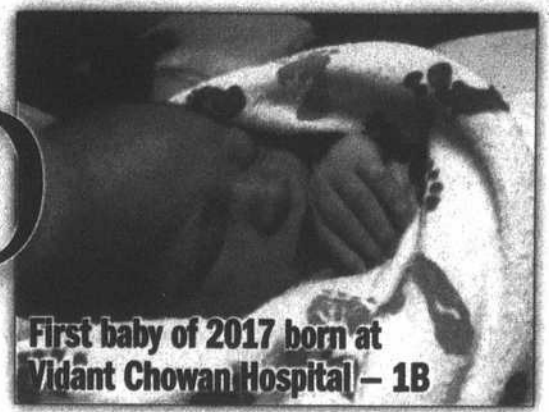


# CHOWAN HERALD

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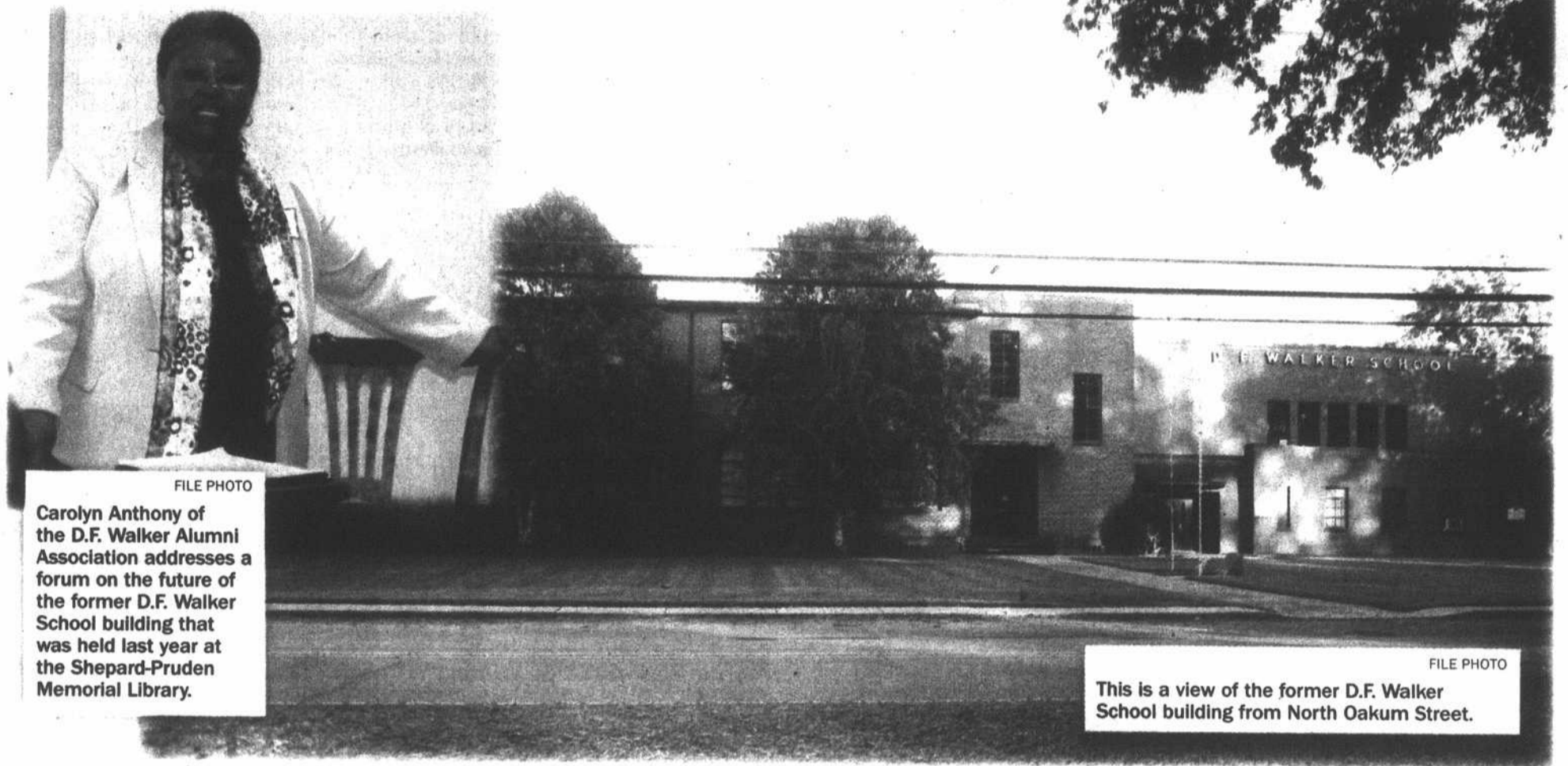
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Wednesday, January 4, 2017



First baby of 2017 born at Vidant Chowan Hospital - 1B

## WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE WALKER BUILDING?



FILE PHOTO

Carolyn Anthony of the D.F. Walker Alumni Association addresses a forum on the future of the former D.F. Walker School building that was held last year at the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library.

FILE PHOTO

This is a view of the former D.F. Walker School building from North Oakum Street.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2017 County facilities to get attention in 2017

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

Chowan County Manager Kevin Howard said last week that a big challenge for the county in 2017 will be keeping spending in line while addressing several capital needs that will require the county to spend money.

The capital projects include the former D.F. Walker School building, the Senior Center and the water system.

Howard said correcting

the discharge issue at the county's water treatment plant would be a multi-year process. The county is in compliance with drinking water standards but fails to meet state environmental regulations related to the water discharged from the treatment plant into a nearby swamp. State officials have said the county cannot continue discharging the water longterm at the current location because of its high mineral content.

