

# Chowan County honors Rosenwald School

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Chowan Herald

EDENTON - The community's past and present merged on Sunday, Oct. 15 as state and local dignitaries joined with citizens during a ceremony to mark the unveiling of a state marker celebrating the creation of Rosenwald Schools in North Carolina.

It was those schools, created by educator Booker T. Washington and businessman Julius Rosenwald of Sears-Roebuck, that provided scores of African American children with a good education at a time segregation existed and opportunities for them were few. Chowan County has the distinction of having the first Rosenwald School in the state, built at the site of the Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Rob Jackson, who acted as emcee for the occasion, called the celebration "an incredible occasion" that paid tribute to the vision and love for children exemplified by the tireless efforts of Washington and Rosenwald.

"This marker symbol-

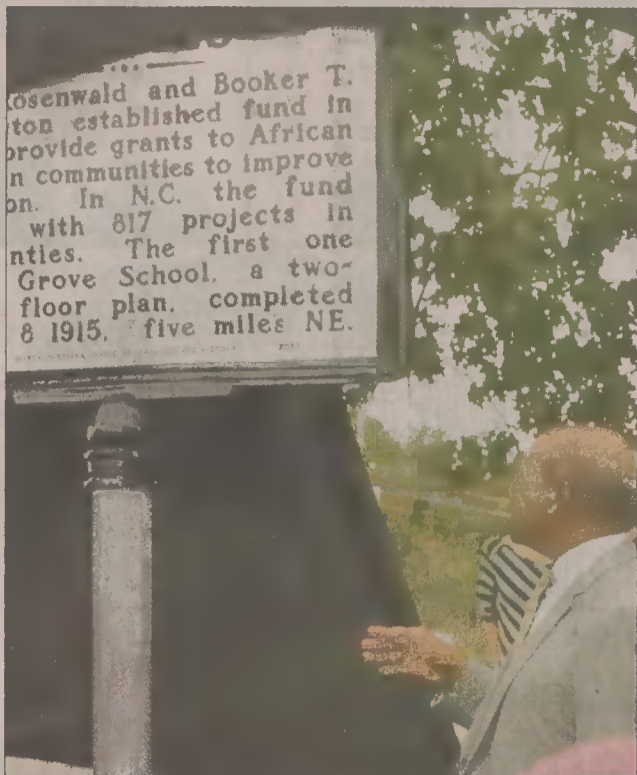
izes one of the things in our community we can be truly proud of," he said.

The marker is located adjacent to the Southern Bank drive-thru and Burger King and across the road from the Edenton United Methodist Church. The location was chosen by state officials to represent all the Rosenwald Schools in the state.

"Of the seven Rosenwald Schools constructed in our community, two are still in existence and used today," said Edenton Historical Commission President Sally Francis Kehayes, who served as a member of the planning committee. "One is St. John Community Center on Indian Trail Road and the other has been annexed into the Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church."

Kehayes added that Oct. 8 was chosen for the unveiling of the marker because the first Rosenwald School in North Carolina opened at Warren Grove on Oct. 8, 1915.

Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, a member of the NC House of Representatives, echoed that sentiment. He termed the unveiling of the marker on Virginia



REBECCA BUNCH / Chowan Herald

Chowan County Rosenwald graduate Norman Brinkley (right) reads the inscription on the new Rosenwald schools marker unveiled last week on Virginia Road in Edenton.

Road "a very historic and momentous occasion."

Dr. Kevin Cherry, Deputy Secretary of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, spoke about the state's prestigious marker program designed to pay lasting tribute to outstanding citizens and events that have occurred in the state. He said there was a good probability that Chowan County has more of the markers than any

and events that have been commemorated with state markers are Joseph Hewes, one of three North Carolinians to sign the Declaration of Independence, James Iredell, who was one of the first U.S. Supreme Court Justices, and the ladies of the Edenton Tea Party that is considered the first known political activity carried out by women in the American colonies.

Cherry noted that recognizing the Rosenwald Schools in such a significant way was only fitting considering the important place they held in the lives of the state's African Americans.

"Each was a thread in the history of our state," he said.

Members of the local planning committee for the marker dedication received special recognition during the ceremony. They included:

- Edenton Historical Commission - Sally Francis Kehayes, Chairman; Ben Speller, secretary; and Mike Ervin, executive director of the Penelope Barker

House operated by the commission

- Town of Edenton - Anne-Marie Knighton, town manager
- Historic Edenton State Historic Sites - Bob Hopkins, manager
- Southern Bank - Lisa Dunagan, vice-president
- Chowan County Tourism Development Authority - Nancy Nicholls, director
- Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church - Emma Bonner
- St. John Missionary Baptist Church - Felicia Cofield
- N.C. Historical Commission - Samuel B. Dixon

Special music was provided by the choirs of Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church and St. John Missionary Baptist Church.

An invocation was offered by Warren Grove Pastor Stacey D. Best Sr. and a benediction was given by Deacon Malcome Reid of St. John's.

