and his leadership has taken our non-profit to new heights!"

As board president, Vaughan helped lead the capital campaign that helped the Edenton unit secure the operating funds needed to move into the old D.F. Walker building.

"We are looking forward to moving into our new facility, hopefully, by the beginning of the 2020 school year!" Mitchell said. "This new space will allow us to service more children, including teens. The space will have a dedicated space for the high school kids and enhanced programs for middle-schoolers."

When announcing the fund, Liza Wil-

liams noted that the Boys and Girls Club serves 85 children. It costs the organization about \$1,200 per child to offer the programs it has. Before opening the fund to the public, it was able to support 32 children. Their goal is to support 150.

The fund will help the Boys and Girls Club Edenton Unit continue its mission and "create a new generation of doers and leaders and lovers of this community we call home," Williams said.

During the reception, Mitchell noted how appreciative the organization was of Vaughan's leadership.

"Your leadership has meant the world to those kids we serve," she said.

Those interested in making a donation can mail a check to Boys & Girls Clubs of the Albemarle, 131 Morris-town Road, Edenton, NC 27932, and write in the note that the check is for the Boodie fund, Mitchell said.

Contact Nicole Bowman-Layton at [nlayton@ncweeklies.com](mailto:nlayton@ncweeklies.com).

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