



Walker alumni urged to mull building buy

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The keynote speaker at a D.F. Walker Alumni Association dinner on Saturday evening suggested that the association consider developing a strategy for purchasing the former high school building.

The building is currently owned by Chowan County and houses classroom space leased by College of the Albemarle. But it remains a source of pride within the community as the site of the county's African American high school prior to integration.

On the occasion of the 10th biennial alumni school reunion, Dr. C.H. Johnson emphasized that there was nothing the

group couldn't do if they put their minds to it and overcame what he called "a grasshopper mentality."

"Our hope rests in God and we have a daunting task set before us," he said. "Here we have an opportunity to overcome a grasshopper mentality."

Johnson said there were enough professionals in the audience who had attended D.F. Walker to help come up with the money to buy their former high school. He said their only enemies in achieving that goal were fear and indecision.

"We're paralyzed by our own thinking," Johnson, an Edenton native and Baptist minister, emphasized. "There's nothing

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STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Baptist minister C.H. Johnson was the keynote speaker at the D.F. Walker Alumni Association dinner held Saturday evening as part of the reunion weekend's activities. Johnson urged the group's members to get behind an effort to explore the possible acquisition of the old school building by the alumni association.

HERMINE ROLLS THROUGH



PHOTO COURTESY ANNE-MARIE KNIGHTON

Town crews respond to power outages in the aftermath of Hermine.

Ross to speak in Edenton Thursday

From staff reports

The Democrat who is challenging Sen. Richard Burr for a Senate seat from North Carolina will be in Edenton Thursday.

Deborah Ross will be making a campaign stop at the opening of the Chowan County Democratic Headquarters at Oak Leaf Elks Lodge. Ross is slated to speak and



ROSS

to meet supporters during the opening of the headquarters, which is scheduled for noon to 1 p.m., according to the Chowan County Democratic Committee.

The Oak Leaf Elks Lodge is located at 202 E. Carteret Street, on the corner of Oakum and East Carteret. There is no admission charge for the event and refreshments will be provided, Burr, R.N.C., has held the Senate seat since 2005. Ross served in the N.C. House of Representatives from 2003-2013.

Ross has promised to be a voice for the state's citizens.

"North Carolina's voices have been ignored in Washington too long," Ross said in a statement published on her campaign website. "As your senator, I'll work for the people, not the powerful."

Hermine causes power outages, sewer discharge

From staff reports

Although little damage was reported from the effects of Hermine in Edenton and Chowan County, the Town of Edenton experienced scattered power outages from high winds early Saturday morning.

The town's electric crews began making repairs around 2 a.m. Saturday.

Outages in the downtown area on the west side reportedly were caused by a large tree limb falling on a power line at South Granville Street and West Water Street.

Crews repaired outages on East Gale Street, a portion of the circuit on West Queen Street Extended and Hickory Fork Road, and also responded to an

outage in Cape Colony, according to Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton.

Low-lying areas experienced minor flooding, including Pembroke Circle, West Carteret, East Water Street, West Water Street, and South Broad Street near the Barker House. The weather station at the waterfront recorded 5.19 inches of rain.

Some spots on low-lying roads in rural parts of Chowan County were underwater for a time on Saturday, according to county officials.

The extremely heavy rains caused a sanitary sewer overflow on the 900 block of North Granville Street near Virginia Road. Public Works crews responded to

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PHOTO COURTESY MELISSA OLIVER

Crews work to restore electric service after strong winds Saturday morning damaged power lines in parts of the town's service area.



Chowan grad rate up, some school scores still down

From staff reports

Edenton-Chowan Schools officials found in the state schools report released last week both reasons to celebrate and evidence of a continued need for improvement.

D.F. Walker Elementary School experienced the highest growth rate among the district's four schools, moving from not meet-

ing expected growth in 2014-2015 to exceeding expected growth in 2015-2016 and moving from a school performance grade of D to a performance grade of C. Students at the school increased their growth and percent proficient in nearly every tested area.

Students at Chowan Middle School met expected growth but missed earning a school performance grade of C by one point

- the school earned a school performance grade of D.

John A. Holmes High School earned a school performance grade of C but did not meet expected growth.

A major cause for celebration in Chowan is that Edenton-Chowan Schools' four-year cohort graduation rate is the highest graduation rate in the district's history at 90.5 percent - an increase of 8.3

percent from 2014-2015. The four-year graduation rate is 4.7 percent above the state's average of 85.8 percent.

Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Rob Jackson said school officials would use the data to improve student performance in the schools.

"The School Performance Grades issued by the state are an imperfect measurement of the

complexity of the work, the intensity of the challenges, and the depth of the dedication of our teachers and staff," Jackson said. "They do more to identify areas of high-poverty in our state than actually measure the performance of the school, the staff, or the students. However, we will use this information to guide our efforts to

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Foundation is poured for the new Edenton police station

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

With the pouring of its foundation last week, construction of the new Edenton Police Department on North Oakum Street continues to move ahead.

According to Adam Hughes of A.R. Chesson Construction, who is serving

as project manager, work is progressing right on time.

"Construction activity at the new police department continues to meet schedule expectations," Hughes said. "Many of the initial site improvements are currently in place. Site utilities have been installed as well as storm water drainage and the storm water detention pond."

Hughes said that metal stud framing is expected to take place in mid-September after structural columns, beams and joists are put into place.

"The next construction milestone is to have the structure complete with the roof in place by the end of 2016," Hughes said. "This will allow interior plumbing, electrical and mechanical rough-ins to be installed without winter weather interference in order to begin interior finishes."

Hughes added that turnover of the building to the police department is scheduled to take place in May 2017 and an on-time completion is anticipated.

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PHOTO COURTESY A.R. CHESSON COMPANY

Workers pour the foundation for the new Edenton Police Station.