The county has entered into a special order by con-

sent with the state - an agreement that stays any penalties as long as the county meets the agreed-upon timetable for correcting the problem.

"Next year is the first year in terms of having to meet some deadlines with the state in terms of our testing and design work," Howard said. Preliminary testing must be completed by July of this year, he said.

The county has issued a request for proposals to find an engineering firm to work on the water project. In addi-

tion, the county already has raised water rates to help cover the cost of the work and is looking for grants to fund as much of the work as possible.

In terms of Swain Auditorium and the Senior Center, which sustained damage during Hurricane Matthew, the county has been waiting on a proof of loss statement from the insurance company. Howard said the county should be able to put that project out for bids this month. Once the work begins it will probably take

six months, including two months to rebuild and install the heating and cooling system that is located in the Senior Center and services Swain Auditorium, according to Howard.

The project at Swain is expected to cost \$500,000 for construction plus the cost of equipment replacement, Howard said. The insurance settlement should cover those costs, he said.

The direction the county decides to go regarding the former D.F. Walker School building, which is located

on the Edenton-Chowan Campus of College of The Albemarle on North Oakum Street, will depend on input from the newly seated county commissioners, Howard said. Three new commissioners were elected in November and seated in December: Democrat Donald Faircloth and Republicans Patti Kersey and Ron Cummings.

In addition to the new county commissioners there will be a new COA president

See COUNTY, 3A

## Schools look forward to a solid future in 2017

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Rob Jackson says he and the staff of the local school system are approaching the coming new year with a sense of confidence and optimism that good things lie ahead.

"The current school year has already been one of great academic, artistic, and athletic accomplishment,"

Jackson said. "It is anticipated that this positive trend in all areas will continue as our students never cease to redefine what is possible."

"Just as when I arrived in Chowan County," he added, "I remain relentlessly optimistic. My message then on belief - belief in students, belief in teachers and staff, and belief in this commu-



JACKSON

nity, remains." Jackson said accomplishments in 2016 have created a platform on which the school system can build a solid future.

"In 2016 we witnessed the first student graduate with a college degree while completing his high school diploma at John A. Holmes," he said. "This historic accomplish-

ment illustrates that what is possible for our students in Chowan County is not limited by the past, but is instead created by what our students need to be successful today."

That is not to say that the year ahead won't hold challenges for the school system, Jackson said.

"The board of education refuses to allow students to be limited by the challenges faced by the school system,

but chooses instead to challenge the limits," the superintendent said. "Through building upon a strong partnership with parents, with the community, and with local government, the school system will strive to ensure that challenges from outside the classroom do not restrict the phenomenal accomplishments of our students and staff inside the

See SCHOOLS, 3A

## Two hurt in New Year's Eve shooting

From staff reports

Two men were injured in a New Year's Eve shooting on West Carteret Street.

Around 7:40 p.m. Saturday officers responded to a shooting at 121 W. Carteret Street and discovered 41-year-old Terrance Skinner of 121 W. Carteret Street and 39-year-old Kelvin Moring of 213 E. Carteret Street both with gunshot wounds to the leg.

Information was received that suspects were operating a small silver four-door vehicle and fired shots from inside the vehicle while driving past the house.

Both victims were transported to Vidant Chowan Hospital for treatment.

Anyone with additional information about this shooting is asked to call the Edenton Police Department. Your information will be kept confidential.

Contact Sergeant Laura Wilkins at 252-482-9884, or 252-482-5144.

## Town officials working to attract grocery store

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Continuing to work closely with the Edenton-Chowan Partnership and others to attract a second grocery store is among the four biggest challenges the town will face in 2017, according to Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton.

"We are working hard with our regional and state economic devel-

opment partners to attract interest from grocery store chains," she said. "We have learned decisions about locating stores in new markets are made three to four years in advance - and decisions are made on market demographics, transportation factors - proximity to wholesale distribution centers and other grocery stores in the supply



KNIGHTON

chain - all are taken into consideration."

Knighton added that North Carolina is "considered to be a very competitive market for national grocery stores, as evident by the growth of stores in the Raleigh market that we read about."

"The Outer Banks is a competitive market that we are touting to

developers given our proximity," she added. "So we are still very much encouraged that our market can support a second grocer and we will keep pushing our community as a viable market for investment."

A second priority for the town in the year ahead will involve follow-through on a need for street resurfacing in Edenton, she said.

See STORE, 3A

## Development panel pursuing opportunities

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

The Edenton Chowan Partnership this year will continue its efforts to recruit new businesses - in-



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cluding a second grocery store - while pursuing new initiatives in senior living and strategic planning.

Larry Lombardi, director of the Edenton Chowan Partnership, said last week that research focus groups for a senior living project will begin this month with sessions scheduled Jan. 25 and 26.

Lombardi said a senior living project was identified

as a priority in a strategic plan a few years back.

Lombardi said Windemere has completed a feasibility study for the project and the numbers show more than enough demand for a gated senior living community with independent living units, assisted living units, memory care units and high-quality amenities.

There are 300 people who have been invited to partici-

pate in the focus groups. The focus group sessions will determine what the participants would like to see in a senior living community.

"That's going to take a few years to actually be built," Lombardi said of the senior living community.

But the demand is there for this kind of senior living complex, he said.

"That's something that definitely is needed," Lom-

bardi said.

Also this year the Partnership will be hiring a consultant to work on a three-to-five-year plan that will provide a focus for the group's work. The ECP needs to be more focused since it has limited resources, he said.

"That will be a good thing to look forward to in 2017," Lombardi said of the new

See PANEL, 3A