

CHOWAN HERALD



Work to start this week on Habitat House — 6B

482-4418

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

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KISSING A PIG



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

School staff and students laugh after White Oak Elementary Principal Michelle White kissed an actual pig. White kissed the pig as part of a deal she made with her students that stated that the students collected the most food of any Chowan County school. The food was a benefit drive for the local food pantry. See full story on page 1B.

Committee appointed to review wind ordinance

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The Chowan County Planning Board has tapped three of its members to serve as a subcommittee in reviewing the county's wind energy ordinance.

Patti Kersey, the board's vice chairman, is on the subcommittee, as are board members Jim Robison and Jim Leggett.

Kersey, in a brief presentation to her fellow board members at the board's meeting Thursday night, proposed that the chairman appoint three members of the board to a subcommittee to review the ordinance.

Kersey proposed that the subcommittee would meet at least once a week and would compare the county's 2013 wind energy ordinance to independently researched ordinances.

The subcommittee would not look at model wind ordinances but at "real and well-researched ordinances," Kersey said.

The subcommittee would report to the Planning Board at the board's March 31 meeting, Kersey said.

Planning Board Chairman Lou Sarratt said the committee would do legwork.

See WIND ORDINANCE, 4A

Hospital honors leaders in transition to new roles

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

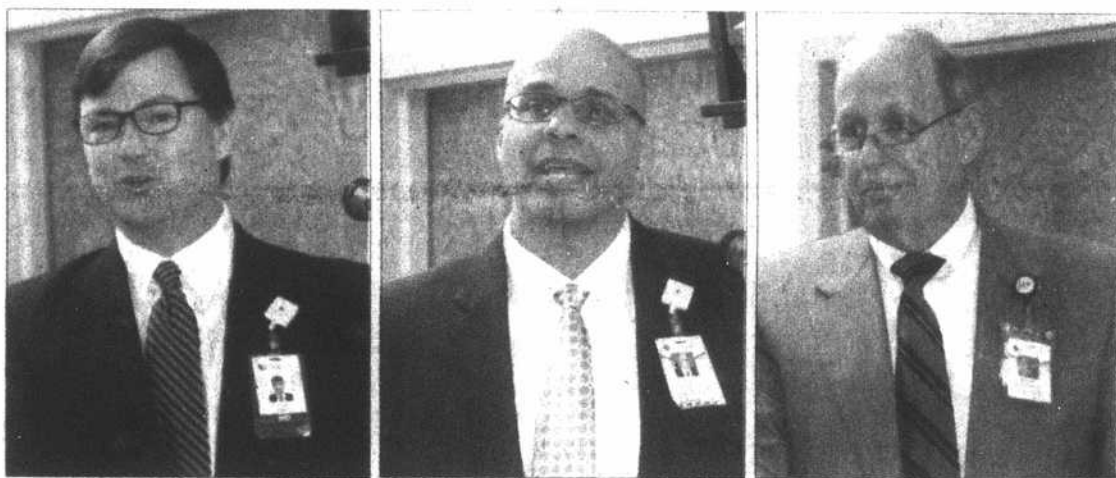
Vidant Chowan Hospital held a reception March 9 in honor of Jeffrey Sackrison's promotion to division president and Jeffery Dial's promotion to local hospital president.

Dr. William Hope, chief of the medical staff at Vidant Chowan Hospital, said it's an exciting time at the hospital. He said he has learned a lot from Sackrison over the past 10 years.

Hope said he is impressed with Sackrison's ability to recruit providers.

"Not only can he recruit physicians but he also knows how to build relationships with them," Hope said.

Hope noted the hospital's progress under Sackrison's leadership in developing rehabilitation services and other important service areas. He also pointed out that Sackrison led the hospital's transition to critical access status, which has been vitally important to the hospital's stability.



STAFF PHOTOS BY REGGIE PONDER

Dr. William Hope, chief of medical staff at Vidant Chowan Hospital (l-r), Jeffery Dial, the hospital's new president and Jeffrey Sackrison, the new president of the hospital's northern division each speak at a leadership transition reception at Vidant Chowan Hospital, March 9.

"That is a really big accomplishment," Hope said of the critical access status.

Hope said Sackrison built an outstanding leadership team at the hospital, including Dial.

"I would like to congratulate both of them for their new posi-

tions and their promotions," Hope said.