Wellcomers were offered by Chowan Commission Chair Jeff Smith and Edenton Mayor Roland Vaughan.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BERTIE COUNTY Community Development Program

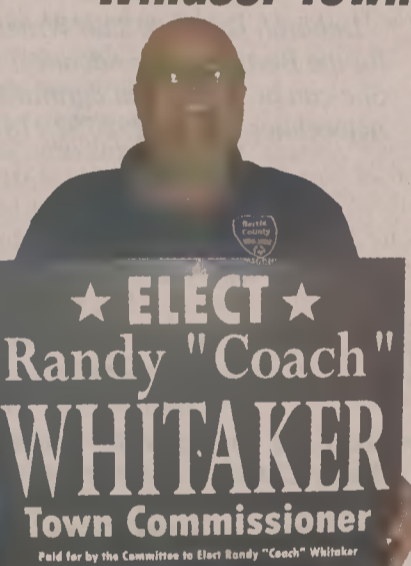
The citizens of Bertie County are hereby informed that the County intends to apply to the North Carolina Department of Commerce for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. In an effort to involve the citizens of the County and obtain their comments in the planning of the community development program, the Bertie County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 6, 2017 at 4:00 pm in the Commissioners Room of the County Office Building at 106 Dundee Street in Windsor. The purpose of the public hearing is to explain the CDBG-Broadband grant and allow citizens of the County an opportunity to express their views concerning community development needs and priorities. The grant will allow for a partnership between Bertie County and Roanoke Electric Membership Corporation that will facilitate greater access to the Internet in portions of Bertie County. The project will include the purchase and installation of four 140-foot monopoles with associated equipment and installation of equipment on some existing power poles and grant administration. The total cost of the project is \$250,000.00 and is 100% financed with CDBG funds.

Bertie County does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, age, or political affiliation in the admission, access to, treatment or employment in the CDBG program and activities. Person having any questions concerning the CDBG Program are urged to attend the public hearing and make their views known. Persons with disabilities or who otherwise need assistance should contact Sarah Tinkham, Clerk to the Board, at 252-794-6110 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting. Hearing impaired persons desiring information or having questions regarding this subject should call the North Carolina Relay Number for the Deaf at 1-800-735-8262. Accommodations will be made for all who request assistance with participating in the public hearing. For additional information or to submit written comments, please contact Sarah Tinkham, Clerk to the Board at 252-794-6110 or 106 Dundee Street or P.O. Box 530, Windsor, NC 27983. Comments will receive a written response within 10 working days.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Sarah Tinkham, at 252-794-6110, or at the Bertie County Office Building located at 106 Dundee Street in Windsor for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Sarah Tinkham, al 252-794-6110 o en Bertie County Office Building at 106 Dundee Street in Windsor, de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

John Trent, Chairman  
Bertie County Commissioners

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**"Coach" WHITAKER**  
**Windsor Town Commissioner**



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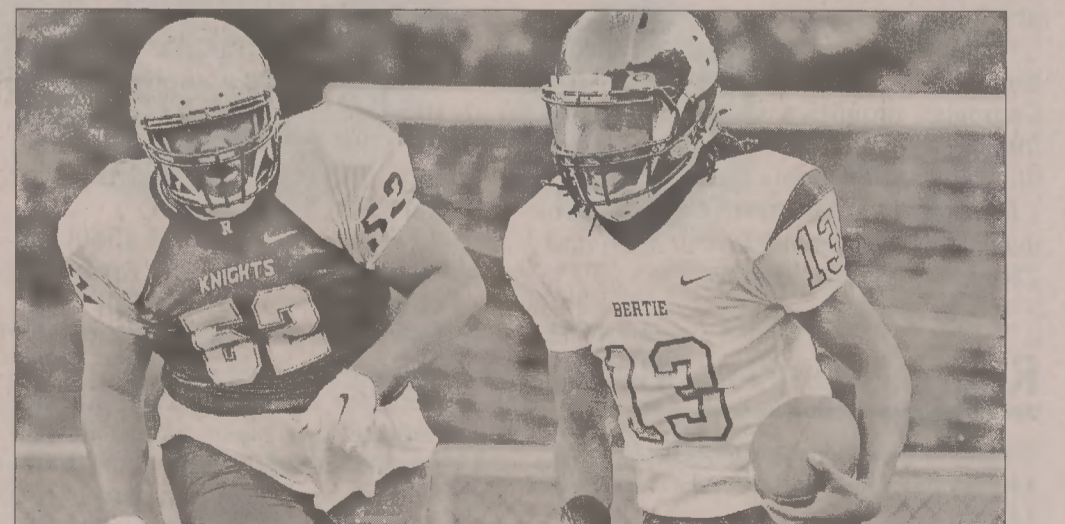
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VS. **Northeastern Eagles**

**7:30 p.m. • Friday, Oct. 20**  
**Elizabeth City**