Sackrison spoke fondly of his time as president of Vidant Chowan Hospital and later as president of both Vidant Chowan and Vidant Bertie hospitals.

"This has been an amazing jour-

ney," Sackrison said.

The hospital has a solid reputation and financial foundation, Sackrison said. That has been a team effort and the team has been great, he said.

Sackrison said the administrative team has always had the wis-

dom and sense of purpose to do what was right for patients, even when it meant disagreeing with him.

Sackrison said Vidant Chowan Hospital and Vidant Bertie Hospital have been fortunate to have caring physicians.

The doctors care very much about their patients and the entire staff is dedicated and caring, he said.

"They go the extra mile and they're the folks who make the difference," Sackrison said.

Cathy White, the executive administrative assistant for Vidant Chowan Hospital and Vidant Bertie Hospital, has been especially helpful, Sackrison said.

Sackrison noted his family continues to endure the career of a health care professional. He said his family has shared his sense of purpose and work ethic.

Sackrison said his wife, Sandy, had been his rock and support through times he thought were impossible.

See NEW ROLES, 4A

Town reaches deal on property for new station

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The town has reached agreements for the purchase of three pieces of property that will allow construction to begin this summer on a police station.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said that acquisition agreements have been reached with former Edenton Police Chief Greg Bonner and his wife as well as Marlin, LLC, a company owned by Larry Sellers and Steve Lane of Edenton.

"The closing date has been set for April 17," she said. "Town Attorney Hood Ellis prepared the contracts

and they have been delivered to the parties for review and execution."

The Bonners will be paid \$48,741 for a house they own at 137 E. Albemarle. Marlin, LLC will receive \$97,590 for the properties that Lane and Sellers own at 307 and 309 N. Oakum Street, Knighton said.

"The purchase price is 10 percent above the higher value, either the appraisal value or the tax value," she explained.

In the case of the three properties in question, the figures were established as follows:

- 137 E. Albemarle — the higher value was the tax value \$44,310 plus 10 percent, for a total of \$48,741
- 307 N. Oakum Street — the higher value in this case was the appraised value

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See NEW STATION, 4A

Officers seek 2 in auto dealer robbery

From staff reports

The Chowan County Sheriff's Department is looking for two men who robbed a local business in the early morning of March 12.

Two men attacked Maurice Eley, 51, as he was opening up his business at M&M Auto Sales on Virginia Road north of Edenton around 5:45 a.m., according to Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin.

Eley told officers the men were bundled up and appeared to be wearing something over their faces, Goodwin said.

A struggle ensued when Eley fought back, but the two men were able to get a small amount of cash from Eley before locking him inside a small room at the office, Goodwin

said.

The robbers drove Eley's Chevrolet S-10 pickup about a quarter of a mile south before abandoning the vehicle in a driveway along Virginia Road, Goodwin said.

Authorities believe the robbers were picked up by another vehicle driven by someone who was abetting the robbery.

Eley described both robbers as five feet, nine inches to five feet, 10 inches in height, with slim build, Goodwin said.

Eley suffered minor scrapes and bruises and went to the hospital to get his injuries checked out, Goodwin said.

The sheriff's department is working on a number of leads in the case, according to Goodwin.

Jackson discusses capital needs at schools

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Rob Jackson brought what he terms a "conversation" about school needs to parents Thursday night at John A. Holmes High School.

Among those in attendance at Holmes was County Commissioner Keith Nixon.

Much of Jackson's presentation

centered on facility needs in excess of \$2 million within the school system. He told how in his early days as superintendent he wore jeans to work and crawled around with Brad Bass, inspecting various areas within the schools to get a firsthand look at equipment that is outdated or non-functional. Bass is the maintenance supervisor for the school system.



JACKSON

Two heating/cooling units outside the locker rooms at Chowan Middle School haven't worked in decades, he said, citing just one example. Jackson reminded those in the audience of the freezing cold weather experienced here this winter and said the wind chill was unbearable on some days

See CAPITAL NEEDS, 4A

RELAY FOR LIFE American Cancer Society
ROCKY HOCK Opry
Sponsored by the Rocky Hock Ruritan's Relay for Life Team
FRIDAY, APRIL 17th, 7:30PM
SATURDAY, APRIL 18th, 7:30PM
Tickets \$10.00
EDENTON, NC
Tickets Available at various locations or call 252-221-4875 or 252-340-3438. Email rockyhock opry@live.com